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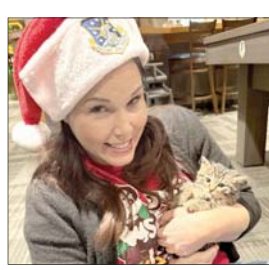


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DUST STORM SWEEPS THROUGH MAFB



Powerful winds and thick clouds of dust swept across Minot Air Force Base and the surrounding area on May 14, creating dangerous driving conditions, reducing visibility along Highway 83, and turning an otherwise warm spring day into one of North Dakota's latest memorable weather events. See more on page B6.

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What public restrooms reveal about integrity



**SHE'S NOT FROM
AROUND HERE**

AMY ALLENDER

"Gross." That was the word that zipped through my brain when the bathroom stall door swung open. My stomach turned, my nose wrinkled, and I teetered on the edge of a dry heave.

We've all been there. In a moment of urgency, we rush into a public restroom, choose a stall at random, only to discover... let's call it an "unsavory" scene. I don't need to go into specifics. This paragraph alone has probably already triggered a traumatic memory or two.

"Why would you do that and not flush?" my 5-year-old exclaimed when he saw what lay before us.

Honestly, I was wondering the same thing.

No matter how many times this universal experience happens to me, my instinct is always the same: step back and find another stall.

But years ago, someone told me something I've never forgotten. While we were discussing the perils of potty-training children in public bathrooms, a dear friend said, "I have a theory that what you do in a public restroom says a lot about what kind of person you are."

Sure does, I thought. If you leave a mess behind, you're a gross jerk.

But that wasn't what she meant. She was talking about the person who finds the mess.

Who knows how many people walk into a stall, see something disgusting, and immediately move on to the next one? But it only takes one person to press the flush lever and change the trajectory for everyone else. Problem solved.

The same goes for the empty toilet paper roll with the replacement roll balancing precariously on top of the dispenser. Or the overflowing trash can with paper towels piling onto the floor. Most people walk past it. Some people contribute to it. But sometimes all it takes is one person

and 10 extra seconds to make things better for everyone who comes after them.

Once I thought about it that way, I couldn't unthink it.

What kind of person did I want to be? The kind that quietly handles the problem? Or the kind who leaves it for someone else to deal with? The kind that puts toilet paper in the dispenser, or a chronic roll-balancer? The kind that pushes down damp paper towels--and immediately rewashes my hands--or the kind that pretends not to notice?

It's trivial, funny, and even a little gross. But she was right. You find out a lot about your own character in the public restroom.

At the time I first had this discussion, I wasn't feeling particularly brave or confident in my own life. I was uncertain about a lot of things. But maybe, I thought, courage starts smaller than we think. Maybe being willing to deal with an unpleasant, unseen mess says something about your ability to handle bigger messes of everyday life: motherhood, responsibility, complicated decisions, hurtful mistakes.

Character is built in the little

moments no one sees or applauds. In the moments no one talks about. Because let's be honest — flushing a toilet after a phantom non-flusher is a strange thing to brag about. But those moments can prove something to yourself. And if little eyes are watching, they teach something too: integrity often looks mundane. It looks like doing the inconvenient thing simply because it's the right thing to do.

That doesn't mean it always comes easy. Six years later, I still don't relish being a "toilet-flushing vigilante." But time after time, I steel myself — sometimes with eyes clamped shut and breath held — to take care of the problem.

"I don't know, honey," I told my son. "But I guess we get to be the heroes who fix the problem."

He chose another stall.

I flushed with my foot. Gross? Absolutely. But want to be a person who values quiet integrity, and raises kids to do that same. The kind that accepts discomforts without applause, for the good of those who come after. I think most of us want that. And it can start in unlikely places—like a messy public restroom.



**UPSIDE DOWN
UNDER**

MARVIN BAKER

I've written about my family tree in the past, and this will most likely be the last time I do write about it, but some exciting news happened on Tuesday that I feel I have to share with readers.

My great-great grandparents have been found. This is going to upset the apple cart a bit because several other family members had wrong locations and dates of death while most of us didn't know who these people were or where they were.

The names were Michael and Mary Baker. They were immigrants from Germany who settled in a small town southwest of Chicago called Bath. Ten years later they moved to Lincoln, Illinois, made famous by Route 66 and Abraham Lincoln. Then, they moved to Mount Pulaski, Illinois.

This information was found using census records. The problem, however, is nobody knew where they were buried. Genealogy sites didn't have information other than "Michael Becker," which was the German spelling of the surname.

One cousin, who I'm a bit upset with, insisted they moved to Wayne, Nebraska where they passed away. In March, I was in Wayne. They weren't in any cemetery there nor did the town historian ever hear

of them. He was aware of plenty of Bakers who settled in that area, near Sioux City, Iowa, but he didn't know about Michael and Mary.

On Tuesday afternoon, that mystery got solved. No more rumors, no more assumptions.

My great-great grandparents are buried in a cemetery called Old Union in West Lincoln, Illinois. I was there and took photographs to prove it.

This would have never happened without assistance from Bill Donath, the president of the Logan County Genealogical and Historical Society. He told me he spent an hour researching these people nobody in our immediate family knew about.

First, and most importantly, the graves are unmarked, which is why there isn't any information on genealogy sites. That said, Mr. Donath produced a map of the cemetery showing all the plots. Michael and Mary Baker's names are there with death dates that match what I have, but there was a third grave with a "Baker" in it.

On Tuesday, Bill and I put our heads together and discovered the third grave belongs to a daughter Louise Baker who died in 1900. Here again, none of us knew Louise existed, let alone know a location where she is buried.

After Mary passed away, her probate was handled by a district judge in Lincoln. Most often probate goes to a family member. But through records filed in the Logan County courthouse, it became clear that Louise didn't have the mental faculties to carry out a probate, thus the judge was appointed.

Back to Michael for a second; my cousin James said he lived to be an old man and died in Wayne, Nebraska. A document I found from the Greenwood Cemetery

Final mystery solved

Association in Wayne, said he died when he was 34 years old. Neither was correct.

On Tuesday we found a newspaper article from January 1867 telling the story of how Michael Baker was found dead near town one morning with his wagon rolled over on top of him.

What had happened was his team of horses got spooked and ran out of control for an unknown reason, tipping the wagon and killing him. He was 47 years old, according to the Lincoln Herald newspaper.

I had been looking for this information close to two years. Something didn't add up. He wasn't in Nebraska and two of his children were born after he died.

That being the case, I set out to get the correct information and Bill Donath and I did. Unfortunately, I also learned that Michael must not have been a very good money manager because twice in his adult life, he was subjected to sheriff sales.

If you have a mystery such as this in your family, keep digging, it's there somewhere. It's like Bill told me, "newspapers are my history books."

But now, learning what I did on Tuesday, my brother and I are considering purchasing gravestones for all three of the "unknown" Bakers in West Lincoln, Illinois. I want them to rest in peace with dignity dignity dignity.

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May 25, 2026 7pm
Enter door #15 by the buses
We will be remembering the lives of friends and family of those who's lives were given in defense of our nation.

★ ★ ★

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

We need the stories of the ones you have lost. You can get those stories to the meeting by emailing them to tony.osterberg.to@gmail.com or dropping them by the church office. You may also come to the meeting and share the memories in person. All are welcome.

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They Were Just Names...Or Were They?



A VIEW FROM OUR SIDE
ROD WILSON

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Our Memorial Day edition has always given me a chance to take a bit of a sidestep from my normal column and remember back to Memorial Day in Maddock, North Dakota.

I'm not really sure how old I was when my Dad, a World War II Navy Vet, took me to the park in the center of town. I do remember jumping out of the truck and walking with my Dad across the street to what seemed like endless rows of crosses. There were names on each cross but I wasn't able to read them.

I can remember sitting on the steps of the fire hall that was near the crosses and watching my Dad straighten each and every cross, although it didn't seem that many of them needed straightening. Soon Dad was joined by several other men and they talked about the Memorial Day service which would take place soon, I surmised, because people from town would start

to arrive and walk through the display of crosses. A few stopped and attached flowers and other patriotic looking decorations to a cross. There were even a few that looked like they were crying a bit when they stopped at a cross.

Across the park near the building that I knew as the "Old Bandstand", an older gentleman opened a case and pulled out a brass colored horn. After a few words with a gentleman who looked like maybe he was the organizer of the event, he stepped behind the Old Bandstand and blew a few long musical notes.

Dad had disappeared for a while, heck, this is Maddock so no need to worry about where he went, I was just fine. And then he and a group of men appeared once again in, in uniforms? I watched as they practiced marching to a spot and stopping, near the crosses. I wasn't sure what it was they were doing, later I would find out that each of them would soon carry a rifle and wear a white helmet.

I watched them practice, and when it seemed they had their routine down they stopped and the horn player did TAPS. Yes, I had heard TAPS before, on TV of course. But never live, with the notes ringing through the park, it was pretty surreal. All of the men in uniform had raised their hand to their helmets in a salute during TAPS. For a young kid like me it was certainly an impressive site, especially my Dad who I had never seen in a uniform, well actually I had never seen any of

these men in a uniform before. The next 30-45 minutes seemed almost like a blur. There was more practice by the guys wearing the uniforms but now they had flags, included the American flag, and rifles. One of the flags they carried said Theodore A. Togstad American Legions Post 23.

I wasn't sure they were real rifles. They certainly looked real to me. Later or course, this group of men would confirm that the rifles were indeed real during the 21 gun salute.

Soon a group of ladies showed up in different uniforms and they had flags. What was once a street, soon became filled with people who also took interest in what the men in uniform were doing.

As I looked out over the crosses I saw our local Boy Scout leader, Irving, instructing a group of his Scouts on how to place small American flags on each and every cross. There was a hole on top of each cross and the wood sticks attached to the flags fit in the holes perfectly.

All of this activity, all of these people, all of this practice was leading up to the annual Memorial Day ceremony in Maddock. The ceremony was something I would witness several times over the years. And they would actually fire those guns over top of those crosses. TAPS would sound and each and every cross would once again receive one of those small American flags.

And the names on those crosses? They weren't just names, but the names of Maddock

servicemen who served their country and some even lost their lives protecting our freedom. Later as veterans would pass away, a cross would be added with their name on it.

The Statler Brothers did a song about the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.. The title? They're More Than A Name on a Wall. Years later as hear that song I reflect back to Maddock and I know now how special each and every cross, and each and every name on those crosses was.

HIT THE TRAILS!

On the Minot Park District website is a list of trails that Minot Parks maintains. Now that the weather has turned nice, it's time to hit the trails for a little walking, jogging, biking...whatever. A lot of fun right in your back yard.

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

They say there's no rest for the wicked, but it's not exactly leisure world for the rest of us either.

Rosehill Cemetery Memorial Day Service

This Memorial Day, our community will come together in remembrance and gratitude at the Memorial Day Service at Rosehill Cemetery in Minot.

Join us as we honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country and remember the sacrifices made for our freedom.

Participation from the American Legion, VFW Post 753, Minot Air Force Base personnel, and local veterans groups is expected, along with a moving and often emotional keynote address that reminds us of the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Rosehill Cemetery
700 11th Ave SE, Minot, ND
Memorial Day,
Monday, May 25 at 10:30 am

Take a moment to pause, reflect, and pay tribute to our fallen heroes. All are welcome.



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MEMORIAL DAY 2026

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Annual Memorial Day Ceremony to be held at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD

MANDAN, N.D. – The 2026 Memorial Day Ceremony will begin at noon (Central Time), Monday, May 25, at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, 6.5 miles south of Mandan on North Dakota Highway 1806. This annual event, hosted by the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery and North Dakota National Guard, honors all deceased American servicemen and women and is free to the public. The first observance was held in 1993.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early because of expected large crowds and the motorcycle honor run. Since seating is limited, bringing lawn chairs is recommended.

Those who are only dropping off flowers for Memorial Day grave decorations we encourage to be finished and exited facility by 9:30 a.m.

Handicap-marked vehicles are encouraged to arrive before 10:30 a.m. Drivers should ensure handicap credentials and decals are readily visible to parking attendants. Shuttle vehicles will be available to transport attendees from parking areas to the ceremony area. Attendees are encouraged not to drive large vehicles, such as recreational vehicles, campers, or tow trailers due to constrained parking.

The keynote speaker is U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Mitch Johnson, the North Dakota National Guard adjutant general.

Gov. Kelly Armstrong, Sen. John Hoeven, and Sen. Kevin Cramer are also scheduled to render remarks.

The emcee is retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Shelly Sizer. Sizer retired from the North Dakota Army National Guard as the command chief warrant officer and served in the military for 40 years. She also was appointed as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army in 2021 and held that position until the program ended in 2025.

The North Dakota Army National Guard's Fargo-based 188th Army Band's "Cover Down" Brass Quintet will perform "How Great Thou Art" as well as pre-ceremony music. Also participating in the ceremony are local Veteran and civic organizations.

The national anthem will be performed by U.S. Army Sgt. Ben Helfrich and U.S. Army Sgt. Natalie Helfrich, both with the 188th Army Band. Taps performed by Colton Friesz, and the Dakota Leathernecks will render a rifle-salute volley.

The North Dakota National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team will execute a 21-gun cannon salute with a World War I-era French 75-millimeter cannon. Father Dustin Johns of Ascension Catholic Church will provide the opening and closing prayers.

In support of this ceremony, the Viet Nam Vets/Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club will organize a motorcycle Honor Run at "The Shop" (131 Airport Road) in Bismarck. Participants will leave Bismarck at 11 a.m., head west on Main Street, and cross the Liberty Memorial Bridge to Mandan's Memorial Highway. After turning west on Mandan's

3rd Street SE, the motorcyclists will head south on North Dakota Highway 1806 until they reach the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. All motorcyclists and passengers are invited to participate, and no pre-coordination is required. Please arrive on your motorcycle between 10 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Bus transportation will be available for the public to and from the ceremony.

- Mandan: Family Fare Supermarket parking lot, 500 Burlington Street, SE.

- o A 30-passenger bus, donated by Nightlife Limousine.

- o Bus will arrive at 9:15 a.m. and depart at 10:15 a.m.

In honor of Memorial Day, Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park will host a Military Appreciation Day by offering free admission and tours to military members, Veterans, and their families. This state park is located adjacent to the Veterans cemetery. For additional information about Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, please call 701-667-6340.

The ceremony will also be live streamed at ndguard.nd.gov through the North Dakota National Guard YouTube page. The event can also be found on Facebook.

The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery was established by an act of the 1989 North Dakota Legislative Assembly. The cemetery was opened in July 1992 and is operated by the Office of the North Dakota adjutant general.



AFA AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION

MEMORIAL DAY

Some gave all. This Memorial Day, the Air & Space Forces Association honors the heroes whose sacrifice secured our nation's freedom.

AFA AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION
DAVID C. JONES CHAPTER - 135
 MINOT, ND - MINOT AIR FORCE BASE

Jones.afa.org

THIS MEMORIAL DAY

Let's honor what was given.

They put on the uniform.

They answered the call, knowing the risks.

They made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

Beyond what was lost, let's remember all they gave —

Their service to our country and the legacies they left behind.



usaa.com/memorialday

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Knighthawk Airman Earns Diamond Sharp Award



A member of the 69th BGS Knighthawks at Minot Air Force Base has earned top recognition for outstanding leadership and dedication to fellow Airmen.

Airman First Class Gabriela Calverley was recently presented the Diamond Sharp Award by the Minot Air Force Base First Sergeant's Council, distinguishing her as the top Airman from both wings on Minot Air Force Base. The award recognizes exceptional service, professionalism, and commitment to taking care of Airmen across the installation.

Known for her leadership, support of her peers, and unwavering dedication to the mission, Calverley continues to exemplify the Knighthawk spirit and what it means to "TAKE FLIGHT." The 69th BGS Knighthawks expressed pride in her accomplishments and the positive impact she continues to make on those around her, encouraging her to "keep setting the standard, Knighthawk!"

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- North Point

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The Wait is Over: Local Pools Reopen for Summer Fun

VERONICA KELLERMAN, NORTHERN SENTRY CONTRIBUTOR

As temperatures begin to rise and summer officially makes its return, families across the area are getting ready for one of the most anticipated seasonal traditions: pool season! After a long North Dakota winter and a chilly spring, local pools are preparing to reopen their gates, bringing back afternoons filled with sunshine, laughter, and plenty of splashing.

Bailey Program and Event Coordinator at Minot Parks District stated the staff members have been hard at work preparing facilities for opening day. Staff members are cleaning pools, testing water filtration systems, reviewing safety procedures, and training lifeguards to ensure visitors can enjoy a safe and welcoming environment all season long.

One local favorite the community is excited to see reopen is Roosevelt Park Pool. The pool was closed for the 2025 summer season due to the next phase of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project (MREFPP), a major infrastructure and park improvement initiative designed to protect the park and zoo from future flooding.

During the closure, Roosevelt Park Pool also replaced its aging filtration system, which had survived the devastating 2011 floods. This summer, there will still be construction present, and the path to parking and entering the park will be evolving.

Bailey said that "Even though they are excited to open this year, visitor safety remains the facility's

highest priority as crews prepare for reopening day." Currently, they aim to reopen the gates on June 5th. Their pool has space for all ages of the family, with a kiddie pool, smaller slides, and a large slide. They do not allow outside food or beverages other than water; however, they do have a concession stand for a quick snack! Season passes for individuals are priced at \$65, while family season passes for up to six members are available for \$180. A daily ticket to the pool is \$5.00, and children under 5 are free! The community of Minot can enjoy the fun of Roosevelt Park Pool seven days a week from 12-8 p.m.

Another summertime favorite is the Minot AFB Outdoor Pool. Swimming remains one of the best ways for families to stay active during the warmer months.

John Young, Marketing Coordinator at the 5th Force Support Squadron said, "We are stoked that the pool will remain free for entry this year as well!"

He also mentioned that the Minot AFB community can enjoy the cool waters of the outdoor pool Monday- Saturday 12pm- 7pm, pending the weather agrees, stating that "All weather plays a factor in the safe operation of the pool (wind, ambient temperature, precipitation) But ultimately it is reliant on comfortable water temperatures for swimming which is defined as 78 degrees or warmer. All pool closure and status updates will be posted on our new Facebook page, "5 FSS Fitness and Adventure", in real

time!

As long as mother nature agrees, the opening day will be May 22, 2026.

The Minot AFB Outdoor Pool will also have two lanes open on a first-come, first-served basis for lap swimming during operational hours, an age guideline for kids left unattended if they pass a basic swim test explaining that new pool supervision guidelines outline age-based rules for children and teens attending the pool this season. Children 10 and under must be directly supervised by someone age 16 or older, while children ages 11-13 may attend without supervision only after passing a swim test that includes swimming 12 meters, treading water for one minute, and exiting the pool independently. Teens ages 16-17 may supervise up to three children if they have completed American Red Cross Babysitting Training and have proper authorization on file.

Lifeguards will be on duty at both pools this summer and will continue reminding swimmers of the importance of water safety, especially for young children. Adult supervision, following posted pool rules, and remaining aware of swimming abilities can help ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience.

After months of harsh freezing weather and indoor routines, the Minot community is ready to soak up the sunshine and dive headfirst into summer fun.



After being closed last year, the Roosevelt Park Swimming Pool will be open for the 2026 season!

MINOT PARKS PHOTO



The MAFB Base Pool is a blast for all ages! Pictured: Renny, Charlie, and Tripp.

BRITTANY LORIE PHOTO

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Why service is essential: Heating and A/C systems may break gradually with usage, hose pipes may clog and leak if not serviced, leading to bad efficiency or a shortage of heating and cooling potentials. Appropriate upkeep may keep your automobile comfortable for you and your passengers.

The best ways to tell if your heating and A/C are having troubles:

- If your A/C blows only a little cooler than the air exterior
- Air that blows in smells moist, rotten, or like mildew

- Your cabin does not heat up in winter, or is only a little warmer compared to outdoors
- The defroster takes longer compared to regular to function, blows in filthy air, or does not operate
- Your heating system or air conditioning just functions when driving, not when idling, or quits blowing when the car is still
- Your heating unit blows cool air, or the air conditioning blows warm
- At the highest setting, your vents don't put out much air

A comprehensive evaluation of heating and a/c systems includes:


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- Examining for leakages or other damages.
- A cooling system pressure test
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- Screening the A/C system for refrigerant leakages
- Examine the interior vent air temperature

Remember to arrange your heating or A/C check prior to the heat of the season, to guarantee you have the most comfy driving experience. Contact us soon to set up your next car A/C repair service. Trusted Tire & Auto is proud to be your number one auto repair center and provider of tires on Minot AFB.



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Leaving Minot with a Full Heart: Monica Schlabach

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

The 91st Missile Wing command spouse is far more than a steadfast supporter or a loyal “plus one.” She is more than the behind-the-scenes volunteer or the classic military spouse constantly adapting to new places and rebuilding community every few years. She is a mother, a mentor, and someone with a remarkable gift for truly seeing people, caring deeply for them, and knowing when to step back so others can shine. She is Monica Schlabach.

Monica and her family have been stationed at Minot Air Force Base for nearly four years, though this was not their first time here. Early in their Air Force journey, nearly 20 years ago, the Schlabachs were also assigned to Minot. Monica explained that this experience has been completely different from the first. While both the base and the city have changed over the years, she believes the biggest difference was within herself.

The first time around, Monica was raising young children and navigating the exhausting realities of life with little ones. Like many military spouses, her days revolved around survival mode: caring for children, supporting her husband’s demanding career, and simply trying to keep life moving forward. This time, however, she and her husband, Col. James “Jimmy” Schlabach, commander of the 91st Missile Wing, arrived in Minot as empty nesters. That shift in life allowed her to experience the community in a completely new way.



Monica and a stray kitty that was rescued from the cold and became the mascot of the Christmas Cookie Drive as we tried to find it a home.

Being in a prominent leadership position on both the base and within the local community also opened her eyes to the overwhelming support Minot offers military families. Speaking about the people here, Monica became emotional as she described how welcomed and loved she felt.

“We have never been this supported at any other base or town,” she said.

As she reflected on her years in Minot, it was clear the community left a lasting mark on her heart. She explained that because of this experience, she plans to remain actively involved in military and

local communities wherever life takes her next.

Years of working alongside spouse clubs, organizations, and volunteer groups at multiple duty stations also shaped the way Monica approached her role as a wing command spouse. She admitted that the position came with many demands on her time and energy, and at times it felt overwhelming. But over the years, she learned important lessons about balance, leadership, and trusting others.

Rather than trying to carry everything herself, Monica learned to pause, take a breath, and prioritize what truly mattered. One

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NOTES ON BEING SAFE

SPRING CLEANING POSES ITS OWN HAZARDS

One of the best times of the year is approaching us. Spring showers awaken the earth and calls forth new life. The birds will be chirping, the days will be longer and the trees will be in full bloom. It's also a dreaded time of year; spring cleaning!

Spring cleaning is a great time to get rid of clutter that was building up during winter, as well as getting rid of those winter time blues.

Whether you're tackling the spring cleaning or doing your weekly cleaning routine, it's important to use the cleaning products safely, especially if you have young children or pets. Be sure to read the label and use as directed, store them as directed and dispose of the empty contents safely.

Here are some spring cleaning tips:

- Make a list of things you want done.
- Schedule your family garage clean out. Create sufficient storage for all the summer equipment you may want this summer. Store all the winter stuff away.
- Inspect, clean and repair outdoor furniture.
- Clear away any remaining dead foliage and weeds from beds and lawn to make room for the new growth and it will also protect the new growth from damage and diseases.
- Wash the windows inside and out, to include the screens.
- Take down all draperies and window treatments to clean and vacuum.
- Change out the seasonal clothes. Set aside the ones the

children out grew or the ones you no longer wear for a garage sale.

- Clean out all of your closets and storage areas. Set aside those items that are not used any more to save room for new items.

- Spring clean your barbecue grill. Be sure to check for leaks and cracks and ensure propane

tanks are properly stored

Remember, working safely in and around your home will not only keep you out of the emergency room, it can keep you from becoming the next Darwin Awards Winner!

Happy Spring Cleaning!

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Wing Team always have a great time together. Jimmy Schlabach, Monica, CMSgt Detrick Thomas Ret, CMSgt Becky Thomas attending awards at Grand Forks AFB



91st MW pie sorting for pie drive. Jimmy Schlabach, Detrick Thomas, Becky Thomas, Bernadette Crosman, Sara Smigielski (Monica's Mom), Andrew Schlabach (son), Marissa Morrison, Julie Slaton



North Pole Stroll volunteer team

of her favorite tools for managing the chaos is surprisingly simple: a paper calendar. Unlike digital apps and reminders, she enjoys physically writing things down so she can clearly see what needs immediate attention and what can wait.

More importantly, she learned the value of letting others step into leadership roles. Instead of trying to do everything herself, Monica discovered how much talent existed quietly within the spouse and military community around her.

"I can let others take the reins," she said. "So many people have hidden talents. It has amazed me."

For Monica, leadership became less about personally overseeing every project and more about encouraging others to discover their strengths and confidence. Supporting others as they stepped into new opportunities became one of the most rewarding parts of her experience.

Despite years of experience, Monica is also quick to admit that she does not have everything figured out. She openly laughs about her mistakes and believes there is value in sharing them honestly. One memory she recalled still makes her smile today. During the COVID era, distracted and rushing through her day, she accidentally drove through a base gate without stopping to show her ID. Security Forces immediately responded exactly as they were trained to do for a gate runner. The barriers came down, and within moments she found herself surrounded.

Thankfully, the situation was quickly resolved once everyone realized it had simply been an honest mistake. Looking back, Monica laughs about the experience now.

"Sometimes you just have to laugh at yourself," she said. "We

all make mistakes."

She added that at least her accidental mistake provided valuable training for the Airmen working the gate that day.

As the Schlabachs prepare to say goodbye to Minot this summer, Monica admits she is leaving with a heavy heart. Like so many military families before them, Minot became far more than just another assignment. It became home.

She hopes new spouses arriving at Minot will not be afraid of the reputation they may hear before coming here. In fact, she believes Minot offers opportunities many larger locations cannot. Because it is a smaller community, she explained, people are often more willing to give others a chance to grow, learn new skills, or pursue careers outside of their previous experience.

"If you've ever wanted to try something new, this is the perfect place to spread your wings," she said.

She also encourages military families across the Air Force not to rely on opinions from people who

have never actually lived in Minot. Instead, she says to talk to those who truly experienced it. More often than not, they will tell you how deeply special the community really is.

For Monica, Minot changed her for the better. The friendships, support, opportunities, and culture of genuine military appreciation left a permanent impact on her life. Even after leaving, she knows Minot will always hold a special place in her heart, and she fully intends to return often to visit the people who became family.

As farewells, change of command ceremonies, and Air Force retirements begin to approach, Monica feels the sadness that naturally comes with closing such an important chapter of life. But above all else, she feels gratitude. Gratitude that Minot became the final duty station of her journey as a military spouse, and gratitude that the "best base" became the place where that journey comes to an end.



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Stop The News & Start A Garden

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

Tim Chapman is originally from Fairfax, Virginia, which might make one ask as to how he would end up on the North Dakota/Manitoba border as CEO of the International Peace Garden.

Tim's journey would include working for the Minot Daily News arriving in 2011 (yep, that would be the flood year), then to the Virgin Islands and a job with the Virgin Island Daily News. Economics wouldn't quite work out in the Virgin Islands...expensive to live and salaries are not great...but Tim liked Minot and so he moved back which "was confounding to a lot of my friends" according to Tim.

There would be a few more stops in Tim's journey, but soon he found his way to the Peace Garden and a new life that is described on the Peace Garden Facebook page..."stop the news and build a garden."

Tim and I were able to meet on a rather chilly, snowy day as we took a seat on a bench in the conservatory and talked about

this year round facility that now houses the "probably the only one like it in the world" according to Tim, Vitko cactus collection. "Vitko (Minoter Don Vitko) was on the board and people kept asking him what he was going to do with his plants. He made the decision that he wanted his (now nearly 50 years old) collection in his home state. So when 2019 rolled around, because the original building was not really adequate for this collection. So they decided that if they could house this (Vitko's collection) in a more permanent setting, they could stretch the Peace Garden season to 12 months."

The board knew, in general, that they not only needed space in the new building but they need height for the larger cactus to grow. "It is the world's most diverse collection of dryland plants" according to Chapman "it's about 5,000 units right now, of those 4,000 are unique species." Half of the plants originate from North and South America,

while the other half consists of succulents and xerophytes from Africa and Madagascar. The collection, which includes a number of rare and endangered species from all over the world, provides a powerful platform for teaching about the importance of conservation. These lessons align with the mission of the Garden, as conservation is a form of promoting peace - valuing and protecting living things and working to create a sustainable environment so they can thrive. The Conservatory building also houses a horticulture library, a cafe, and a gift shop featuring local art and collectibles.

An interesting story about the collection during construction "during the two winters when the conservatory was under construction, we (the Peace Garden staff) had to move everything up the hill into the greenhouses where we normally start our annuals and our holding houses, so when everything was complete we started moving



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Talking with Tim Chapman (left) about the new year-round conservatory.



One of many beautiful and unique cactus displays.

everything back down over the next year...and this last year we were taking pieces off of every single plant because the knot in the twine on the plant told the guys which part of the plant had to face south. Being that meticulous was certainly worth it because we estimate that maybe we lost 10 plants in the whole construction process.”

There are two almost full time staff people that concentrate on the conservatory area.

Not only is the conservatory year round, but there are new houses (cabins) that are available during the winter months. “That was our goal all along, to make the Peace Garden year round” according to Chapman.

The Don Vitko Cacti and Succulents Collection is open Monday – Friday, 10 AM to 4 PM, and Saturday – Sunday, 11AM – 4PM.



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by Patricia Stockdill

FISHING:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, May 18: 1,826.63 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 18,400 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Devils Lake elevation: 1,450.16 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

Stump Lake elevation: 1,448.52 MSL.

•N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: Mixed walleye success on Devils Lake with limited activity overall due to inconsistent weather. No reports from north-central area lakes.

•Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Limited reports with inconsistent weather.

•Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: Activity remains light throughout area lakes due to weather.

•Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Try evening hours for walleye. Numbers of small bluegill starting to show up along the docks but not many of keeper size.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Genex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Look for some walleye activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea with more consistent weather. Lake Audubon producing fair smallmouth bass activity with occasional walleye.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Lake Audubon producing a mix of walleye, smallmouth bass, and pike. Weather continues

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.

OUTDOOR NOTES:

•May 23 -25: Sky Fest over Fort Stevenson Kite Festival, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison. Featuring kite flying, demonstrations, and family activities, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

•May 29: Movie in the Park, Minecraft, Oak Park, 9:30 p.m.

•June 3: Deer gun and muzzleloader applications due. Go to the N.D. Game & Fish Dept. website (gf.nd.gov) for details and applications.

•June 5: Pickleball Social: Color & Glow Edition, free, Citizens Alley, Minot, 6 p.m.

•June 6: Nat'l. Trails Day Hike and American Legion Walk, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison. Contact the park for more information, (701) 337-5576.

•June 6: Military service Personnel Day with free admission for military personnel to Forst Stevenson State Park, Garrison.

•June 6: Sunshine & Shotguns, Women's Shotgun Clinic sponsored by Sakakawea Pheasants Forever, Turtle Lake. Go to (events.pheasantsforever.org/events) for details and \$25 registration, 10 a.m.

•June 6 & 7: Free Fishing Weekend (residents only).

TOURNAMENTS:

•May 30: Devils Lake, East Bay.

•June 6: Lake Audubon, Totten Trail; Missouri River tailrace; Devils Lake, Spirit Lake Casino.

limiting activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea.

•Lake Sakakawea, New Town: Look for improving walleye activity on the river portion of Lake Sakakawea around New Town. Van Hook Arm remains slow.

•Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook Bait & Tackle, New Town: Facilities open for the season.

•Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Some walleye activity on the Missouri River offshore. Look for better walleye activity on the east end Lake Sakakawea with stable weather.

•Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: The better walleye activity on the upper end of Lake Sakakawea tends to be along the south shore. Try Antelope

Flats with jigs and minnows or jigs and plastics but also try crankbaits or spinner rigs. Missouri River remains fairly clear and is producing a fair number of walleye and sauger. Crappie starting to move into the shallows to spawn on Trenton Lake. Try shallow in 2 feet or less. Trout now stocked in Kota-Ray Dam and Spring Lake Park.

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

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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Low visibility and declining air quality follow a sudden dust storm across Minot AFB, captured by Rebekah McCormick.



Drivers traveling between Minot and the base encountered blowing field debris and reduced visibility as strong winds carried corn stalks across area highways.

CHRISTINE BARTHOLOMEW PHOTO

Minot AFB Faces Massive Dust Storm

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY CONTRIBUTOR

Last Thursday, residents of Minot Air Force Base received an unexpected reminder that life in North Dakota always has a way of keeping people humble and occasionally sandblasted.

While snow, subzero temperatures, and icy roads are considered standard weather conditions across Minot, few residents expected a full scale dust storm to roll across the region in the middle of May. Yet on Thursday, May 14, 2026, Mother Nature swapped snowdrifts for dirt clouds as powerful winds swept through the Northern Plains.

The storm developed after a low-pressure system over Canada pushed intense wind gusts across North Dakota, with winds reaching speeds of over 70 miles per hour. By early afternoon, visibility along Highway 83 between Minot Air Force Base and Minot had dropped dramatically as thick clouds of dust and debris filled the air.

Drivers reported dangerous conditions as dirt, crop debris, and loose gravel slammed into vehicles traveling along the highway. Corn from nearby crops along Highway 83 could be seen flying across the roadway, and one resident described the experience by saying, "It sounded like hail hitting my car." The North Dakota Highway Patrol responded to multiple accidents across the state, including one south of Minot Air Force Base.

The high winds impacted nearly every corner of the community. Trampolines that had somehow



When the wind has other plans, a trampoline overturns during high gusts at Minot AFB.

ELLEN PRESCOTT PHOTO

survived previous North Dakota windstorms finally met their match, with several taking unauthorized flights across neighborhoods. Garbage cans toppled, patio furniture disappeared, and more than a few residents discovered just how secure or unsecured their lawn decorations really were.

Even community events were forced to adapt. The Fallen Defenders and POW/MIA 24-Hour Ruck, which was taking place during the height of the storm, had to relocate indoors to the Dome Track as conditions worsened

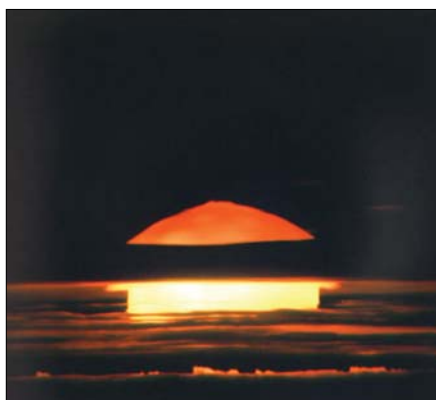
outside.

For many residents, the dust storm arrived just as people were beginning to believe North Dakota was finally settling into warmer weather that short-lived time of year when winter coats are packed away, grills come back out, and everyone hopes the worst of the weather is finally over. Instead, many spent Thursday indoors watching walls of dust race across the prairie while checking weather apps every ten minutes. Poor air quality led some residents to stay inside entirely, though others still

A LOOK BACK THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

B-52 BOMBER DROPS FIRST AIRBORNE HYDROGEN BOMB OVER BIKINI ATOLL

MAY 21, 1956



The fireball created by Redwing Cherokee over the Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands. (thisdayinaviation.com)

On May 21, 1956, a United States Air Force B-52 Stratofortress from the 4925th Test Group at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, dropped the first airborne Hydrogen bomb over the Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands. Before this test, the idea of dropping an H bomb over an enemy was theoretical, but the test proved the USAF's capabilities. The bomb was dropped about 8 miles above the ground and released a blast estimated

at 10 to 15 million tons of TNT. The test, called Cherokee, was part of Operation Redwing, in which the United States conducted 17 nuclear test detonations from May to July of 1956. Redwing Cherokee upped the ante in the nuclear arms race with the Soviets and proved that United States had the ability to adapt to new situations of war. In 1963, the Limited Test Ban Treaty prohibited open-air and underwater nuclear testing as a result of concerns from environmentalists and scientists.

Information courtesy of: history.com / Fitchburg Sentinel, Mass. May 21, 1956 / thisdayinaviation.com

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An unexpected dust storm swept across North Dakota, bringing hazy skies to Minot AFB.

ANDREYA GIST PHOTO

had to brave the storm to get to work, pick up children from school, or simply survive another day.

Despite the chaos, the storm quickly became the latest story added to North Dakota's growing collection of bizarre weather tales, somewhere between blizzards in April and mosquitoes large enough to require air traffic control

clearance.

For newcomers stationed at Minot Air Force Base, Thursday's storm served as an important lesson that locals rarely talk about: even when the skies look clear and the temperatures feel nice, always check the wind forecast when it comes to North Dakota weather.



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Tuesday, June 16

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Jim Bowman - nd135.president@afa.org



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SKY FEST 2026 IS MAY 23-25!



Sky Fest over Fort Stevenson is an annual North Dakota kite festival for all ages. The festival is held over Memorial Day weekend each year at a favorite destination for kite flyers -- Fort Stevenson State Park. Fly your own kite. Build your own kite! Bring your lawn chair and spend the day. See kites of all shapes and sizes being flown, including stunt kites. Special activities are planned for each day.

Throughout the festival several professional kite fliers will decorate the skies with some of the largest kites currently in production. SkyFest Over Fort Stevenson isn't merely a kite-flying exhibition. Those who attend are welcome to help decorate the sky by flying their own kites.

- Admission to SkyFest is free!
- Normal park admission fees apply.
- Daily entrance fee (all parks): \$7.
- Annual vehicle entrance permit: \$35.
- Annual permit-ND residents 65 & older: \$28.
- Ft Stevenson State Park Website Link

Activities

The following was the schedule of activities for our annual North Dakota kite festival. Note: In the case of inclement weather, activities may be cancelled or rescheduled.

Saturday: Family Fun Fly.

- The public is welcome to fly their kites on all days.
- 1:00pm: Free kite making for kids (ages 3-12). Art and fun! Line up at 12:50
- 3:00pm: Candy drop!
- Night Fly to 9pm- Spot lights, reflective LEDs, Cool Kites!

Sunday: Family Fun Fly

- The public is welcome to fly their kites on all days.
- 2pm: Photos with Wally the Walleye!
- Take your photo in front of a giant kite with Wally the Walleye or have your photo taken and emailed to you.
- 3pm: Candy Drop

Monday: Red White and Blue Day

- If you have a red-white-blue kite, those will dominate the sky. All colored kites are welcome as well.
- 2pm: Bol races - Race with friends for prizes.
- 3pm: Raffle Drawing and Candy drop!

Door Prizes will be drawn throughout each day during the festival. Come out and enjoy what we consider to be some of the best kite makers and enthusiasts in the world. Fun for the entire family!

Location

Ft. Stevenson is located on the north shore of Lake Sakawea in Garrison, ND...



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Magic City Discovery Center Celebrates Start of Summer with “School’s Out Summer Bash” and Duck Days of May

MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER

School’s out, and the Magic City Discovery Center is kicking off summer with its biggest celebration of the season. Families are invited to the School’s Out Summer Bash and 2nd Annual Duck Days of May on Friday, May 22, for an afternoon packed with community fun, local favorites, and exciting prizes.

The event combines the final Day Off Discoveries session of the school year with the return of Duck Days of May, creating a family-friendly kickoff to summer break filled with hands-on activities, outdoor fun, and a rubber duck race fundraiser. From 3:30–5:30 p.m., guests can enjoy activities throughout the museum and parking lot, including baseball hat decorating, bubble play, games, and interactive experiences for all ages. Special guests from the Minot Hot Tots, Honeybees, and Minot State University athletics teams will also be on-site to meet families and celebrate the start of summer.

Local favorites Local Lemon and Misfit Minis will be serving fresh lemonade and mini donuts throughout the afternoon.

The excitement continues at 5 p.m. with the Duck Days of May race, where hundreds of rubber ducks will race to the finish line for a chance to win incredible community-sponsored prizes. While winners do not need to be present to win, guests are encouraged to stay for the live race and prize announcements.

This year’s prizes include summer adventure packages, golf outings, family entertainment experiences, Hot Tots gear and tickets, shopping gift cards, and more — including several prize packages valued at hundreds of dollars.

“Duck Days of May is one of our favorite community events because it combines fun, creativity, and giving back,” said Matthew Farnsworth, Executive Director. “Families can come celebrate the end of the school year, connect with local organizations and athletes, and support hands-on learning opportunities at the Discovery Center.”

Duck race entries are \$5 each or \$20 for a five-duck “Quack Pack.” Proceeds support the Magic City Discovery Center’s mission to inspire curiosity, creativity, and learning through interactive experiences for children and families across the region.

Event Details:
Friday, May 22
3:30–5:30 p.m.

Magic City Discovery Center
Free with museum admission
Visit www.magiccitydiscoverycenter.com

for event details and to purchase your lucky ducks through PayPal, or stop by the museum to buy ducks with cash or check. Follow the Magic City Discovery Center on social media and check the website for the latest updates, prize announcements, and race information.



Upcoming Events

29 MAY **MOVIE IN THE PARK: MINECRAFT MOVIE**
9:30 PM
Oak Park,
1300 4th Ave NW, Minot

Movies in the Park 2026 – Where movies meet moonlight! Join us at the Oak Park for an unforgettable summer movie series under the stars! Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and your favorite people.
• Oak Park Amphitheater
• All movies start at sunset (around 9:30pm)
• Sponsored by All American Trophies



For more information:
[Facebook/ Minot Parks/ Events](#)

30 MAY **CRUISIN' FOR A CAUSE WITH ABRA MINOT**
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
ABRA Auto Body Minot,
629 20th Avenue SE

Join us for Cruisin' for a Cause, a fun-filled community Car Show hosted by ABRA Minot, all in support of Easterseals Goodwill of North Dakota! Bring your ride, bring your friends, and help us make a difference while enjoying a great day together. • Car Show (Registration: \$20 per vehicle) • Delicious food • A few local vendors to check out • Grand prize giveaway! All proceeds from the event will go toward supporting the incredible programs and services provided by Easterseals Goodwill North Dakota in Minot and throughout the state. Whether you're showing off your car or just stopping by to enjoy the atmosphere, your support helps drive positive change in our community. Come cruise, connect, and contribute—for a cause that matters!



For more information:
[Facebook/ Abra Minot/ Events](#)

3-5 JUNE **STEAM TO THE STARS SUMMER CAMPS**
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Magic City Discovery Center,
1545 1st Street NW

Reach for the stars in this hands-on STEAM adventure! Participants will explore space science, astronomy, and engineering through interactive activities inspired by stars, planets, and space exploration.
Ages: 5 - 9
Dates: Three-Day Class
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Cost: \$108 for non-members, \$97.20 for MCDC Members, \$86.40 for Military MCDC Members



For more information:
[Facebook/ Minot Parks/ Events](#)

19-21 JUNE **MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL 2026**
5:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Scandinavian Heritage Park,
1020 South Broadway

Midsummer (or Midsommar in Swedish), held in June around the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, it is a celebration of the ushering in of light, after the long dark winters and is a cherished tradition in Scandinavia. This holiday is considered the second most-important holiday of the year after Christmas. Come celebrate Midsummer with us in the Scandinavian Heritage Park in Minot, North Dakota! This year's event will include music, vendors, demonstrations, workshops, food, fun kids' activities, and everybody's favorite event: the lighting of the bonfire on BOTH Friday and Saturday night (weather permitting)! The sauna may also be open!



For more information:
[Facebook/ Scandinavian Heritage Park/ Events](#)



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2026

GRADUATES

The Minot Air Force Base Graduating Class of 2026 has truly earned their stripes. Through hard work, resilience, and the unique experiences that come with military life, these outstanding young men and women have reached an important milestone. Their families and community proudly celebrate their accomplishments and the bright futures ahead.

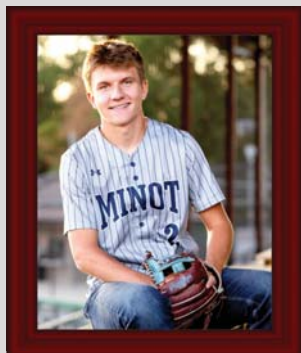


Zoe Atther

Minot North High School

Parents: Sarah Fralick

Plans for the Future: Pre-Optometry at University of Oregon.

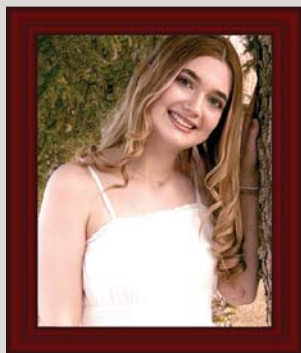


Levi Balas

Minot North High School

Parents: Matt and Tania Balas

Plans for the Future: Levi will attend Minot State University in the fall and major in Finance.

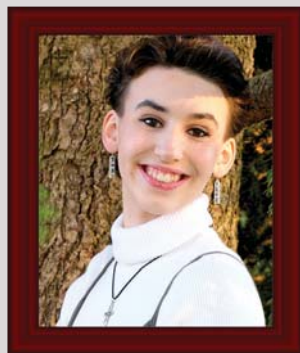


Faith Bailey

Minot North High School

Parents: Brandon and Ashley Bailey

Plans for the Future: Faith will be attending Minot State University this fall for Biomedical Sciences. After graduating with her Bachelor degree, she plans to apply to medical school.



Ella Bartholomew

St Bartholomew Catholic Academy

Parents: Bruce & Christine Bartholomew

Plans for the Future: Ella has been accepted into Trinity Health's Emergency Medical Technician Program in Minot. She plans to also study Paramedic Technology at Dakota College School of Nursing and hopes to be a First Responder, perhaps for the Red Cross.



Aaron Garza

Minot North High School

Parents: Monique & Matthew McDonald

Plans for the future: Aaron plans to become a Radiologic Technologist



Alejandra Maya-Vargas

Minot High School - Magic City Campus

Parents: Adam & Claudia Morris

Plans for the future: Join the Air Force then go to college for Nursing.



Landyn A. McGhee

Minot North High School

Parents: Ashley & Brendan Cunniff

Plans for the Future: Playing baseball at Lake Region State College majoring in fitness trainer technician.



Gabe Mendez

Minot North High School

Parents: Matthew & Amber Mendez

Plans for the Future: Gabe will be playing college football for Minot State and pursuing a nursing degree.



Ana Mendez

Minot North High School

Parents: Matthew & Amber Mendez

Plans for the Future: Ana plans to become a teacher.



Ryleigh McMillan

Minot North High School

Parents: Alex and Dezaroe Miller
Sister: Blake Miller

Plans for the Future: Ryleigh will be attending Minnesota State University Moorehead in the fall with a major in art education and a minor in business. Her goal is to teach art at a high school level.



Taiyler Olson

Minot North High School

Parents: Eddie & Jennifer Karst

Plans for the Future: Taiyler is planning to attend Minot State University, majoring in Nursing.

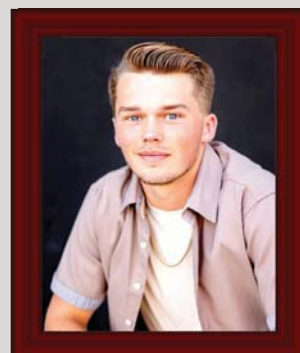


Aubreyanna Ressler

Our Redeemer's Christian School

Parents: Brandon & Katie Ressler

Plans for the Future: Aubreyanna plans to attend Minot State University with a focus on Finance so she can become a Financial Planner.



Scott Triplett Jr

Minot North High School

Parents: MSgt Scott Triplett Sr. and Christy Triplett

Plans for the Future: Scott will be attending UND for Aerospace Engineering.



northern sentry

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NEWSPAPER
WWW.NORTHERNSENTRY.COM

YOUTH IN ACTION



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



79 Purple Graduation Cords

The Minot Spouses Club has graciously provided purple graduation cords since 2023 and this year was no different! The following numbers of military-affiliated graduating seniors at their respective schools/homeschools received cords: 55 at Minot North High School, 13 at Minot High School, and 11 at homeschool/local schools. To these 79 students, we say—as reflected on all certificates—may you continue to thrive wherever you are!

Graduation is a milestone worth celebrating for all students, but it's especially monumental for military-affiliated students who may have moved six to nine times throughout their educational career, have a current parent or parents serving and/or are deployed, or have a parent who served in the past. In some way, they were or still are personally impacted by the military lifestyle and that is significant, because it is an active and sometimes uncertain lifestyle that is led by brave men and women

who serve our country and protect our freedoms. By association, these students serve too.

Congratulations to all the graduating seniors in all schools and homeschool, but especially to our 79 local military-affiliated graduating seniors! You did it!

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.

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Alyssa Kelly, School Liaison Program Manager, and Col Zeigler, 5th MSG Commander present Purple Cords & certificates to military-affiliated graduating seniors.

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Youth Center Prepares for an Action-Packed Summer Schedule

FATIMZAHRA ELBOUAB, NORTHERN SENTRY INTERN

From STEM camps and creative arts programs to arcade trips and baseball games, the Youth Center is preparing for a summer filled with hands-on learning, travel opportunities, and activities for members of all ages.

The summer schedule officially kicks off on June 3 with the start of 3D printing classes, giving students the chance to explore technology and design through interactive projects. STEM Camp will also run June 1-5, with separate sessions

for ages 9-12 and ages 13 and older. Participants will spend the week completing hands-on science activities, working in teams and learning more about engineering, technology, and problem-solving concepts. In addition to introducing students to STEM-related concepts, the camp will encourage creativity, collaboration, and learning experiences outside of a traditional classroom setting.

Adventure and recreation will play a major role throughout the summer lineup as well. Members can test their imagination and teamwork skills during a Dungeons & Dragons game night during the first week of June, followed by an Adventure Camp from June 8 to 12. This camp hosts separate sessions for ages 9-12 and ages 13 and older, making it an environment for all.

In addition to recreational activities, the Youth Center will continue offering arts-focused programming throughout the summer. Ballet classes start on June 8, while the Performing Arts Camp scheduled for July 27-31 will allow participants to develop confidence and creativity through performance-based activities. Members interested in technology-based creativity will also be able to participate in digital arts and animation activities later in the summer.

Field trips throughout June and July will give members opportunities to explore education, recreational, and cultural attractions across the region while spending time with peers outside of the Youth Center. Planned outings include visits to the Roosevelt Park Zoo, Taube Art Museum, the air museum, and the North Dakota State Museum. Members will also attend a Hot Tots baseball game, enjoy a movie field trip, and spend time at Putt District and Tilt Studio Arcade.

Family and community events are also included in the summer schedule. On July 2, the center will host a family movie night featuring Super Mario Galaxy from 6-8 p.m. Backpack Brigade, scheduled for August 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. will also be an activity for members before the start of school.

Summer activities will continue into August, with a Digital Arts & Animation Camp running from August 3-7, and a Digital Game Design Camp running from August 10-14. Participants will learn the basics of game design and digital arts through age-specific sessions designed for both younger students and teens.

With educational camps, creative programs, recreational outings, and community events all packed into one summer schedule, the Youth



Keystone and Youth Center members visit Bismarck State College for a campus tour and informational visit.



Youth Center members participate in a facility clean-up and beautification project.

Center hopes to give members opportunities not only to stay active, but also to learn new skills, meet new people, and create lasting memories before the new school year begins. The variety of activities

hosted by the Youth Center will allow students to discover new interests, stay socially connected during the summer months, and continue building leadership and teamwork skills outside of school.

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MINOT, ND
- BABY BOY BORN APRIL 30, 2026 TO:
VIVIANA LOVETT AND MICHAEL MANDEL
MINOT, ND
- BABY BOY BORN MAY 5, 2026 TO:
GABRIELLA AND SKYLAR CRUDUP
MAFB, ND
- BABY GIRL BORN MAY 8, 2026 TO:
EMMIE OTTMAN AND COLTON PENDLETON
NEW TOWN, ND
- BABY BOY BORN MAY 11, 2026 TO:
BETHANY AND COLTON BARTUSKA
MINOT
- BABY BOY BORN MAY 12, 2026 TO:
JOSHLYNN BIGLEGGINS
AND DARRELL HALL III
MINOT, ND
- BABY GIRL BORN MAY 15, 2026 TO:
HANNAH AND JOSEPH HOUSTON
MAFB, ND
- BABY BOY BORN MAY 16, 2026 TO:
MERCEDES AND J'SEAN JOHNSON
MINOT, ND

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



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All About Pets



Treat your Pet with Fresh Food

Most pet owners have to deal with food beggars at some point in their lives, and it's pretty easy to understand why. Some people opt to train their pets to leave them alone during mealtime, but for some of us, the big eyes are just too adorable to turn down. While small amounts of certain table scraps may not be immediately harmful to your pet, it's still not recommended to sneak Fido a taste. If you want to treat your furry friend with something off your plate, here are some great alternatives to this morning's bacon and pancakes.

- Green Beans
- Carrots
- Melon
(Cantaloupe, Honeydew, Watermelon)
- Apples
- Bananas
- Pumpkin
- Berries
(Blueberries, Strawberries, Blackberries, Raspberries)
- Kiwi
- Pineapple
- Mango
- Pears
- Peas
- Eggs
- Celery
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- Unseasoned, Boneless Meats
(Chicken, Turkey, Lamb, Salmon, Beef)

Many of these can be fed fresh, frozen, or cooked and can be used in bones or stuffed toys, as well as for training treats. Cats and dogs can consume many of the same fruits, vegetables and meats, but it's important to do your research before handing out random foods, and the same goes for rodents and reptiles. Many fruits and vegetables need to be unseasoned, peeled and de-seeded before being given to your pet. Don't forget to monitor your pet's reaction afterwards. Keep an eye out for vomiting, diarrhea, itching, or other allergic reactions. If your pet has a sensitive stomach, be sure to ask your vet before handing out new foods. And of course, moderation is key as too much can still lead to health problems.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution to last weeks crossword

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1. Counterfeit
- 5. Pinto prodder
- 9. Singer Khan
- 14. Composer Stravinsky
- 15. Guesstimate phrase
- 16. Veronica of "Hill Street Blues"
- 17. Carson's spinning-toy essay?
- 20. Houses with walls of water
- 21. Revives
- 22. Puts the collar on
- 25. Caesar, for one
- 26. Levi Stubbs' cookware set?
- 31. Eyeliner target
- 34. Bee flat?
- 35. Shade of blue
- 36. Beef cut
- 38. It borders Kazakhstan
- 40. Basic nature of a perfume
- 42. Tithed percentage
- 43. Zapata's "zip"
- 45. Cry of mock horror
- 46. Sound after a pinprick
- 47. Decides to critique harshly?
- 50. Sault --- Marie
- 51. London park name
- 52. Rod on a screen
- 56. Makeshift digs
- 61. Photo's ace?
- 64. Revolutionary Allen
- 65. Touched ground
- 66. Morales of "Bad Boys"
- 67. Val Kilmer movie (with "The")
- 68. Coloring agents
- 69. Lady of the knight

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

Down

- 1. Pacific archipelago
- 2. Spellbound
- 3. Germany's Helmut
- 4. Cubic Rubik
- 5. Bottle by the chow mein
- 6. Whiz
- 7. JFK served in it
- 8. Mil. student body
- 9. Molecule mavens
- 10. Loathed
- 11. Famous cookie maker
- 12. Continued (with "on")
- 13. Ran preceder
- 18. Dessert, to a dieter
- 19. Parasite's home
- 23. Bear of Alabama football
- 24. Masseur's workplace
- 26. "--- all, folks!"
- 27. Gives a job to
- 28. Roy's wife Dale
- 29. Fedora fabric
- 30. Sometime in the future
- 31. "Say" sound
- 32. Of an ancient Peruvian empire
- 33. Ownership papers
- 37. Pager signal
- 39. Weapons at some weddings?
- 41. Amateur baseball fields
- 44. Fire sign
- 48. Look curiously
- 49. Very distant, as space
- 50. Indian music maker
- 52. Baited a state trooper
- 53. One of the Jackson 5
- 54. Alpine reverberation
- 55. Pore over
- 57. Opposite of flunked
- 58. Astronaut's org.
- 59. Coal carrier
- 60. Garfield's whipping boy
- 62. Untrustworthy
- 63. Stalemate

SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page C6

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

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PROJECT HAIL MARY
(2026) Adventure, Space Sci-Fi (PG-13)

THE GOONIES **HELD OVER**
(1985) Quest, Teen, Adventure, Quest (PG)
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MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY -

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Your degree, Your way. Park University is enrolling now. Earn your CCAF credits, AU-ABC, and your Bachelor's degree with PARK. Let's maximize your military experience! Find how many credits you can get from your military experience by going to military.park.edu. and confirmed your credits Or Ask Alexa! Enable the Park University skill on your Alexa device and say "Alexa, ask Park, How many credit hours can I get from my military experience?" She'll even tell you your graduation date! Minot AFB @ the Education Center RM 222 | 844-884-8612 | mino@park.edu PARK. YOU

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

PUZZLE ON PAGE C5

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

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Chapel Services at MAFB

North Plains Chapel
290 Peacekeeper Pl
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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, May 23
5PM, No Vespers

Sunday, May 24
10AM, Congregational Prayer Service



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Minot, ND 58701
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Pastor Mark Zier

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

Wednesdays
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Worship Service
10:45am Sundays

Sunday School
9:45am

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Vincent United Methodist Church

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

Come As You Are!

Sunday School9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship..... 11:00 a.m.

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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!
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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

9:30am Coffee Fellowship
10:00am Worship

WEDNESDAY

11:30am Soup Kitchen

Pastor Brian Keithline

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St. John the Apostle Catholic Church



2600 West Central Ave • Minot, ND 58701
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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Sunday Services
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Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 p.m.

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Pastor David Miller



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**



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 Center852-6352

westminot.com
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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

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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

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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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11:15 am Worship Service
Wednesday
7:00 pm Bible Study

Church telephone #: 701-838-0939
Pastor Louis McLeod, Jr.
Cell # 701-240-2244

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Lorna Y. Henderson**

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

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



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.

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TUESDAYS BY NOON
WEEK OF PUBLICATION



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What's Going On Minot AFB

FRIDAY 22

- AFGSC Family Day
- For a full listing of Memorial Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com
- Outdoor Pool Opening Day, 1200-1900, Outdoor Pool
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY 23

- For a full listing of Memorial Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com

SUNDAY 24

- For a full listing of Memorial Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com
- Registration Closes: Ballet Instructional Class, CYPBMS
- Registration Closes: 3D Printing Instructional Class, CYPBMS

MONDAY 25

- AFGSC Family Day
- For a full listing of Memorial Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com
- Garden Plots Opening Day, Outdoor Recreation
- Memorial Day BBQ - Special Lunch, 1030-1330, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Memorial Day BBQ - Special Dinner, 1330-1830, Dakota Inn Dining Facility

TUESDAY 26

- Registration Open: Black Hills Camping Trip, Outdoor Recreation
- Registration Open: Montana Camping Trip, Outdoor Recreation
- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Career & Certification Exploration Track, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Base Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- History Walk: West Edition, 1800, Base Library

WEDNESDAY 27

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Base Right Start, 0730-1230, Jimmy Doolittle Center, hosted by M&FRC
- Career & Certification Exploration Track, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Learning Tree Storytimes, 1030, Base Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center

THURSDAY 28

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Pre-Separation Briefing, 0830-1130, M&FRC
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center

FRIDAY 29

- Registration Closes: STEM Camp 2026, CYPBMS
- Registration Closes: Survival & Outdoor Adventure Camp 2026, CYPBMS
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY 30

- Youth Sports Day, 0800-1300, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Intro to Gardening, 1400-1600, Outdoor Recreation

SPECIALS

- Rockers Bar & Grill Featured Item
Carolina Pulled Pork Sandwich
- The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item
Eggel
- Bomber Bistro Featured Item
Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap and Dill & Cucumber Salad

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MON - SAT
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