

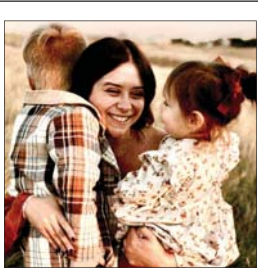


WHATS INSIDE THIS WEEK:



AIR FORCE SECRETARY SEES ONGOING UPGRADES AT MINOT AFB

A3



THE MODERN MINOT MOM

A6



91ST OPERATIONS GROUP WELCOMES THEIR NEW COMMANDER

B2

PATRIOTISM TAKES THE FIELD



The Minot Hot Tots honored military members during their Military Appreciation Game on July 2, recognizing Airmen from Minot Air Force Base and the 54th Helicopter Squadron following a pregame flyover. The service members returned to the field during the sixth inning to be thanked for their commitment and sacrifice.

MINOT HOT TOTS PHOTO



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Northern Sentry honors newspaper carriers at Hot Tots game

The Northern Sentry celebrated its dedicated paper carriers with an appreciation outing at the July 2 Minot Hot Tots baseball game. Publisher Ted Bolton hosted the newspaper's paper boys & girls, along with their families, in the Party Patio, where they enjoyed great seats, an all-you-can-eat meal, and a beautiful summer evening at the ballpark. Several of the carriers also took part in between-inning on-field games, adding to the fun.

"It was so nice to meet the parents and siblings of these great kids who deliver the Northern Sentry every week," Bolton said. "I even had the chance to meet one carrier's grandmother who was visiting from Louisiana. With perfect weather, great entertainment, and delicious food, it was a wonderful way to show our appreciation for these hardworking kids and thank them for everything they do."



MINOT HOT TOT PHOTO

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A LOOK BACK

THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

GROUNDBREAKING FOR MINOT AFB
JULY 12, 1955



The original base control tower under construction in 1956. (Minot Daily News)

During the Cold War, the United States was preparing for the possibility of an attack by enemy bombers. Given its strategic position near the northern border of the country, the city of Minot, N.D., was chosen as the site for the Air Force's new base. Locals donated nearly \$50,000 to purchase the land for Minot AFB, and on July 12, 1955, the groundbreaking ceremony took place. The base took nearly two years to complete. MAFB was originally a part of Air Defense Command and the 32nd Fighter Group was its first unit activated in 1957. In its 66 years, MAFB has hosted the B-52H Stratofortress for long range strategic bombing, the F-106 Delta Dart for interception of enemy aircraft, the KC-135A Stratotanker for air refueling, and even a U-2 reconnaissance aircraft as a part of Operation Crowflight, as well as many helicopters. In 1961, Minot AFB was selected for a Minuteman I ICBM complex. Today, Minot AFB is the only USAF base with two legs of the nuclear triad, and the 5th Bomb Wing and 91st Missile Wing continue to provide strategic deterrence for the nation.

Information courtesy of: minot.af.mil / A 40th Anniversary History of the Minot Air Force Base

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Secretary of the Air Force sees ongoing modernization at Minot AFB

5TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. - Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink visited Minot Air Force Base to see the dual missions of the 5th Bomb Wing and 91st Missile Wing, June 29, 2026.

During his visit, Secretary Meink saw firsthand the many ongoing readiness and modernization efforts and heard from teams across the base carrying it out.

“There is no base quite like Minot, hosting two thirds of the nuclear triad that provides the combat capability underwrite our National Defense Strategy,” Meink said.

Meink met with Warbird Airmen from the 5 BW, who briefed him on the capabilities of the B-52H Stratofortress. Like the Minuteman III missile system, the B-52H Stratofortress is a legacy system that is undergoing modernization to ensure an enduring competitive edge in the nation’s strategic deterrence efforts. Among other advances, the B-52H will be upgraded with new engines that

will improve their performance and change their designation to B-52J.

“The venerable B-52 with its ability to carry the widest assortment of armaments in the department provides combatant commanders the flexibility and long-range strike capability required to deter and, if necessary, win a potential future conflict,” said Meink.

Meink also met with missileers, maintainers and security forces Airmen from the 91 MW to better understand the operational considerations and conditions of the North Dakota missile fields where the Sentinel modernization effort is already taking place. Briefers showcased the intricacies of the payload transporter, transporter erector, and Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTVs) that are used daily throughout the missile field complex.

“Airmen have been operating in this missile field complex since 1962,” Meink said. “Since that first alert to the present day, missileers have stood the watch, maintainers

have sustained the weapons systems, and defenders have secured the field, 24/7, 365.”

Meink has spoken about the necessity of modernizing the nation’s nuclear strategic deterrence capabilities. The modernization of Minot AFB’s legacy Minuteman III infrastructure remains a priority for the department. Minot AFB is responsible for 15 missile alert facilities and 150 Minuteman III missiles located across roughly 8,000 square miles. The Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile system will replace the Minuteman III, with improved range, accuracy, flexibility, and payload capacity.

“The Sentinel acquisition program represents the nation’s investment in a credible, responsive deterrent for the next half century,” said Meink.

Meink got a sense of the Team Minot Airmen who dedicate themselves to the base’s dual nuclear mission as well as the local community leaders who champion the mission here. He noted the unique attitude of Minot AFB and its surrounding community.

“I’ve heard they say, ‘Only the best come North,’ and after what I have witnessed, both on the installation and in the Minot community, I understand why,” Meink said.



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kelvin Moreno, 91st Missile Wing Atomic Spark innovation co-director, shows Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink a 3-D printed firearm magazine loader during a visit at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, June 29, 2026. The modernization of Minot AFB’s legacy Minuteman III infrastructure is one of Meink’s main priorities. Minot AFB is responsible for 15 missile alert facilities and 150 Minuteman III missiles located across roughly 8,000 square miles.



Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink and leaders from the 5th Bomb Wing and 91st Missile Wing gather for a combined mission brief during a visit at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, June 29, 2026. During the visit, base leadership and Meink discussed initiatives that will enhance operational readiness and reinforce the Air Force’s ability to deter potential adversaries.



Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink is greeted by U.S. Air Force Col. Jesse Lamarand, 5th Bomb Wing commander, and U.S. Air Force Col. James Schlabach, 91st Missile Wing commander, upon arrival at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, June 29, 2026. The visit reinforced Minot AFB’s commitment to strengthening readiness, enhancing warfighting capabilities, and maintaining credible deterrence in support of national defense objectives.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN WESLEY DAVIES

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It Never Gets Old



**A VIEW FROM
OUR SIDE**
ROD WILSON

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There it was, the official timetable of the flyovers in Washington, DC and the three bomber flyover was scheduled for 6:02 PM Eastern time. Knowing that this B-52H had flown from Minot AFB made the event a “must see” for me, and I am thinking hundreds of others in Minot. I quickly went to the program area of my remote and set the record function to begin at 4:00 PM, and just continue because if there were, for some reason, a delay I still wanted to be sure that I captured that moment when not only our B-52, but hopefully our 5th Bomb Wing Commander, Col Jesse Lamarand, overflew the America 250 celebration.

Let me go back and make something clear, recording the three bomber flyover was just a backup to my original plan of being stationed in front of my TV, watching intently and keeping close track of the time. When the clock hit 5:02 there

was a glimpse of the three bombers approaching the celebration. Suddenly we were sent back to a video of a speech by JD Vance (just a clarification- I was watching FOX News), and my heart sunk. Certainly, they weren’t going to miss the three bomber flyover? I was ready to start channel surfing when the video of the three jets once again appeared.

The flyover was perfect, well perfect from our perspective. The B-52H, the B1-B and the B-2 were in their now famous delta formation. The only disappointment, and maybe it’s just from my years of being a journalist, was how unprepared the announcer was for the event. In my opinion, he did a “less than” job of describing the event. He did not know the aircraft involved, only that they were bombers. I guess I would have been much more satisfied with a description of the planes, right to left, and how the entire mall, which according to my friend who was there, stopped to watch the flyover take place.

In the midst of continuous flyovers and demonstrations above the National Mall on July 4th, we know that once again the B-52H was one of the stars of the show. Over the years I have been fortunate to see many flyovers and demonstrations that involved the B-52. If I hear the roar of the jets when I am on base I automatically look towards the runway hoping to catch a glimpse as another jet takes to the sky. It’s an awesome site, it’s an awesome sound, and it never gets old.

GEORGE “THE” MASTERS

We lined up for the 4th of July parade sponsored by the Minot Shrine Club in a 65 Pontiac GTO courtesy of George Masters. We



Col Tom Taylor and his spouse Amanda, are pictured with George Masters getting ready for the 4th of July parade in Minot.

were representing the Air & Space Forces Association Gen David Jones Chapter 135. It was a bit of a dream come true to get to actually drive, and not just view, a 65 GTO. When it was our turn we proudly pulled the GTO onto the parade route right behind the Minot AFB Fire Department Hazmat unit.

As we (my wife Sue and I) drove down 4th Avenue in parade formation I can’t tell you the number of folks who waved and said, “nice car”, to which I would answer “Thank you.” For the moment I shared the pride that George Masters has in every car in his collection.

Mr. Masters was stationed at Minot AFB and when he retired he worked at the base in civil service. George not only provided a car for the AFA, but at the front of the parade was a 67 GTO that

was an escort vehicle for Col Jimmy Schlabach from the 91st Missile Wing and Col Thomas Taylor, Deputy Commander of the 5th Bomb Wing.

At an after parade lunch event George lined up all but 4 of his cars at his shop in Southeast Minot. It was quite a site. People would drive by slowly to look and admire George’s classic car collection.

First, thank you George for your continued support of the Minot Air Force Base and the Air and Space Forces association. Second, if you ever need someone to drive one of your classic cars in a parade again, you have my phone number.

WANDERIN’ AROUND

I know that I mention this every year, but now is the time to get out and photograph one of those beautiful canola fields that are in full bloom all over central North Dakota. Soon, they will turn back to green and be replaced by the many fields of waving grain. Not to be forgotten? Those blue flowered flax fields that will soon be in full bloom. Maybe not as common as canola fields, but worth a Sunday afternoon drive to locate and photograph.

TODAY’S CHUCKLE

Everyone should have two pets in order to maintain perspective: a dog who will always think you’re the greatest, and a cat who will always hold you in disdain.



A photo of the line up of cars at George Master’s shop. Our borrowed 65 GTO is the first car in the line up.



**UPSIDE DOWN
UNDER**
MARVIN BAKER

I know I said a few weeks ago that I wouldn’t write anymore about my family tree and family history, but I ran across something a few days ago that too important to just put into a file.

The good news is I’ve been able to trace my paternal family roots back 1,000 years and my maternal family roots long before that, but I have to admit, record keeping is sketchy the further you go back in time.

And that brings me to why I’m telling another family tree story, sketchy record keeping.

Two years of work and a family traced back 1,000 years, but one mystery remains. Two of my first cousins can’t be found. They both grew up in Fargo yet they have disappeared from public records.

Their names are Loren and Vicky

Lynn Davidson and their parents were Lloyd Davidson and Myrtle (Baker) Davidson. My aunt Myrtle died in 1961 and Lloyd died in 1996. I found his obituary in the Ransom County Gazette in Lisbon. That’s where the trail goes cold.

A few days ago I did another search hoping there was something I might have missed in the process. I found Loren’s name and Fargo address and for a few moments at least, I was euphoric. It didn’t last long.

Remember the last time I wrote about this and said people don’t scrutinize their information enough? In this case, it was a little more severe.

Yes, Loren was born in Fargo in 1948, but the 1950 census was incorrect. It had Leo and Inez listed as his parents and Lloyd and Myrtle as siblings. Vicky was born in 1956. Leo and Inez weren’t his parents and I wonder how many others may have experienced this.

I knew it was wrong, but I called my aunt Bernice in Linton just to make sure I wasn’t having a bad dream or something, Leo and Inez Davidson were uncle and aunt to Loren and Vicky. In fact, Leo was a twin brother to their father Lloyd and they both attended school at Fargo Central in the 1930s.

Unfortunately, mistakes like this can lead a person researching

their family down the wrong path quickly. And in my experience from working on this the past two years is that if you take that path, a greater amount of information is incorrect until you find an obvious mistake.

Then, you have to try to figure out where the initial mistake occurred and that can be a major headache to straighten out the incorrect chain of events.

Yes, the U.S. Census got it wrong in 1950. And had I not already known about Loren and Vicky from family stories, I may have gone down that wrong path and quite literally would have become more frustrated than I am in not finding my first cousins.

Something like this could have serious social and/or legal ramifications. A lot of people have relied on census data since the 1790s and how do you know it’s correct? I was lucky to have caught the mistake since it’s a family matter. But what if it wasn’t?

That’s why it’s so important to cross reference this material. Don’t just accept a date or place as the gospel. Cross reference it. I can’t imagine how the census takers could actually get the information wrong, especially when Leo and Inez had their own children.

Honestly, I don’t know if Loren and Vicky are living or deceased. I can only assume that Vicky probably

got married and changed her last name. Or, they could be living right under our noses.

One thing I can say is that when Loren and Vicky were kids growing up in Fargo, their family owned a bicycle shop in downtown Fargo. I’ve reached out to Fargo historians, but nobody has come forward with information.

Otherwise, I’m at a dead end.

Getting desperate, I contacted a genealogist for hire and was told the fee starts at \$3,500 and could go as high as \$40,000. Even then, there is no guarantee Loren and/or Vicky will be found.

Two of my aunts, who both live in Linton, would like to connect, if they can. That’s why I’m working so hard to solve this mystery.

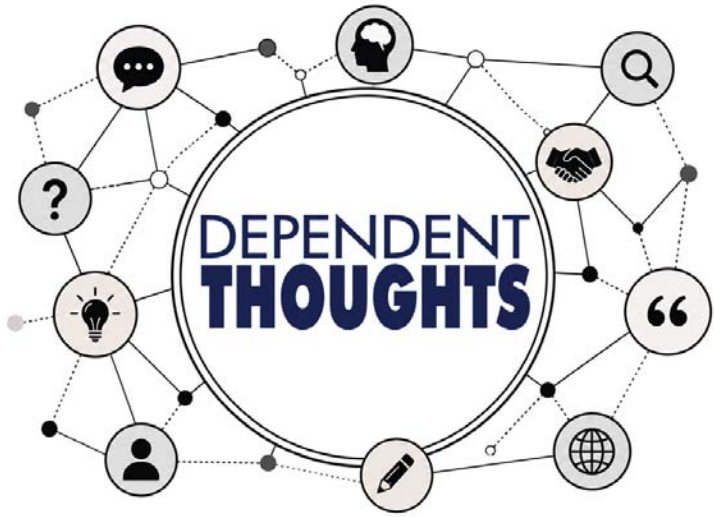
If anyone out there has any information about their whereabouts, please let me know. I want to make contact too, assuming they are both living. Several of us who are first cousins and our aunts recently reunited after nearly 60 years and it’s a great feeling simply to meet all over again.

This is a tough egg to crack, but I’m just going to have to keep digging. And my work could be a lot more efficient if I didn’t have to correct unnecessary mistakes along the way.

Riddled with mistakes

Why I Like TRICARE Select

ERIN BEENE,
NORTHERN SENTRY



Every single military dependent has to deal with this choice TRICARE Prime or Select? I’ve been through seven-plus bases, a few countries, and a whole lot of military healthcare systems, and here’s my honest take on why I’ve ended up preferring Select.

TRICARE Prime: You use on-base medical facilities as your primary care. Most care starts with the base appointment line, and off-base specialists require referrals. Costs are usually low or nothing, but the system is more structured and controlled.

TRICARE Select: You can see any in-network civilian provider without a referral. You handle your own appointments, typically pay co-pays (often \$20–\$40), and have much more flexibility in choosing doctors.

More official descriptions can be found online.

When I first became a military spouse nearly 17 years ago, I was just excited to have insurance again. I hadn’t had consistent coverage since high school, so I made all the initial appointments I could: eye exams, dermatology, anything I had put off for years. At the time, I didn’t know much about how military healthcare worked. I just knew I was grateful for the coverage.

Over time, though, I started noticing the limitations of Prime. Appointments could take forever to schedule, communication between providers was inconsistent, and getting referrals sometimes felt like a full-time job of convincing. Every base was different, but the common theme was waiting. Waiting for the phone line, waiting for availability, waiting for referrals to go through.

When we lived overseas in England during my first pregnancy, I showed up at 35 weeks with previous doctor’s

paperwork in hand; I still had to repeat paperwork and even take a pregnancy test before being seen, which took a few weeks. I gave birth at RAF Lakenheath and, while everything was fine, I had no real continuity of care. I never even knew my doctor or even who delivered my first born child. It was always whoever was available.

My second pregnancy at Barksdale AFB was different because the OBGYN base clinic was overwhelmed, so I was referred off base. Honestly, that was the best experience I’ve had on Prime. I had a consistent doctor, real relationships, and personalized care. It showed me what continuity of care could actually feel like.

Ironically, Barksdale was also the only place I ever had a consistent on-base pediatrician for my kids. She knew our family, remembered details, and I didn’t have to re-explain everything at every visit. That alone made a huge difference. But that experience was singular in my experience.

Most of the time on Prime, I had no idea who my “primary care manager” even was, and often urgent care was the only option for sick kids since on base appointments were not available for weeks.

By the time we moved to San Antonio last year, I had finally had enough. We were living farther from base, my kids were older, and I needed a system where I could actually build relationships with doctors who knew us and find healthcare that worked for our family. Switching to Select felt like a risk since I was unsure of the hidden costs, but it ended up being one of the best decisions I’ve made for our healthcare.

With Select, I can call a specialist directly when something comes up. My kids can usually be seen within

a day or two when they’re sick. I’ve even been able to establish a real relationship with a primary doctor who asks me questions like, “What do you think would be best for you?,” something I had honestly never been asked before.

That kind of partnership in healthcare was new for me.

Yes, Select comes with co-pays. But, not every appointment has fees, and so far it has been really manageable. Some appointments (annual visits etc) are still 100% covered. Yes, you have to find your own providers within the network. But for me, the tradeoff has been worth it. I feel more in control of my family’s health, and I’m not waiting weeks for care that needs to happen now.

That said, Prime does have its advantages. In smaller or more remote bases, it can be incredibly helpful, especially when specialty care is limited and referrals cover travel and treatment elsewhere. If we were stationed somewhere like Minot again, I might reconsider simply because of access.

But right now, in a larger metro area with more provider options, Select gives us something Prime never consistently did: flexibility, access, and continuity.

At the end of the day, this isn’t about one being “better” for everyone. It’s about what works for your family, your location, and your medical needs. You know your health better than anyone else, and that matters most.

You can switch during PCS moves or open season every fall, so nothing is permanent.

For us, Select has made healthcare feel less like a system we have to navigate, and more like care we actually get to participate in.

Are you a military dependent with thoughts on military life or living in North Dakota? We'd love to hear from you! While this column isn't intended as a space for complaints, we're looking for thoughtful, honest perspectives on the experiences, challenges, and unique moments that come with this lifestyle. If you have a topic idea or are interested in writing a column, email Erin.Beene@willowtreemarketing.com.



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All About Pets



Coping with the loss of a pet

There are many reasons why one might lose a pet: old age, an unfortunate accident, or changing life circumstances, to name a few. For those of us who truly care about our pets, losing them can be devastating. So how can you cope with the loss of a pet? Here are a few suggestions.

- Let yourself grieve — whether your pet has gone off to the rainbow bridge or simply another home, it is completely normal to feel a level of grief. It's important to recognize your feelings and if you need support, reach out to friends, family, or even a professional counselor. You can also try finding pet loss resources such as those at www.aplb.org.
- Reflect on your time together—after the loss of a pet, it can be difficult to think about their memory. But reflecting on the time you've spent together can actually be therapeutic. Try to focus on the positive memories and recall the challenges that you faced and overcame as a team. Writing your feelings down in a journal a great way to reflect and hopefully help turn your grief into gratitude. If you're the type to keep reminders of your pet, there are plenty of creators who make keepsakes such as keychains, paintings, jewelry, or other memorials. Something I like to do is use a stepping stone kit to imprint my pet's paw prints forever. When they're gone, you will always have a little piece of them in your life to remind you of all the great times you spent together.
- Spend time with other pets—humans aren't the only ones who have feelings about losing pets. Some pets can sense when there has been a loss, other than the obvious sign of not having their friend around. Unless your pet is actively giving you signals that they want to be left alone, spending time and giving attention to your other

pet(s) can benefit you both and help you walk through the grieving process together. Take your pet to the park, spend some time playing in the back yard, or cuddle up on the couch and watch a movie.

- Use your grief for a good cause—research has shown that doing good deeds can make you happier. After the loss of a pet, you can try curbing those negative feelings by doing something good such as volunteering at a local animal shelter, donating supplies to them, or if you're able, you can even sign up to be a transporter or foster for other animals in need.
- Get another pet—this one seems like the obvious answer to dealing with the death of a pet. However, this is not a decision that should be made impulsively! Bringing another pet into your home immediately after losing one will not always make you feel better right away, and if you are not in the headspace to properly take care of and focus on the new pet because you are still grieving the old one, it can rub off on them. Try giving yourself some time to grieve first. When you feel ready, start looking for a new friend. It's unfair to your new pet to compare them to your old one... all pets have different personalities, but that is what makes them so special. While a new pet can never replace your lost one, they can still offer the same companionship and give you another great, loving relationship to enjoy. Saying goodbye to our pets is never fun, but at some point it is an inevitable. Enjoy every moment you spend together—even the difficult ones—and when the time comes, just remember the love that they brought into your life.

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The Modern Minot Mom

VERONICA KELLERMAN, NORTHERN SENTRY

There isn't a single image that defines a Military affiliated mother. It's more than a title, motherhood is a journey of resilience, purpose, and community.

She may be packing lunches before the morning rush on HWY 83 to Minot AFB, squeezing in work during toddlers nap time, comforting a laboring mother in the middle of the night, or cheering from the Minot North High football bleachers. She may be a business owner, a working professional, or a stay at home mom. No matter where her day begins or ends, she's building a life, raising a family, and finding strength in a community that understands the unique challenges of calling Minot home.

In Minot, many families are hundreds of miles from the people they once called friends and family. Motherhood, especially in the military lifestyle often means creating your own village, again and again. It means leaning on one another, embracing life's unexpected turns, and discovering strengths you never knew you had.

Four Minot AFB mothers shared their stories, and although their journeys look different, one message echoed through each conversation: motherhood changes you.

For AF Veteran Rosie Conklin, that transformation began with the birth of her daughter.

"When I got pregnant with my daughter, I knew I couldn't keep being away from my family the way the Air Force required," Conklin said. "But it was actually her birth that changed everything."

In 2024, she went through an emotional birth but made it through from the support of her doula, Conklin then recognized a need within the Minot community, especially for military families welcoming babies far from home who didn't have familial support nearby.

"I saw the need and I had a very specific vision," she said. "Not just birth support, but real friendship and community."

Only eight weeks after welcoming her daughter, she launched her business Rooted and Risen Birth Services.

"I'm a big believer in sharing in the chaos because that's real life, and that's where the real connection happens."

Her story is proof that sometimes life's most difficult moments become the foundation for helping others.

Military spouse and stay at home mom, Nicole Dunlap reminds us that motherhood doesn't always come with a paycheck but it is one of the hardest jobs there is. Dunlap has spent the last five years raising her three children while navigating the unique challenges of military life.

"The biggest misconception I've seen is that people think stay at home moms are lazy because we don't have a 'job'," she said. "But I'm on my feet all day caring for kids and the house, so that couldn't be further from the truth."

Like many military spouses, she says the hardest part isn't the day to day, but it's doing it far from family, while her husband spends time on the missile field.

"My husband does trip outs to the missile fields, and I'm on my own a lot of the time," she said. "It's hard when we celebrate birthdays and holidays alone."

Despite those challenges, she wouldn't trade this season of life "With a front row seat" in watching her children grow.

Mom of three and military spouse, photographer and doula Becca Ralbovsky down a path she never expected.

For her, photography began as a way to capture every stage of her son's childhood. As she photographed more families and births, she realized she wanted to do more.

"I realized I wanted to do more than preserve those moments," Ralbovsky said. "I wanted to support families through them."

Motherhood also reshaped the way she approaches both life and business.

"It [motherhood] taught me that perfection isn't the goal, presence is," she said. "Sometimes the best photos happen in the chaos."

"Balance isn't something you achieve once and keep forever," she said. "It's something you adjust constantly."

For Brittany Frink Gilbert, a military spouse and working professional in Human Services, motherhood requires intentional choices every day.

Between work, children's activities, household responsibilities, and family life she understands the reality of mom guilt.

"Mom guilt definitely does exist," Gilbert admitted. "Especially now that my kids are older and more aware when I'm away from home."

She credits the military community for helping through each season.

"They just get it."

Although each woman's story is unique, all four described





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"My children have taught me that loving them means loving myself, too. Loving myself isn't selfish. It's part of the example I'm setting for them. I hope they learn to be kind, confident, compassionate, do the right thing"

Becca Ralbovsky



“No matter how challenging this military life can get, they still manage to always rise in the toughest transitions. That lesson from them, gives me strength to rebuild my work-life balance every PCS.” Brittany Frink Gilbert

motherhood as something that continues to shape them. Conklin said. “Motherhood has made me braver, louder, and more myself than I’ve ever been.”

Ralbovsky described motherhood as “equal parts bliss and chaos, joy and sacrifice,” adding that “every stage asks me to grow into a different version of myself.”

While their stories differ, their hopes are remarkably similar. They want their children to be kind, courageous, and compassionate.

They hope to teach them that dreams are worth pursuing, asking for help is a strength, and success is measured not only by accomplishments but by the lives we touch.

That may be the true picture of the modern Minot AFB mom. She simply keeps showing up.

In a community like Minot, where neighbors become family and friendships become lifelines, that may be the greatest strength of all.



Roslin Conklin “When you become someone’s whole world you find a voice you never knew you had”



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BOAT DOGS

Kim Fundingsland

If everyone discovered the benefits of fishing, there would be a shortage of fishing rods. I read that somewhere, or something very close to it. Fishing is fun, to be sure, especially when the fish cooperate, but there’s so much more to it. First and foremost is that thinking about general troubles and difficulties in life we all encounter day to day somehow disappear at the start of each fishing trip.

No computer screens. No red lights or honking horns. No squabbles to mediate. Soothing, relaxing, refreshing, rewarding – every time. Just you and whomever you choose to fish with and, if you are fortunate, your dog.

Boat dogs are the best, something that a lot of North Dakotans know. Including your dog, or dogs, on the water may not improve your fishing success but you’ll be better for it. Sharing such times with a dog somehow improves what seemingly can’t be improved. In addition to being incredible friends, dogs are magical animals.

When a person tells me they are thinking of buying a boat and seek my opinion on what to look for, my response is, “What kind of dog do you own?”

To me, you see, boat dogs are that important. They are perfect fishing companions, never complaining about anything, and give you a gentle nudge of encouragement or put their head on your lap to lift your spirits when the “big one” gets away. No sense in brooding over it or sharing four letter words with others on the lake. Just catch another fish. My dogs taught me that.

A few years ago, I owned a dog that I took fishing every time I would go. He would often curl up in the bow of the boat, patiently enjoying partaking in the outing, a much better option than staying at home. But he did what dogs do that most of us scarcely notice, paying close attention to smells, actions, and words.

One day while I was working a favorite fishing spot, I watched as my dog got up from his slumber, put his front paws on the bow of the boat, and looked down. Huh?

A moment later I was reeling in a fat walleye. That’s when the light came on. I got to thinking about what just happened and recalled numerous other times my dog was looking over the side of the boat when I was interrupted by a fish on the line. It was no coincidence. That dog could smell fish and was alerting me to their presence, just as sure as if he was pointing a rooster pheasant on the edge of a cattail slough.

I had two other dogs in the boat then too, neither of which exhibited the same skills. Funny how some things just click with certain dogs. I owned a dog once that came and got me every time a text message came in on my phone, no matter what time of the day, if I



was awake or not, or where I was in the house or yard or garage.

My dog that alerted on fish had been fishing enough times to know that setting the hook and eventually bringing a fish into the boat was cause for great fun and happy celebration. He put it all together and desired to part of the process, same as if he was tracking or pointing a game bird.

A few months later I was visiting with a guy who was on his way to winning a National Walleye Tour title. He had his boat tied to the dock. His dog was in the boat too. I didn’t know quite how to ask what was on my mind, so I jokingly said, “Does that dog smell fish?”

Looking around carefully, he put a finger over his lips – ssshhh.

“How did you know?” he remarked quietly so that others nearby wouldn’t hear. “That dog is a better fish finder than my sonar. Don’t tell anybody.”

Now, not all dogs exhibit such behavior and not many people will believe that story. No matter. Even dogs that don’t tip off their fisherman owners are wonderful companions, worthy of every minute they spend on the water. They are pleasant and incredible students of nature, eagerly studying pelicans, seagulls, other boats and boat dogs.

Dogs know when the fishing clothes go on, or the fishing rods are stacked by the door, that they don’t want to be left behind and very actively lobby accordingly. However, there are rare times and circumstances when a person has no choice but to leave them at home. On those days it takes a while for the image of those big, sad eyes and drooping ears to leave your mind.

I don’t like those days at all. It’s better just to take your dog in the boat. Another thing, they have a terrific way of talking you into going fishing on the rare occasion when you hesitate about making up your mind to head to the lake. All things are better with dogs anyway, and that definitely includes fishing.

Don’t forget the dog treats.



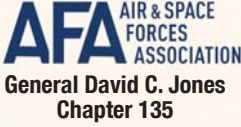
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Oil Change Tips

It is recommended that you get an oil change on your vehicle every 3,500 miles for regular oil and every 5,000 miles for synthetic oil. Checking and changing the oil is essential to keep today's engines working properly and efficiently. Check the oil level with the engine and the car parked on a flat surface. Open the hood, remove the dipstick, wipe off with a cloth towel or paper, then back into the oil tank. Pull it again and see if the level is within the acceptable range marked on the dipstick. If you add the oil yourself, do not overfill. Overfilling can damage the engine.

Most automobile manufacturers recommend oil changes every year or 7,500 miles of car and light truck gasoline engines. The usual recommendation is diesel engines and turbocharged gasoline engines every 3,000 miles or six months.

You'll find that a once-a-year (7,500-mile) oil change is for vehicles driven in ideal circumstances. Most of us think "normal" driving is "severe service" driving. This includes frequent short trips (less than 10 miles, especially in cold weather), stop-and-go city traffic driving, driving in dusty conditions (gravel roads, etc.), and sustained highway driving speed during the warm season. For this type of driving behavior, the recommendation is to change the oil every 3,000 miles or six months.

For maximum protection, most oil companies say to change the oil every 3,000 miles or three to six months regardless of what type of driving you do. Regular oil changes for preventative maintenance are cheap insurance against engine wear and will always save you money in the long run if you keep a car for more than three or four years. It's very uncommon to see an engine well-maintained with regular oil changes develop significant bearing, ring, cam, or valve problems under 100,000 miles.

What About The Oil Filter?

To reduce the costs of vehicle ownership and maintenance, many car makers say the oil filter only needs to be replaced at every other oil change. Most mechanics will tell you this is a false economy. The oil filters on most engines today have been downsized to save weight, cost, and space. The "standard" quart-sized

filter that was once common on most engines has been replaced by a pint-sized (or smaller) filter. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that a smaller filter has less total filtering capacity. Even so, the little filters should be adequate for 3,000-mile oil change intervals — but may run out of capacity long before a second oil change at 6,000 or 15,000 miles. Therefore, replacing the oil filter every time the oil is changed is highly recommended.

Filter Replacement

If you do your oil changes, make sure you get the correct filter for your engine. Follow the filter manufacturer's listings in its catalog. Many filters that look the same on the outside have different internal valving. Many overhead cam engines, for example, require an "anti-drain-back" valve in the filter to prevent oil from draining out of the filter when the engine is shut off. This allows oil pressure to reach critical engine parts more quickly when restarted. Filters that are mounted sideways on the engine typically require an anti-drain-back valve.

Used motor oil should be disposed of properly. The Environmental Protection Agency does not consider used motor oil to be a hazardous chemical, but it can foul groundwater and contain traces of lead. The best way to dispose of used motor oil is to take it to a service station, quick lube shop, parts store, or another recycling facility. Your old oil will either be re-refined into other lubricants or petroleum products or burned as fuel.

Do not dump used motor oil on the ground, down a drain, into a storm sewer, or place it in the trash. Many landfills will not accept used motor oil even if it is in a sealed container because it will eventually leak out into the ground. If you can't find an environmentally-acceptable way to dispose of the stuff, maybe you shouldn't change your oil. Service facilities that do oil changes have storage tanks and recycling programs to dispose of used oil.

It is recommended that you get an Oil Change on your vehicle every 3,500 miles for regular oil and every 5,000 miles for synthetic oil. Checking and changing the oil is essential to keep today's engines working properly and efficiently.



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91st Operations Group welcomes their new commander

SENIOR AIRMAN CARSON JENEY, MINOT AIR FORCE BASE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. --

The 91st Operations Group welcomed its new commander, U.S. Air Force Col. Daniel Shimonsky, during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, June 24, 2026.

Col. Jimmy Schlabach, 91st Missile Wing commander, officiated over the ceremony as Col. Michael Suden, 91st OG outgoing commander, relinquished command to Shimonsky. The ceremonial passing of the guidon symbolized the formal transfer of authority and responsibility.

Shimonsky assumed command after serving as the deputy inspector general of Air Force Global Strike Command at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, for one year. As the incoming commander, Shimonsky will be responsible for the safe, secure, and reliable

operations of 150 Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles operated from 15 remote missile alert facilities in support of missile field activities dispersed over 8,500 square miles.

Suden concluded two years as commander of the 91st OG, where he commanded three missile squadrons and an operations support squadron, providing nuclear combat capability to the commander of the United States Strategic Command in support of national objectives.

The 91st OG is the operational backbone of the 91st MW. With its four squadrons, the 91st Operations Support Squadron, and the 740th, 741st and 742nd Missile Squadrons, the group continues to be an essential component of the U.S.'s deterrent force, ensuring Minot's missiles operate in a safe, secure and reliable state.



U.S. Air Force Col. Daniel Shimonsky, 91st Operations Group incoming commander, renders remarks during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, June 24, 2026.



U.S. Air Force Col. Jimmy Schlabach, 91st Missile Wing commander (left), relinquishes the guidon to Col. Daniel Shimonsky, 91st Operations Group incoming commander, during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, June 24, 2026. As the incoming commander, Shimonsky will be responsible for the safe, secure, and reliable operations of 150 Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles operated from 15 remote missile alert facilities in support of missile field activities dispersed over 8,500 square miles.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN CARSON JENEY



U.S. Air Force Col. Jimmy Schlabach, 91st Missile Wing commander (left), receives the guidon from Col. Michael Suden, 91st Operations Group outgoing commander, during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, June 24, 2026. As the 91st OG commander, Suden commanded three missile squadrons and an operations support squadron, providing nuclear combat capability to the commander of the United States Strategic Command in support of national objectives.



U.S. Air Force Col. Michael Suden, 91st Operations Group outgoing commander, receives the Legion of Merit medal during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, June 24, 2026. As the 91st OG commander, Suden commanded three missile squadrons and an operations support squadron, providing nuclear combat capability to the commander of the United States Strategic Command in support of national objectives.



NOTES ON BEING SAFE

ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Enjoying the fresh air, clear water and wildlife? More and more people have headed into the great outdoors for rest, relaxation, adventure and restoration. In the past five years alone, over one-third of the adults in the United States have gone on at least one over-night camping trip.

No matter what level of camping comfort you enjoy, there are always risks and hazards. On average, there are over 30,000 injuries treated in emergency rooms each year, and doctors treat an additional 75,000 camping-related injuries per year.

Camping styles range from primitive sites to RVs or even cabins. Find your comfort level in the great outdoors. Lodges are good alternative and are like hotels in a wilderness location, usually broken down into interest categories like fishing lodges, hunting lodges, etc. Once you determine your destination take the time to plan ahead before you head out the door and pitch a tent.

The last thing you want is to arrive at your campsite and realize that you forgot a piece of gear, or that you didn't bring the right equipment for what you plan to do. Different camping trips need different types of equipment and clothing. The possibilities range from hunting, to fishing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, backpacking, and family needs. Make sure you have the right gear for your trip and that it works properly!

Knowing what to pack for a trip depends on the season, location and activities you plan to include. Weather varies from season to season and from location to location. What clothing to wear should be a primary consideration and you should pack accordingly. For instance, wearing layers will allow you to adjust to different temperatures by

adding or removing layers. Waterproof clothing will prepare you for different weather conditions. Make sure to choose comfortable shoes or boots for walking to prevent blisters. To keep insects and ticks from getting underneath clothing tuck pant legs into your socks and shoes. A cap or hat will also come in handy as a good shield to protect your head from too much sun.

Here are 10 safety tips for choosing a campsite:

- Plan ahead and arrive at the campsite with plenty of daylight time remaining to identify hazards.
- Stay away from areas that may flood easily or get muddy if it rains.
- Be cautious. Look for sharp objects, broken glass, or other foreign objects.

- Avoid areas with rocks or other hazardous terrains.
 - Watch for bees, ants and other insects, along with poison ivy and other poisonous plants.
 - Avoid areas with low tree branches or dead trees. These could easily fall during gusts of wind.
 - Look for an area with bushes or shrubs to block cold winds or provide shade in the heat.
 - Pick an area with level ground and enough space for all your belongings.
 - Pitch your tent away from your campfire.
 - Build your campfire in a contained area to prevent it from spreading.
- Keep the fun in camping. Be sure to take the necessary safety precautions!



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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution to last weeks crossword

A	M	O	R		S	L	A	B		G	L	A	Z	E
D	A	M	E		P	O	L	O		R	O	B	E	S
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SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page B10

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. New Yorkers since 1962
5. Blowgun projectile
9. P. T. Barnum exhibit
14. Muslim religious leader
15. Pelvic bones
16. Bench warmer?
17. Illegal weapon, often
20. Music teacher's challenge
21. Boris Godunov, for one (Var.)
22. On the other hand
23. Underhanded
24. Shoe type
26. Wraps up
28. Tired tale
33. Monopoly board corner
36. It holds your hand?
37. Result of cogitating, perhaps
38. High woodwind
39. Knight's charger
42. Snitch
43. Ballerina's frock
44. PBS complement
45. Gives permission to
46. Belligerency
51. Dutch painter of "The Jolly Toper"
52. Preserve, in a way
53. Fraternity letter
56. Kitten or parakeet, often
59. Plant bristle
61. Plain cotton weave
63. Swaggers
66. Set things right
67. The Amazon River flows through it
68. Dubai dignitary
69. Academic coach
70. Even trade
71. New Mexico landmark

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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63			64					65						
66							67				68			
69							70					71		

Down

1. Sprays lightly
2. Phone call supplanter
3. Yellowish brown
4. Crook with Hook
5. Museum offerings
6. Alien talk show host
7. Falling-out
8. Mortarboard topper
9. Glacier-cut inlets
10. Adventurer's aversion
11. Uptight
12. Fit of fever
13. 2000 National League MVP Jeff
18. Spreadsheet entries
19. Set of cards
25. Jaunty
27. Squelch
28. Sherlock Holmes, notably
29. Signs
30. Jim Davis canine
31. Budget chunk
32. Talks and talks
33. Writes on a napkin, say
34. Show tangency
35. Scintilla
40. Large-scale
41. Concocts
47. Time for a roll
48. Exuberant cries
49. Lens adjustments
50. Wildebeests
53. Peacock's pride
54. Platter players
55. Red head?
56. Five-part HS exam
57. Couple of words from Caesar
58. Equestrian's pace
60. With a fresh start
62. Wine glass holder
64. Cinco minus cuatro
65. Noteworthy period



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MICHAEL

(2026) Docudrama, Showbiz Drama (PG-13)

HELD OVER

HOPPERS

(2026) Animal Adventure, Comedy, Family (PG)

HELD OVER

THE BREADWINNER

(2026) Comedy, Family (PG)

HELD OVER

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(1940) Horror, Drama, Sci-Fi, Thriller

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Air Force Surgeon General Visits Minot Medical Group, Honors Local “Trusted Care Hero”

MINOT MEDICAL GROUP



MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. — The Air Force Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. John DeGoes, conducted a comprehensive immersion tour of the Minot Medical Group on June 24, 2026, to assess medical readiness, mentor future leaders, and recognize exceptional patient safety practices.

During the visit, Lt. Gen. DeGoes received a primary mission briefing from key medical leadership, detailing the group’s operational capabilities in support of the installation’s strategic deterrent mission. Lt. Gen. DeGoes also prioritized direct mentorship, hosting a breakfast with Airmen and NCOs, followed by targeted leadership development sessions with Company Grade Officers (CGOs) and Senior NCOs.

A major highlight of the visit was the presentation of the “Trusted Care Hero” recognition to Airman First Class (A1C) Chastine, a medical technician whose clinical vigilance recently prevented a potentially severe medical escalation.

While conducting a routine intake at the Women’s Health walk-in contraception clinic, A1C Chastine demonstrated Preoccupation with Failure—a core High Reliability Organization (HRO) principle—by flagging an abnormal respiratory rate of 24 breaths per minute rather than dismissing it as a temporary anomaly.

Showing a strong Reluctance to Simplify, Chastine validated the finding and immediately reviewed the patient’s electronic health record, uncovering a persistent trend of elevated respiratory rates across recent encounters. Exercising Deference to Expertise, she promptly notified the Women’s Health provider and facilitated a primary care appointment, which ultimately led to a critical Cardiology referral for higher-level care.

“A1C Chastine’s vigilance epitomized Patient Centeredness and reinforced a Culture of Safety where all personnel, regardless of rank, are empowered to speak up and escalate concerns,” said medical

group leadership. The Surgeon General’s visit underscored the unwavering commitment of the Air Force Medical Service to develop robust leaders and foster a proactive, safety-first culture across all military treatment facilities.



The Kelly Brothers
Layton & Jett, found a \$20 Golden Ticket in a Northern SENTRY they picked up at the Bistro. Thanks for reading the paper!

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Upcoming Events

10 JULY
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KARATE KID: LEGENDS
SUNSET (9:30 PM)
Oak Park Amphitheater
1300 4th Ave NW, Minot

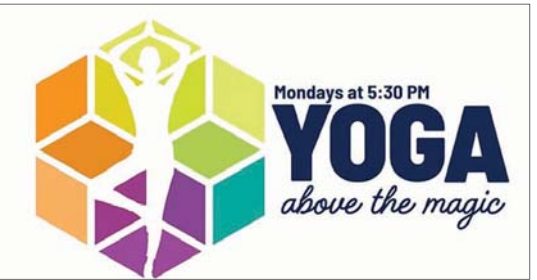
Movies in the Park 2026 – Where movies meet moonlight! Join us at the Oak Park for an unforgettable summer movie series under the stars! Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and your favorite people. Oak Park Amphitheater
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13 JULY
YOGA ABOVE THE MAGIC
5:30 PM
Magic City Discovery Center,
1545 1st Street NW, Minot

Yoga Above the Magic connects body, breath, and mind and is designed for all levels of fitness and experience. This class focuses on improving balance, flexibility, and overall body strength. Classes begin with a tai chi and sun salutation warm-up followed by a flow of poses, with options that allow you to honor and challenge you where you are in your yoga journey. The class closes in savasana with a calming meditation. Class themes include gratitude, kindness, letting go, and friendship.
Cost: \$15 for Non-Members, \$13.50 for MCDC Members, and \$12 for MCDC Military Members
Instructor: Terry Eckmann



For more information:
Facebook/ Magic City Discovery Center/ Events

16 JULY
CÉCILIA & BLUE HOUSE AT LEVITT AMP MINOT MUSIC SERIES
5:00 PM
Citizens Alley, 3 1st St SE Suite 2

The Levitt AMP Minot Music Series brings free live music to downtown Minot at Citizens Alley. Join us for an evening of live performances featuring local, regional, and national artists in a welcoming outdoor setting. Each concert includes more than just music—enjoy local vendors, food and beverages, and family-friendly activities that make it easy to spend the whole evening downtown. Bring a lawn chair, meet up with friends, and experience the energy of summer nights in Minot. Concerts take place on select Thursdays throughout June, July, and August 2026 at Citizens Alley in downtown Minot. Free to attend. All ages welcome.



For more information:
Facebook/ Citizens Alley/ Events

19 JULY
ARTS IN THE CITY: JERRY SCHLAG & FRIENDS AND THE SWING BAND OF MINOT
4:00 PM
Oak Park, 1300 4th Ave NW, Minot, ND

Join us for another fun summer evening at Oak Park with live music, food trucks, vendors, and community gathering in the park! This week features an afternoon with Jerry Schlag and Friends followed by an evening performance from the Swing Band of Minot. LIVE MUSIC: 4PM – Jerry Schlag and Friends, 7PM – The Swing Band of Minot. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, grab dinner from a local food truck, and enjoy a relaxing night of music in the park.
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YOUTH IN ACTION

Welcome New STARBASE ND Director!

The STARBASE ND program provides 25 hours of hands-on STEAM training to 5th graders on base and within the local community. These students are given a unique opportunity to “engage with positive role models and the technological environment found on [Minot AFB]” (starbasenorthdakota.com).

Effective 16 June 2026, Mrs. Aubrie Ziegler will take over as the STARBASE ND Director. We are lucky to have a prior STARBASE ND instructor as our new Director. She taught in the program for School Years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 and then left with a heavy heart amid uncertain DoW funding heading into School Year 2025-2026, but remained in North Plains Elementary School to teach third grade.

Mr. Jon Dawson was the prior director and devoted 12 years to the STARBASE ND program on Minot Air Force Base. On June 15th, 2026, the 5th Bomb Wing Commander bestowed a certificate and award to Mr. Dawson for his excellent service.

As we welcome Mrs. Ziegler, I share an exclusive interview:

1. Why did you get into the field of education?

For me, education wasn’t a career choice I made in college—“Teacher” was what I answered the first time someone asked me what I wanted to do when I grew up. In fact, by the time I was in first grade, I already had a box tucked away under my bed dedicated entirely to my future classroom. I would collect things I knew I’d need one day—stickers that said ‘Good Job,’ unique stationery, and little notepads that looked like something a teacher would use. My career path never wavered. Being in the classroom is just where I’ve always known I belonged.

2. Do you have a favorite category/subject or field of science?

Geology has been my favorite for quite some time because it turns the entire planet into an outdoor laboratory and a massive detective story. You aren’t just reading a textbook; you are learning how to read the landscape. When you look at a mountain range or a canyon, geology gives you the ability to see millions of years into the past—and who doesn’t like picking up a cool rock!

3. What’s your favorite past experience or memory of working with students in STEAM?

Anytime the result is unexpected to the students is memorable. When they are so sure of the outcome, but the result is the opposite, it brings great conversion and surprised faces—bowling balls that float, eggs that survive a crash landings, ugly rocks that hold beautiful crystals inside, those moments of pure



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



surprise are the best. That sudden shift from certainty to wonder is exactly what STEAM is all about.

4. What started your interest in science and technology?

What really drove my interest in science and technology education was learning in college that many elementary students only get to do one or two full science experiments a year—meaning a true, inquiry-based experience often doesn’t happen until middle school. I wanted to create a classroom where technology and hands-on scientific inquiry are a regular part of our day, not a rare exception.

5. What is the future of STARBASE ND? In what ways do you plan to improve the program?

I am incredibly fortunate to inherit a program that has been run meticulously well, and with such an exceptional track record of success. As we navigate our way out of an unprecedented year and address some recent funding challenges, my vision for STARBASE ND is focused on keeping up the precedent our program has already set,

and modernization. First and foremost, that means getting our team fully staffed and trained. Next, we are actively upgrading our student experience by phasing out older tech. We are bringing in new flight simulator technology and brand-new, just-released robots to give our students hands-on access to the exact tools shaping the modern STEAM workforce. It’s about honoring the program’s strong roots while building a truly futuristic learning environment.

Thank you, Mrs. Ziegler, for taking up the torch! I look forward to working with you as I process monthly payments, complete inventory, and provide marketing/outreach support. More than all that, though, I look forward to seeing the program succeed for many years to come.

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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Each horse needs to be repaired and re-painted. There are over 26 on the carousel. Many are ready to be attached once the carousel is re-built.



One of the finished horses on display at the Pioneer Village visitor’s center.

Restored Carousel More Than A Dream

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

What began as a dream to bring a classic carousel to Minot is now becoming a community restoration project with a long history, a difficult rebuild, and the hope of giving future generations one of childhood’s most memorable first rides.

A CLASSIC CAROUSEL COMES TO MINOT

Carousels have been popular as entertainment for kids, and even adults, since the beginning of travelling circuses and carnivals. Through the early efforts and vision of the Railroad Museum of Minot, a carousel was purchased and originally set up in Roosevelt Park in an area that once was the home to Lunder’s Kiddieland.

Notes from various Minot Park Board meetings talk about how the Railroad Museum would originally purchase the carousel for \$55,000.00 and asked the Park Board to forgive the 15% commission paid by the Minot Railroad Museum on revenues from their activities in Roosevelt Park, including the Magic City Express, until the carousel was paid for.

At one meeting, as a reporter for a local television station, I remember Railroad Museum board members, Bill Dollar, Bud Crilly and Al Korom, bringing in one of the horses from the carousel to show the board. The horse was certainly

in disrepair, needing to be sanded and re-painted before returning to the carousel, which would be located on the north end of Roosevelt Park in the Kiddyland area.

The carousel would be operated by the Railroad Museum for 4-5 years in Roosevelt Park starting in 1991, but seemed to disappear from the landscape about 1997, and was probably in storage until the Ward County Historical Society took ownership in 2019.

FROM STORAGE TO THE WARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Susan Gessner of the Ward County Historical Society shared background on the carousel’s journey and its place in U.S. carousel history.

“In 2019 the Ward County Historical Society acquired an Allan Herschell 36-foot, 20 horse, 2 chariot classic carousel from the Minot Park District. The Allan Herschell Company is a famous name in U.S. carousel history. It was the most prolific make of carousels but also manufactured other amusement rides. The company closed in 1970, selling its assets to the Chance Manufacturing Company of Topeka, Kansas. Chance Manufacturing, incorporated in 1961, would eventually become Chance Rides Manufacturing, which is still in existence.

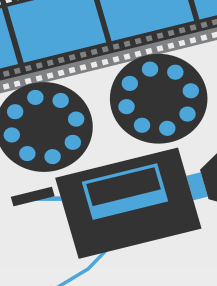
“The carousel was forty-five years old by the time it was brought to Minot in 1991. Little is known about the first forty-five years.”

Gessner has crafted a very detailed journey the carousel took since its arrival in Minot. The journey started with the Railroad Museum of Minot and then, after the museum was not able to run and maintain the carousel, to the Minot Park District. The Park District voted to order more than \$8,900.00 in new parts for the carousel but never reconstructed it with those parts. The carousel then went to a warehouse owned by the park district, where it would be stored for at least a decade and would endure the 2011 flood, before eventually coming to the Ward County Historical Society.

“One day I was talking to Ron Merrit from the Minot Park District,” continues Dan Caswell, President of the Ward County Historical Society, “and I asked him about the old carousel from Roosevelt Park. He said that the carousel was being stored in one of their warehouses and quickly asked if I wanted it?” For a historical buff like Caswell, that is all it took to pass ownership of the carousel from one entity to the other.

THE RESTORATION CHALLENGE

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bringing the old carousel back to life out here in the Pioneer Village,” continues Caswell, “but we knew from the beginning we would have the same challenge as the Railroad Museum folks, all of the horses need to be re-finished, and that’s a big job.”

Volunteer hours aside, there is also a large challenge on the horizon for the WCHS. “It’s going to take around \$400,000.00 to rebuild the carousel, and then we’d like to construct a building around the carousel so that it would be protected from the weather,” says Caswell.

One of the newly re-finished horses is on display in the Visitor’s Center at the Pioneer Village, and volunteer Karen Heusers still has a couple of the horses in her garage in various states of sanding and re-painting. “I think my eyesight will leave me a bit short of finishing any more horses,” adds Heuser, “so we really need some more volunteers that are willing to take on refinishing the final few horses so we can get the carousel running this year.”

Now that the carousel belongs to the WCHS and is in the process of being re-assembled and brought back to operating condition, Caswell feels that there is a chance to garner more community support for the carousel in the future. “We really do have a plan for the carousel, but as an example there are 6 timbers in the top of the carousel that have to be replaced because the carousel was damaged in the 2011 flood. These timbers are expensive and, of course, you just don’t go out and buy them anywhere,” says Caswell, “but our volunteers will certainly figure out a way to get them.”

Preserving a Ride for Future Generations

Looking at the pile of parts, and the photos of the horses as they are being repaired, it is certainly easy to understand the challenge that the WCHS has in bringing the carousel back to life. Research on the carousel by Gessner would suggest that in 2026 the carousel would be 80 years old. Hopefully the carousel will be rebuilt and maintained for the next 80 years for future generations to enjoy.

“You know, not a lot of kids are familiar with these old rides like the carousel,” adds Caswell. “It used to be that the Merry Go Round, what we called it, was one of the first rides a kid would experience. Mom and Dad would ride along and hold the kids up on the horses.”

As the rebuild project progresses, passersby the Pioneer Village will be able to see the new carousel location develop. Located just a few yards to the southwest of the current Visitor’s Center, the carousel will certainly be a welcome addition to the Pioneer Village.

HOW TO HELP

The carousel’s restoration will depend on continued volunteer



A rendering of what the building that will house the carousel will look like. It will provide year round protection from the elements.



Standing near the center pole of the carousel are (L to R) Karen Heuser, volunteer horse painter - Dan Caswell, President, Ward County Historical Society- Sue Bergan, Secretary, Ward County Historical Society.

effort, community support, and donations to help preserve this piece of local history. Should you want to donate to the carousel project, you can contact the Ward County Historical Society at (701) 839-0785.

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

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FLYING OFF INTO THE SUNSET



Over the weekend, Col. Jesse Lamarand flew the B-52 for the final time at Minot AFB on the Fourth of July. For his fini flight, he participated in a fly-over above Washington, D.C., during the celebration of the United States of America’s 250th birthday. Thank you Col. Lamarand for your years of service and leadership at Minot AFB.

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WOODLAND RESORT

OUTDOOR

REPORT



by Patricia Stockdill

FISHING:
Lake Sakakawea elevation, July 6: 1,828.25 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 17,900 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases. Devils Lake elevation: 1450.33 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Stump Lake elevation: 1,450.07 MSL.
•N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: No reports from area lakes or Devils Lake.
•Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Main Devils Lake water temperatures warming with improving walleye bite. Water is clear with better success in morning and evening low light conditions. Upper basin lakes remain good for walleye.
•Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: Reports remain limited from area lakes.
•Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Lots of bluegill activity from docks and shore. Try evening hours for walleye with lots of recreational activity during the day.
•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Try Garrison, Douglas, Deepwater bays and west to the Parshall and New Town areas for walleye in 6 to 18 with minnows or nightcrawlers.
•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: East end of Lake Sakakawea producing OK walleye success with some anglers finding success working deeper water around 20 feet. No reports from Lake Audubon.
•Lake Sakakawea, Indian Hills Resort, Garrison: More anglers on the water with improving walleye success. Try 12 to 15 feet with nightcrawlers.
•Lake Sakakawea, New Town: Fair to good walleye activity, especially considering varying weather. Continue working shallow depths with a variety of presentations.
•Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook Bait

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:**
- N.D. Dept. of Environmental Quality issued blue-green algae advisory for Lake Darling. Use caution and go to their for information and safety precautions, (deq/nd.gov/WQ).
 - Check forecasts and be weather and wind aware when boating and using paddle crafts on area lakes, regardless of the size of the water body. Always wear lifejackets.
 - July 10: Movie in the Park, Karate Kid “Legends”, Oak Park, 9:30 p.m.
 - July 10 – 12: Makoti Threshing Show, Makoti.
 - July 11: Colorful Christmas, Lewis & Clark State Park east of Williston.
 - July 11: Citizens Cinema Outdoor Movie, School of Rock, 6 p.m., Citizens Alley.
 - July 12: Arts in the City (free), Minot City Band, Oak Park, 4 p.m.
 - July 13: Yoga in the Alley (free), Citizens Alley, 7 p.m.
 - July 15: Secret Garden Tour, \$20 tickets available at Visit Minot or Lowe’s Garden Center, 4:30 p.m.
 - July 16: Arts in the City Annual Sousa Concert, Oak Park, 7 p.m.
 - July 17 – 25: North Dakota State Fair.
 - July 18: N.D. State Fair Run the Route 5K. Go to (visitminot.org/events-calendar) for details.
 - July 19: N.D. State Fair Parade, 9 a.m.
 - July 19: Arts in the City, Oak Park, 4 p.m.
 - July 21: Yoga in the Alley (free), Citizens Alley, 7 p.m.
- TOURNAMENTS:**
- July 11: Lake Sakakawea, Parshall Bay: Devils Lake, Creel Bay.
 - July 14: Lake Sakakawea, 4 Bears.
 - July 17 & 18: Lake Sakakawea, Fort Stevenson State Park.
 - July 18 & 19: Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook Arm.
 - July 22: Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook Arm.

& Tackle, New Town: Nice walleye bite kicking in. Work 5 to 18 feet throughout the Van Hook Arm with bite turning more towards leeches and nightcrawlers. Try minnows in deeper water.
•Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott’s Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace continues producing walleye, including the chutes and spillway channel, throughout the day. Better success is in the morning and evening hours. Try variety of presentations. Chutes continue producing catfish. East end of Lake Sakakawea producing some walleye but look for better consistency as water temperatures stabilize. Try 20 to 30 feet around Douglas Bay with nightcrawlers or crankbaits. A few scattered salmon reports are coming in but not many anglers are targeting them yet. Try 40 to 50 feet.
•Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Upper end of Lake Sakakawea muddied up with recent rains. Better walleye success is around the midsection from 4 Bears in the New Town area working to the east. Try nightcrawlers or leeches in 12 to 15 feet. Yellowstone and Missouri rivers are muddy but nice catfish activity. Look for pike from Blacktail Dam with occasional panfish. Try Kota-Ray and Kettle lakes for trout.
•North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: Souris River rose with recent rains but no reports on activity.

RIVER ELEVATIONS & STREAMFLOW FOR PADDLE CRAFT ACTIVITIES (conditions can vary):

- Lake Darling, Foxholm: Lake elevation, 1,598.16 feet.
- Little Missouri River, Long X Bridge: River stage, 7.76 feet; streamflow, 209 CFS.
- Little Missouri River, Medora: River stage, 1.93 feet; streamflow, 90.2 CFS.
- Missouri River, Williston: River stage, 15.78 feet.
- Missouri River, Washburn: River stage, 9.71 feet.
- Souris River, Broadway Bridge, Minot: River stage, 42.02 feet.

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

FRIDAY10

• Midnight Movies at the Outdoor Pool, 2030-2330, Outdoor Pool

SATURDAY11

• Superintendent's Revenge Tournament, 0900, Rough Rider Golf Course
• Minot AFB Powerlifting Competition, 1000, McAdoo Fitness Center
• Paintball Open Play, 1000-1400, Paintball Field, hosted by Outdoor Recreation
• MINOT-A-CON, 1100-1700, Minot AFB Library
• Air Force Gaming — Open Gaming at MINOT-A-CON, 1100-1600, Minot AFB Library

SUNDAY12

MONDAY13

• AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
• Yellow Belt Process Improvement Fundamentals Class, 0800-1500, Atomic Spark Innovation Lab, next to B-Fifty Brew
• TAP DOW Transition Day, 0800-1600, M&FRC
• AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
• Craft Club, 1800, Minot AFB Library

TUESDAY14

• AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
• Informed Decision Seminar, 0800-1200, Professional Development Center
• Yellow Belt Process Improvement Fundamentals Class, 0800-1500, Atomic Spark Innovation Lab, next to B-Fifty Brew
• TAP VA Services and Benefits Briefing, 0800-1600, M&FRC
• Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center
• Game Day, 1000-1930, Minot AFB Library
• AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center

WEDNESDAY15

• Registration Closes: Missoula Children's Theatre Camp, CYPBMS
• AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
• TAP Employment Fundamentals of Career Transition, 0800-1600, M&FRC
• Storytime, 1030, Base Library
• AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center

THURSDAY16

• AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
• TAP DOL Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
• AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
• Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center
• Airmen's Night Out: Baseball Nights, 1730, Corbett Field, hosted by Outdoor Recreation
• Craft Club, 1800, Minot AFB Library

FRIDAY17

• Summer Series 5K Run #2, 0630, McAdoo Fitness Center
• TAP DOL Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
• Friday Flicks, 1630, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY18

• Chess Club, 1200-1400, Minot AFB Library

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