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U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Ty Neuman, 8th Air Force and Joint-Global Strike Operations Center commander, left, passes the 5th Bomb Wing guidon to incoming commander Col. John Burrell during a July 9, 2026, change of command ceremony, while U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser, 20th Air Force commander, passes the 91st Missile Wing guidon to incoming commander Col. George Chapman during a July 8 ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota. The ceremonies marked the transition of leadership for Minot AFB's two nuclear mission wings, with Burrell assuming command of the B-52H Stratofortress mission and Chapman taking command of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile mission. See page A2 & A3 on both change of command ceremonies.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ANTHONY RAMEY & AIRMAN BENJAMIN SELCHOW



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*91st Missile Wing
welcomes new
commander at Minot AFB*

SENIOR AIRMAN WESLEY DAVIES,
5TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE,
N.D. – U.S. Air Force Col. George
Chapman assumed command of
the 91st Missile Wing (91st MW)
from U.S. Air Force Col. James
Schlabach during a change of
command ceremony at Minot Air
Force Base, July 8, 2026.

Before assuming command of the 91st MW, Chapman served as the deputy commander of 20th Air Force at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, after previously serving as the deputy commander of the 91st MW at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser, 20th Air Force commander, presided over the ceremony and presented the guidon to Chapman. Those in attendance at the ceremony included the families of both commanders, support staff, government officials and the Rough Riders of the 91st MW.

“You’re here doing this mission every day to provide the assurance to enemies that they should pause before action,” said Huser. “To do what you do, you require a motivated and highly effective leader.”

Schlabach reflected on the accomplishments of the 91st MW, praising the Airmen and staff that worked under his command for their dedication and work towards the mission of global deterrence.

"To the men and women of the 91st Missile Wing, my fellow rough riders, thank you," said Schlachach. "It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve as your commander."

Chapman pledged to build on the 91st MW legacy by remaining dedicated to the mission and the people who make it possible. He assured those in attendance that



U.S. Air Force Col. James Schlabbach, outgoing 91st Missile Wing (91st MW) commander, right, relinquishes the 91st MW guidon to U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser, 20th Air Force commander, left, assuming command of the 91st MW during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, July 8, 2026. Schlabbach reflected on the accomplishments of the 91st MW, praising the Airmen and staff that worked under his command for their dedication and work towards the mission of global deterrence.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY
AIRMAN BENJAMIN SELCHOW



U.S. Air Force Col. George Chapman, incoming 91st Missile Wing (91st MW) commander, gives remarks after becoming the 91st MW commander during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, July 8, 2026. Chapman pledged to build on the 91st MW legacy by remaining dedicated to the mission and the people who make it possible. He assured those in attendance that the team will continue to be loyal in service, steadfast in resolve and lethal in combat capability.

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



U.S. Air Force Col. George Chapman, incoming 91st Missile Wing (91st MW) commander, renders a salute to a formation of 91st MW Airmen during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, July 8, 2026. Chapman was the deputy commander of the 91st MW previously and reflected on the steadfast and lethal force that the 91st MW represents.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY
AIRMAN BENJAMIN SELCHOW

Beef Industry

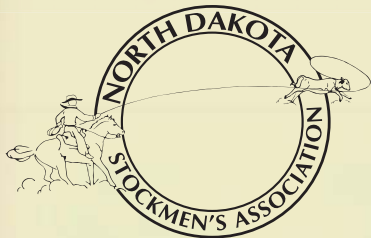
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5th Bomb Wing welcomes new commander

AIRMAN BENJAMIN SELCHOW, 5TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. — U.S. Air Force Col. John Burrell assumed command of the 5th Bomb Wing from Col. Jesse Lamarand during a change of command ceremony officiated by U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Ty W. Neuman, Eighth Air Force and Joint-Global Strike Operations Center commander, at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, July 9, 2026.

“Leading the only wing that hosts two legs of the nuclear triad in an evolving security environment is a monumental task,” said Neuman. “But the true test of this combat wing is how it responds in unexpected times. When the nation needed strategic airpower immediately, you guys crushed it.”

During his time at Minot AFB, Lamarand led more than 6,000

Airmen as they executed over 1,800 missions, generated 10,400 plus flight hours, and safeguarded a \$5.4 billion nuclear weapon stockpile.

“It’s been the most proud I’ve been of any accomplishment,” said Lamarand “It’s been an honor to serve with the Airmen of Minot AFB, their families, and this local community, so thank you, thank you, thank you.”

Lamarand leaves the 5th BW in the experienced and capable hands of Burrell.

“I came here as a first lieutenant in 2006, then later returned as a squadron commander,” said Burrell. “And now I get to do this again. I would not want to lead anywhere else.”

Prior to assuming command of the 5th BW, Burrell was the commander of the 5th

Operations Group here at Minot AFB, leading a unit that flies B-52H Stratofortress strategic bombers, providing global strike capabilities, anytime, anywhere.

“To the men and women of the 5th BW, thank you for answering the call to serve our great nation,” said Burrell. “My vision for you is simple; combat ready, always.”

As the Minot AFB host wing, the 5th BW must balance executing the B-52’s global strike mission while also supporting the 91st Missile Wing, who operate Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles. Together these two wings present a combat force that none can truly match.

“This base stands ready as the nation’s premiere nuclear deterrent holding our adversaries at bay,” said Burrell. “We hold the line.”



U.S. Air Force Col. John Burrell, 5th Bomb Wing (BW) incoming commander, gives remarks during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, July 9, 2026. As the incoming commander, Burrell is responsible for leading the 5th BW’s B-52H Stratofortress operations and ensuring the wing remains ready to provide global strike capabilities in support of Air Force Global Strike Command’s strategic deterrence mission.

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



U.S. Air Force Col. Jesse Lamarand, 5th Bomb Wing (BW) outgoing commander, right, receives the Legion of Merit certificate from U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Ty Neuman, 8th Air Force and Joint-Global Strike Operations Center commander, left, during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, July 9, 2026. As the 5th BW commander, Lamarand directed over 6,000 military and civilian personnel across the wing’s four groups, and was responsible for ensuring the combat readiness of the wing’s B-52H Stratofortress fleet, providing long-range strike and strategic deterrence capabilities worldwide.



U.S. Air Force Col. Jesse Lamarand, 5th Bomb Wing (BW) outgoing commander, right, relinquishes the guidon to U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Ty Neuman, 8th Air Force and Joint-Global Strike Operations Center commander, left, during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, July 9, 2026.



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5th Bomb Wing

Deputy Commander

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91st Missile Wing

Commander

Col. George L. Chapman

91st Missile Wing

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A VIEW FROM OUR SIDE

ROD WILSON

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MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NEWSPAPER | WWW.NORTHERNSENTRY.COM

When I arrived at the change-of-command ceremony at approximately 1330 on Wednesday, July 8th, roughly 40 Airmen in Service Dress Blues had taken their places between the separate groups of chairs in front of the stage where command of the 91st Missile Wing would formally change hands.

It was a warm, somewhat humid day, and the Defender Dome was soon almost standing room only. As more people took their seats, more bodies brought more body heat, but through it all those 40-plus Airmen stood ready to administer their final salute to Col. Jimmy Schlabach, USAF retired, and their welcoming salute to Col. George Chapman.

Maj. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser took her position at the microphone as Col. Schlabach relinquished command of the 91st Missile Wing to Col. Chapman. Her remarks were comfortably underway, praising Col. Schlabach's accomplishments, when the ceremony offered a visible example of "next one up," a standard Air Force practice.

Her address came about 20 minutes into the approximately 60-minute ceremony. By then, those young Airmen had been charged with standing in place for over an hour in a room that continued to warm as the event unfolded.

One young Airman did not seem comfortable, and soon he began to stagger as he tried to maintain his balance. It became clear that the heat had gotten to him and that he was not going to be able to continue. I was close enough to try to reach for him, but he staggered

away from my grasp and into the waiting arms of another gentleman.

The Airman was guided to an empty chair as medical staff arrived and quickly took steps to assist him. Off came his service coat, he was asked to drink water, and soon ice packs were administered to his neck and forehead.

The situation was quickly brought under control. Although the young Airman was given the opportunity to leave, he remained in the chair until the ceremony was over. Then, out of the crowd came another Airman who quickly took the vacated spot in the formation.

From the stage, Maj. Gen. Huser could likely see the incident unfold, but she was soon given a thumbs-up that all was under control and that she could continue her speech.

IT'S ALL IN THE PLAN

Heading the formation on Wednesday was Lt. Col. Nicholas Gydesen, commander of the 91st Operations Support Squadron at Minot Air Force Base. Lt. Col. Gydesen explained that the 40 Airmen who were part of the formation were volunteers. He confirmed that the group took their positions around 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the ceremony and that "yes, it was certainly getting warm in those service coats."

There were contingency plans for almost everything one could imagine, including an Airman not being able to continue standing for the entire event. "We had Airmen ready to assist and replace in a situation like what happened today," Lt. Col. Gydesen said. For Lt. Col. Gydesen, it was an honor to be chosen to lead the group. For me, it was another example of how the men and women of our U.S. Air Force are prepared with a Next One Up attitude.

After that moment at the ceremony, a couple of lighter observations from the week also stood out.

AH...IT AIN'T REALLY GONNA BE HOT!

I like to greet the young people who check IDs at the gate. By the way, it has been 165 times in a row that I have entered the gate and received a Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, welcome and smile.

On Thursday, with a hot weekend predicted, I was quick to point out that one particular young Airman



The Peace Garden is in full bloom.



Color abounds at the International Peace Garden

was lucky to be working Thursday instead of Saturday or Sunday. His response surprised me: "Ah sir, it ain't really gonna be hot!" When I asked where he was from, he said, "San Antonio, Texas. It gets really hot there." Isn't that where Col. Lamarand and Nathalie are headed?

THE JIMMY DOOLITTLE CENTER IS AWESOME!

Finally, a salute to the staff of the JDC during the change-of-command and retirement ceremonies last week. The food was great, and the facility was well set up and ready to handle the various receptions.

We enjoy being asked to be part of these celebrations, and we appreciate the various meals

prepared and served by the JDC staff.

DON'T FORGET THE PEACE GARDEN

I have been told that the Peace Garden is "so very beautiful right now." It's only a couple of hour drive. Be sure to take your U.S. Passport along as you technically are leaving the U.S. and will need your Passport, or I.D. and Birth Certificate to return to the U.S.

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

How come we can remember the smallest detail about what happens to us, but we can never remember how many times we've told it to the same person?

It's a long way there

You get the picture.

And when you are past 60, sitting in a car that long causes your legs to get cramped. You don't really feel it while you are traveling, but when you stop and get out of the car, for a moment you are on rubber leg street.

We kind of knew this already. Having to make annual trips to Mayo Clinic is no picnic either. It's well over 600 miles to get to Rochester and we usually drive it in a day. And again, that makes for a long day.

One of the doctors asked one time where we stay on they way. We told him we usually just drive straight through. He got a little upset and said at our age we need to be stopping every two hours to get the blood circulating in our legs. Even if it's walking around the car a couple of times, it's better than nothing.

We tried to do that on our trip to Fort Myers, at least to some extent and there were no problems.

Long trips like that can create much more than leg cramps. Think about long flights. You can't step out of the plane and walk around it a couple of times. Once you are in flight, you are there for the duration. And walking up and down the aisle isn't the same thing.

I've been on some of those long flights and in one of them, it was a 14-hour flight from Los Angeles to Sydney. I was 34 years old at the time and yes, it was a killer.

There have been other long flights too. During some of my overseas National Guard missions, the flights were long.

One of them was 7 1/2 hours from Newark to Amsterdam. Another was six hours from Frankfurt to Doha. Coming home from the Middle East, my itinerary included a 9 1/2-hour flight from London to Miami. I thought that trip would never end. Then, it was another short flight up to Tampa and was the only time in my life I actually fell asleep on a flight.

I recently found out there is a direct flight from Dallas to Melbourne that takes 17 hours and 40 minutes, but that isn't the longest flight that exists. Can you imagine? Newark to Singapore is a 19:10 duration flight. Being on a flight that lasts that long; I think I'd get stir crazy?

Here are some additional marathon flights: Auckland to Doha, 17:30, Perth to Paris, 17:10, New York to Auckland, 17:50, Houston to Sydney, 17:30, Dallas to Brisbane, 17:15, Capetown to Atlanta, 16:20

and San Francisco to Adelaide, 15:55. And I thought Los Angles to Sydney was long at 14 hours.

Jumbo jets are better now and can handle more fuel and passengers and can go such a distance. But it takes a cockpit crew to make it happen, not just a pilot and co-pilot. I remember a military flight from Panama to Bolivia. There was a secondary pilot actually sleeping in the cockpit who could take over when the current pilot got too tired to be alert.

All that said, there have been numerous missions to the Moon that take three to four days. But the astronauts are trained for those missions.

But with all the training in the world, we don't know the human condition on a mission from Earth to Mars. It is said that a trip to Mars would take six to nine months, depending on the time of year.

Can you imagine being in a cramped space capsule for nine months? It's kind of known what would happen physically, but what about the mental state of the human brain? I just can't imagine.

A trip to Mars can be summed up in the title of the Little River Band song, "It's a long way there."



UPSIDE DOWN UNDER

MARVIN BAKER

My wife and I were talking recently about our next vacation and possible time hacks it would take to get someplace.

In February and part of March we spent a month in Florida and rather than flying like we have done for many years, this time we drove. It was a total of 2,400 miles to Fort Myers, but it was certainly worth it. And now that we are both retired, we can take more time to be away.

But, admittedly, it was a long drive albeit exciting. Not wanting to stay in hotel rooms more than we had to, there were some long days on our way to southwest Florida. Three-hundred miles to Fargo, another 300 miles to Omaha and another 300 miles to Davenport.



SHE'S NOT FROM AROUND HERE
AMY ALLENDER

She said I'd never have this

The front steps were littered with toy swords, bottles of bubbles, noisemakers, and one oversized dinosaur mask. I brushed a sweaty strand of hair off my face, grabbed a notebook and pencil, and walked to the backyard.

A chaotic chorus of screams, laughter, and splashing met me. It took several attempts to be heard over a gaggle of children armed with squirt guns and water balloons, fueled by popsicles and the kind

of adrenaline that comes from knowing they'll soon be allowed to wave sparklers in the air—even though on every other day of the year, wielding flaming sticks is strictly prohibited.

"You don't have to stop," I called. "I just need to know what you want for dinner. Your choices are hot dogs, peanut butter and jelly, or grilled ham and cheese."

Every one of them—from the two-year-old to the ten-year-old—

insisted they weren't hungry. They just wanted to do sparklers. And were we really staying up to watch the fireworks at the fairgrounds this year?

Eventually I coaxed an answer from everyone: three PB&Js, two hot dogs, four grilled ham and cheese, one undecided, and one who only wanted sides.

As I headed back to the house another grown up called, "Need help?"

"Just sit and supervise," I laughed.

I pulled leftovers from lunch out of the refrigerator. Before long, the counter was lined with food again. It always seems to materialize on holidays. Even the ones we don't meticulously plan for. Somehow there's always enough. More than enough, really.

My husband grilled sandwiches outside. Someone grabbed extra towels from the closet. Someone else began assembling plates for the kids before they wandered back inside dripping wet.

As expected, by the time dinner was ready, the children who were adamantly "unhungry" fifteen minutes earlier were all teetering on the edge of hangry.

As the stack of paper plates dwindled, I searched the cupboard for more. No more solid colors. Just a mismatch of Easter, and Christmas, with a few jungle themed plates in the mix. Leftovers from other gatherings just like this. Different day, different season. Same rhythm.

I carried my own plate through the living room, carefully stepping over scattered toys and abandoned socks. Before heading back outside, I paused for just a moment to take it all in.

The mess.
The people.
The noise.
The food.

The house I didn't want to buy. The kitchen I regularly complain is too small. The yard I grumble about because there's no back door, no fence, and no room for the patio for the grill to sit on.

On days like this, it doesn't just feel adequate.

It feels perfect.

Better than I imagined. Better than I allowed myself to dream.

"You won't have any friends."

Those were the words a trusted friend spoke to me three days before I married a man commissioned as an Air Force pilot.

There would be too many moves. Our roots would never grow deep enough. Holidays would always feel thin. We'd never know what it was like to have "real" family nearby. Community would never feel as full as it does in your hometown.

I carried those words with me for a long time.

I hoped they weren't true, but honestly, I didn't know. Neither did she. There was no way to know. There was only moving forward.

As a child, I never dreamed about my wedding day. But I did dream about having a home where people gathered. A place where everyone felt welcome. Comfortable. Safe. Fed.

Of all the things I feared military life might ask me to sacrifice, that dream was the one that scared me the most.

It didn't happen overnight. It looked different in every place lived.

But somewhere along the way, I realized community isn't something that exists only in one place, only in certain conditions.

It's something you build. Something you choose. It's something you have a say in.

There isn't a magic formula. But I do know this: it grows faster when you're willing to be vulnerable. When you invite people over before the house is perfect. When you stop apologizing for the mismatched plates and the unfinished projects. When you start doing the inviting instead of waiting for an invitation to show up.

Family doesn't always share DNA or a common hometown.

Sometimes they're the people drying off your kids with towels they found in your linen closet. The ones making sandwiches beside you without being asked. The ones who know where you keep the extra ketchup, who don't mind squeezing around a too-small kitchen, and who stay until the last sparkler burns out.

Military life asks us to leave a lot behind. But over the years I've learned it also gives us something remarkable; repeated opportunities to build a family from scratch.

And every once in a while, when the yard is full of laughter, the plates don't match, and the floor is covered in evidence of play, you realize something beautiful.

Home was never about the house. It was always about the people willing to fill it.

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What the Honorary Commanders Program Means for Minot AFB

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY



Team Minot leadership and local community leaders pose for a group photo during an Honorary Commander Induction Ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Jan. 16, 2026. The Honorary Commander program strengthens relationships between the installation and surrounding community by fostering mutual understanding and partnership.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN CLASS VINCENT PADILLA

At Minot Air Force Base, the phrase “Honorary Commander” is heard often, but the title represents far more than a name badge or ceremonial role. Behind every honorary commander is a partnership built on trust, communication, and a shared commitment to strengthening the connection between the military and the surrounding community.

The Honorary Commander Program traces its roots back to the 1980s, when military leaders recognized the importance of bringing civilian community leaders closer to the mission of nearby installations. The program was designed to give business leaders, elected officials, educators, first responders, and other influential members of the community a firsthand look at military life while creating opportunities for military leaders to better understand the communities they call home.

For Airmen and their families, that connection matters. Military members are often assigned to a base for two to four years before moving to their next duty station. While assignments come and go, the experience they have in a community can leave a lasting impression. Feeling welcomed, supported, and connected can transform an assignment into a place that truly feels like home.

That’s where honorary commanders come in. Each honorary commander is paired with a squadron or group commander, creating a unique partnership that extends well beyond attending ceremonies or touring facilities. Honorary commanders experience military operations up close, learning about the people, missions, and challenges that make Minot Air

Force Base one of the Air Force’s most important installations. In return, they provide commanders with valuable insight into the local community and help strengthen relationships beyond the installation gates.

At a remote location like Minot AFB, these partnerships become even more meaningful. Building strong community relationships doesn’t happen overnight. It takes time, communication, and a willingness to learn from one another. The Honorary Commander Program creates those opportunities by bringing together military and civilian leaders who may not otherwise cross paths.

Whether it’s the Mayor of Minot, leaders from the Minot Park District, the Ward County Sheriff’s Office, local business owners, educators, or nonprofit organizations, these relationships are cultivated through regular interaction and shared experiences. Over time, those connections help create a stronger support network for military members and their families while ensuring the community has a better understanding of the mission taking place in its own backyard.

The benefits flow both ways. Community leaders gain an appreciation for the dedication and professionalism of the Airmen serving at Minot AFB, while military leaders build lasting relationships with the people who help shape the region. Together, they work to identify opportunities, solve challenges, and celebrate successes that benefit everyone.

There are also moments of excitement along the way. Honorary commanders may observe aircraft operations, tour facilities rarely seen by the public, attend military ceremonies, or even experience demonstrations that offer a glimpse into the daily life of an Airman. Every visit brings new perspectives and often a few stories worth sharing back home.

The Honorary Commander Program serves as a reminder that a military installation isn’t just located in a community, it is part of the community. Through collaboration, communication, and a genuine investment in one another, Minot Air Force Base and its neighbors continue to build partnerships that strengthen both the mission and the region.



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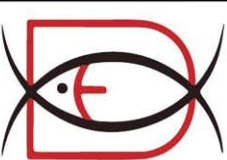
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Don't Leave Minot Behind

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

PCS season is in full swing. This time of year, hundreds of families will wave goodbye to the Minot wind and head off to their next adventure. We wish each of them the very best.

Let's be honest, many people arrive at Minot AFB kicking and screaming... or maybe even crying. But despite the dramatic first impressions, something funny happens along the way. This base has a way of growing on you.

However, when you see that "Only the Best Come North" sign at the front gate in your rearview mirror for the very last time, you just might realize you'll miss what many call the Air Force's most complained-about base. It's the people, the friendships, the community, and even those unforgettable North Dakota winters that somehow

become part of your story.

But don't give up hope, you don't have to leave the Minot AFB community behind.

Remember those Friday mornings when the Northern Sentry landed on your doorstep, keeping you up to date on everything happening on and around the base? Now you can enjoy that same tradition from anywhere in the continental United States.

That's right! The Northern Sentry now offers mailed subscriptions, so you can continue receiving your hometown military newspaper long after your PCS. Stay connected to the people, stories, and events that made Minot feel like home.

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PARK OF MEMORIES

Kim Fundingsland

Mom made my favorite, Juneberry pie, from berries I picked there. She made wonderful chokecherry jelly too, gathered in the same area.

A portion of one side of the steep coulee was grassy and made for perfect cardboard sliding in the summer. In the winter, when the snow wasn't too deep, it was ideal for sleds and toboggans.

Today a statue of Leif Eriksson, the famed Icelandic explorer, overlooks that childhood playground – the Scandinavian Heritage Park at the corner of South Broadway and 11th Avenue SW.

I grew up not far from there, near where Jim Hill Middle School is today. All the kids in the neighborhood used to play in the coulee where the Scandinavian Park is now located. As I recall, it was kind of a one-sided coulee, meaning natural vegetation on the north slope, even extending all the way to the bottom in places.

The south slope was vastly different. It was there that concrete and asphalt chunks, dead trees and branches, loads of clay from some construction site, and who knows what else was dumped with regularity. On some days many trucks would come off 11th Avenue and dump their loads into the coulee.

Sometimes a few of us kids would be exploring the bottom of the coulee when we'd hear a truck back up to the edge, followed by that unmistakable sound of the truck bed being raised and a tailgate opening. We scrambled to get out of the way and watched the dust fly and "stuff" slide down the hill.

Now when I visit the beautiful Scandinavian Heritage Park, I can't help but be astonished at the marvelous transformation. Of course, despite the remarkable improvement, I also can't help thinking about what was once there too.

About where the colorful Dala horse proudly stands today was a narrow, dusty path leading into the coulee. It was made by people walking or on bicycles. There was a kind of shelf there too, about a third of the way down into the coulee. It was a good spot to leave bicycles before continuing on foot.

When I see the statues of famed skiers Casper Oimoen and Sondre Norheim that are fixtures in the park today, I think they are located precisely in the appropriate spot. Best I can recall, they are about midway down the neighborhood's favorite old sliding and skiing slope.



Of course, the slope there today is much different than it was before all those dump trucks filled in the coulee.

The steepest wall of the old coulee was up against where First Western Bank is today. There was a water pond at the bottom near there too. I remember cattails and ducks and frogs. The manmade pond at the Scandinavian Heritage Park is situated above, but eerily close to where the old pond was at the coulee bottom.

Yes, what was once a city dump is now a city showpiece.

I don't miss stepping in hornet's nests, getting stuck in snowbanks, or being pierced by thorns from wild plum trees, all of which happened in that old coulee. I thoroughly enjoy the Scandinavian Park today. It is incredible, even more so if you know the history of the location.

Juneberry pie? Still the best.



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5th Operations Group assumes new leadership under Col. Bryson Ayers

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

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. -- U.S. Air Force Col. Bryson Ayers received command of the 5th Operations Group (OG) during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, July 7, 2026.

U.S. Air Force Col. Jesse Lamarand, 5th Bomb Wing (BW) commander, officiated over the ceremony as U.S. Air Force Col. John Burrell, 5th OG outgoing

commander, relinquished command to Ayers. Ayers assumed command after serving as the 5th OG deputy commander. During the 2022 Bomber Task Force Europe deployment, he commanded approximately 300 Airmen and four B-52H Stratofortresses deployed in support of U.S. European Burrell led more than 500 Airmen assigned to the 23rd

Bomb Squadron, 69th Bomb Squadron and 5th Operations Support Squadron, ensuring the group remained prepared to execute its global strike mission. The 5th OG is responsible for the combat readiness and operations of the wing's B-52H Stratofortress aircraft, providing global strike and combat-support capabilities in support of national security objectives.



U.S. Air Force Col. Bryson Ayers, 5th operational Group incoming commander, gives remarks during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force base, North Dakota, July 7, 2026. As the incoming commander, Ayers will be directly responsible for the people who fly the B-52's at Minot, making sure aircraft, crews and operational systems are prepared, certified and ready to execute the nation's strategic bomber mission at any time.

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



U.S. Air Force Col. Jesse Lamarand, 5th Bomb Wing commander, left, relinquishes the guidon to U.S. Air Force Col. Bryson Ayers 5th Operations Group (OG) incoming commander, right, during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, July 7, 2026.



U.S. Air Force Col. John Burrell, 5th Operations Group (OG) outgoing commander, right, receives the legion of Merit certificate from U.S. Air Force Col. Jesse Lamarand, 5th Bomb Wing commander, left, during a change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, July 7, 2026.

A LOOK BACK

THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

FIRST B-52 BOMBER ARRIVES AT MINOT AFB
JULY 16, 1961



Base leadership and former ND governor, William Guy, kneel in front of the Peace Persuader in July of 1961. (Boeing)

On July 16, 1961, Minot Air Force Base, N.D., received its very first B-52H Stratofortress, nicknamed the Peace Persuader. The bomber was delivered directly from the Boeing factory in Wichita, Kansas and was accompanied by another backup B-52 in case of any complications. The name Peace Persuader originated from a "Name the Plane" contest held by the Air Force. Peace Persuader was assigned to the 4136th Strategic Wing under Strategic Air Command.

Information courtesy of: [af.mil](#) / [minot.af.mil](#) / [afgsc.af.mil](#)

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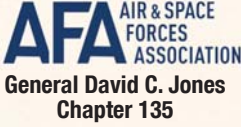


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SMURFS

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SMURFS (2025)
July 20-
July 23



THE SANDLOT

WEEK 9
THE SANDLOT
July 27-
July 30





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Stock up on vehicle breakdown supplies

Unforeseen situations can crop up at any time. Anyone who has had a roadside breakdown in their car understands this. A flat tire or an engine malfunction is something no driver wants to experience, but those with a well-stocked vehicle emergency kit and breakdown strategy can get through most situations rather easily.

A 2017 survey from AAA found that 40 percent of drivers in the United States are not ready to handle a typical roadside emergency breakdown. The organization estimates it helps some seven million motorists get back on the road each summer. A well-equipped roadside emergency kit may help drivers get their vehicles back on the road on their own.

• First aid kit: The first aid kit will celebrate its 133rd birthday in 2021. The Johnson & Johnson company began commercializing first aid kits in 1888. Having a first aid kit in the car to treat minor injuries can be helpful in the event of an accident or even after injuring oneself during a breakdown.

• Fire extinguisher: Cars are full of various mechanical parts and are susceptible to catching on fire. The National Fire Protection Association says vehicle fire extinguishers need to be rated for Class B and C fires.

• Jumper cables: A weak or dead battery is often the culprit in breakdowns. Jumper cables enable drivers to get a charge from another motorist, and may help get a person back on the road quickly. If possible, get a set of cables that also comes with safety gloves and heavy duty clamps, offers Defensive Driving Online, a defensive driving course.

• Mobile phone/charger: A mobile phone is essential for calling for assistance, but the phone is only useful if it's charged.

• Blanket: Keep a blanket in the trunk or another storage area. Should the vehicle die in cold weather, that blanket can help keep passengers warm until assistance arrives.

• Basic tools: Tools like a screwdriver, ratchet set and wrench may enable drivers to complete minor repairs. Tools also should include tire-changing gear, such as a jack and lug nut remover.

• Traction aid: Non-clumping kitty litter or sand can provide the traction needed to get off of a slippery area of roadway.

• Flashlight: A flashlight can help keep you visible and able to see your surroundings in dark conditions.

• Flares: Should a breakdown occur in the dark, flares can alert other drivers.

• Snacks and water: Water and food that stores well, such as emergency rations, granola bars or trail mix, can quell hunger pangs and provide an energy boost while waiting for help.

• Rope/bungee cords/tarp: These items can be used in various situations to secure a vehicle.

While drivers can gather these items separately, many companies offer all-in-one vehicle emergency kits. A safety kit is essential for all drivers.



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Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Side!

SAMANTHA ELMOREPHOTO



Teddy helps mom at the farmers market.

KAYLA MCINTOSH PHOTO



Watching a plane fly by.

LAUREN THORNTON PHOTO



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Upcoming 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.
• Vendors • Food Trucks • Family-Friendly Fun • Free Will Donation
• All Ages Welcome. Presented by Minot Area Council of the Arts

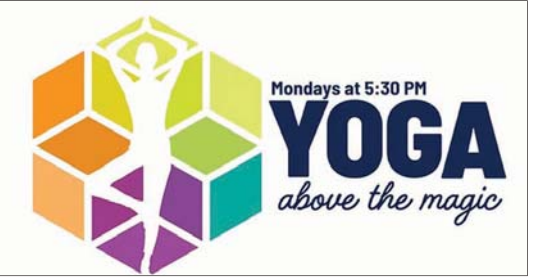


For more information:
Facebook/ Minot Area Council of the Arts / Events

20 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

07 AUG

**MOVIE IN THE PARK:
ZOOTOPIA 2
SUNSET (9:30 PM)**
Roosevelt Park Zoo
1219 Burdick Expressway E, Minot

Movies in the Park 2026 – Where movies meet moonlight!
Join us at Roosevelt Park Zoo for a special showing under the stars! Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and your favorite people.
Roosevelt Park Zoo
All movies start at sunset (around 9:30pm)
Sponsored by First International Ban



For more information:
Facebook/ Minot Parks/ Events

13 AUG

**JESSIE VEEDER & CHRIS BASDEN
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

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution to last weeks crossword

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

SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page B10

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. Into view
6. Palindromic pop group
10. Pout
14. Missouri River metropolis
15. Not at all bright
16. "No problem!"
17. Three Bills
20. Five-time U.S. Open champ Steffi
21. Leftists, for short
22. Piece that teaches technique
23. It may be spam
25. Chuckling sound
26. Actor McDowall
29. Intended for a select few
34. Connecticut collegian
35. Hungary native
38. First-rate
39. Three more Bills
42. Devil's doings
43. Lao-tzu's system
44. "___ Girls"
45. Underground burial area
47. Military training group
49. ___-Magnon
50. Dubuque denizen
53. Japanese port
56. Henry VIII's second
57. Nerdy type
61. Three more Bills
64. Sounds from Santa
65. Oklahoma native
66. Deadly sins number
67. River of Hades
68. "I ___ Grow Up" ("Peter Pan" song)
69. Clandestine meeting

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

Down

1. Fictional circumnavigator
2. Astronomer Khayyam
3. ___-tat
4. Greenspan's group, familiarly
5. Consumes
6. Statesman Stevenson
7. The last two Bills
8. Lowest voice
9. Bodybuilder's pride
10. Mike, to Archie
11. Diamond Head's island
12. Manipulated
13. "Jane ___"
18. Maidenform product
19. Encounter
24. "Goodness gracious!"
25. Round dances
26. Renaissance fiddle
27. Three-time A.L. batting champ Tony
28. Ipse ___ (he himself said it)
30. Calcutta cover-up
31. Author Dahl
32. Kind of circle or tube
33. Stop
36. Playground retort
37. Pacific island with a U.S. military base
40. Crash scene recovery
41. Song title spelled out with arm movements
46. Supercomputer maker
48. Fisherman
51. Commencement
52. Lilliputian
53. Folk singer Phil
54. Flue liner
55. Pasty-faced
56. Car
58. One of the deadly sins
59. They have pupils
60. "Superman" family name
62. Use oars
63. D-Day vessel



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TF 21—The Gold Standard Task Force 21 Gets Many Accolades

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

Author’s Note
As a reporter for the Northern Sentry, I have had many opportunities to interview a number of high-ranking Air Force officials. If these officials have ties to Minot Air Force Base, they speak highly of Minot’s Task Force 21 and the work it does advocating and educating for Minot Air Force Base, its missions, and the strategic importance Minot AFB has to the Air Force and the United States’ defensive posture.

That praise has been especially clear in conversations with leaders such as Lt. Gen. Michael Lutton, now Deputy Commander of United States Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. It is also common to interview officials who know of Minot AFB and refer to the strong group of civic leaders advocating for the base. They may not always identify the group by name, but they consistently speak positively about Task Force 21 and the civic leaders who formed and continue to support its mission.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Minot Chamber EDC CEO and member of the U.S. Air and Space Force Civic Leader Program, Brekka Kramer, and Chairman of Task Force 21, Peter Hankla. We discussed what Task Force 21 and Minot Air Force Base mean to Minot and to North Dakota.

CHANGING WITH THE TIMES

Task Force 21 is part of the Minot Area Chamber EDC, and its role continues to matter because Minot Air Force Base remains central to the region and to the nation’s defense posture. The group brings together civic leaders who advocate for the base, educate others about its missions, and help maintain strong connections between the community and military leadership.

WHO SERVES AND WHY

One position on Task Force 21 is automatically assigned to the Minot Chamber EDC chairman, currently Jarid Lundeen, for a one-year term. Other members bring a range of experience, including Mayor Mark Jantzer, who served as chairman of Task Force 21 for a number of years.

Several members also have ties to the group’s earliest days, when TF 21 was formed as Task Force 96. That earlier group worked diligently to ensure that Minot AFB retained not only the base, but also its two meaningful missions: the Minuteman III missiles and the B-52s. Members with long-standing connections include Jantzer, Bruce Christianson, Randy Burckhard, and current Chairman Peter Hankla, who said, “I started on Task Force 21 in 1999.”

Other members who have gained valuable experience with TF 21 include Vice Chairman Jason Zimmerman, along with tenured members Jessica Klein and Jonn Knecht.

Two Minot Chamber EDC staff members also serve with Task Force 21. Kramer, as CEO and president, is part of the group and has been a member since 2012. Keli Roselli-Sullivan, the chamber’s military liaison, serves in a support role.

Hankla said the group recently

added two new members: Cassidy Hjelmstad and Ryan Ackerman. “We’re excited about bringing in younger people because we feel it is key that we have members of Task Force 21 who are similar in age to our base commanders,” he said.

Kramer added that serving as chairman of the Minot ChamberEDC Board gives leaders direct insight into what Task Force 21 does and what it accomplishes. “A lot of us served as Chairman of the Chamber Board, and then we were asked to become a part of Task Force 21,” she said.



Brekka Kramer was a member of Task Force 21 before she became CEO of the Minot Chamber EDC.

Hankla said that interest from chamber board chairs is one of the ways new members become involved. “Some board chairs are really interested in the goals of Task Force 21, and they want to be part of what we do,” he said. “They express an interest, and that is key to how we get new people on Task Force 21.”



Peter Hankla was Vice-Chairman of Task Force 21, and has been Chairman since Mark Jantzer stepped down about a year ago.

There are currently 11 members on Task Force 21, and both Kramer and Hankla believe the group’s size and structure are a good fit for what TF 21 needs to accomplish now. As Minot AFB prepares for modernization of both the missile and bomber missions, TF 21 will continue supporting both the community of Minot and the base. “We are pretty sure that we have the right amount of members today, but who knows what will happen in 5, 10, or even 15 years down the road,” Hankla said. “The modernization is

going to last a decade.” Kramer said new members such as Cassidy and Ryan bring valuable experience to the table. “Ryan has the engineering experience, and Cassidy brings her experience with broadband and understanding landowner negotiations,” she said. “The knowledge they bring is really a nice addition to Task Force.”

STRATEGICALLY SET TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES

Task Force 21 is a task force of combined expertise, but it also has defined positions. “I serve as the U.S. Air & Space Forces civic leader under Secretary Meink,” Kramer said. Mark Jantzer is also an emeritus member of that group. “There are four of us who have been asked by Global Strike Command to serve as civic leaders: Pete Hankla, Jason Zimmerman, Bruce Christianson, and myself,” Kramer said. Mayor Jantzer and Randy Burckhard are emeritus members after stepping down to open spots on the Global Strike Civic Leaders group. Hankla and Kramer also serve on the North Dakota Military Commission, which works on military issues across the state. Governor Armstrong has said several times that he wants to make North Dakota the most military-friendly state in the nation.

Several other members of Task Force 21 serve on additional boards. “We’re trying to delegate responsibility to the entire Task Force group instead of it falling on just a few members,” Kramer said.

TASK FORCE 21 LOOKS AHEAD

That structure and range of experience will matter even more as Minot AFB enters a decade of modernization affecting both the missile and bomber missions.

With what has been described as the largest single project ever placed on the table by the Department of War, Sentinel is looming in the not-too-distant future. Task Force 21 is closely following the modernization and deployment of the Sentinel missile at F.E. Warren and Malmstrom. Although Minot may be the last of the three bases to deploy Sentinel, there is still an expectation that the Minuteman III missiles in Minot will remain a nuclear deterrent until Sentinel goes live systemwide.

THE GOLD STANDARD

Task Force 21 is recognized as the “Gold Standard” among groups that work with their bases and communities to advocate for military missions. “We also know that people look at us,” Hankla said, “and want us to help them create and maintain a group similar to Task Force 21.”

But the members of Task Force 21 are not “in it” for the accolades. They accept a position knowing it often means long hours beyond their normal work responsibilities. That is what it takes to be recognized as the best of the best.

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A Grateful Citizen

JOANNE RADEMACHER, NORTHERN SENTRY CONTRIBUTOR

A Grateful Citizen
On this 4th of July, I am at Mouse River Park near Tolley, ND. I always think of this as a patriotic park and a great place to spend Independence Day because of the large memorial display “dedicated to the memory of those who served to protect our freedom” at the entrance to the park. It always reminds me that a deep cost has been paid by many for my freedom to enjoy the beauty around me and the ability to move freely to wherever I want to be. I can read, write, and speak on any topic without fear. I am free to make the most of my life with family and friends. How great is that? Where else in all the world, have the rights and liberty of a country’s citizens been recognized and defended so ferociously for 250 years?

Throughout our country’s history, military personnel and civilians of all ages have made the ultimate sacrifice so all of us can enjoy our freedom. As I enter the park, I am reminded once again of one such soldier. Specialist 5th Class Larry Bruce Jacobson is featured on the dedication display. He was the sole casualty of the Vietnam Conflict from Renville County. SPC5 Jacobson was born March 15,1949 in Norma, North Dakota to Arthur and Margaret Doris Jacobson and is buried at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Kenmare, ND.
In the Army, he was a single-rotor turbine observation/utility helicopter repairman. On 26 August 1970, SPC5 Jacobson was Crew Chief on a US helicopter on mission to extract troops. They were hit by enemy fire, exploded and crashed. He received the Air Medal, the Purple Heart, and is



Specialist 5th Class
Larry Bruce Jacobson



Seaman Second Class
Charles H. Hohannes

NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS AFFAIRS PHOTOS

honored on the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial in Washington, DC.
There is another local hero I have often thought of over the years. Around 2001, I was leaving messages on genealogy message boards, trying to locate Danish relatives. A woman from Washington noticed my location, Foxholm, ND, on one of the boards and contacted me. She was hoping to locate the grave of her uncle who was killed in the WWII attack on Pearl Harbor. I found him in the cemetery a mile from my home. I cleaned up the marker and sent a picture to her.
“Seaman Second Class Charles H. Johannes entered the U.S. Navy from North Dakota. On December 7, 1941, he was a crew member aboard the USS Oklahoma when the ship came under attack from Japanese forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The Oklahoma capsized in the attack, and SEA2 Johannes

was among those killed in the incident. In the years following the attack, remains were recovered from the Oklahoma. Those that could not be identified at the time were buried as unknown remains at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. In 2015, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) received authorization to exhume unknown remains associated with the Oklahoma and reexamine them using advances in forensic techniques. A group of unidentified remains were disinterred and accessioned into the DPAA laboratory as part of this effort. A group identification was made for these remains, which included SEA2 Johannes. Seaman Second Class Johannes is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.”
Our Independence Day



Memorial Display at Mouse River Park.

celebrations are generally joyous, raucous affairs, as they should be. We have a lot to celebrate. We also have much to be grateful for, including individuals like SPC5 Jacobson and SEA2 Johannes who paid the ultimate price for our continued liberty.
Whether in the middle of an unpopular conflict or stationed here at home or abroad during peace time, our military personnel and their families are the wall standing between each of us and the world’s chaos. When I see the golf carts decorated in red, white and blue parading through the park, the

fireworks in the evening, or the big 250th July 4th events on TV, I am filled with gratitude for this, the United States of America, where I am so privileged to be a citizen. For one day, I will do my best to put aside the arguments over ideologies and politics to simply enjoy this country I so dearly love, that has given so much to so many.
Hand over hearts, here we go...
“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

NOTES ON BEING SAFE

IT’S STATE FAIR TIME AGAIN

SAFETY & HEALTH AT THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR

There’s no better way to enjoy the summer celebration than the North Dakota State Fair – for the most part it’s the last chance before school begins to enjoy the sounds, sights, smells, tastes and activities only to be found at the fairgrounds here in our own city of Minot.

Before heading out to enjoy all the festivities... being prepared ensures your family’s experience is fun, healthy and safe by considering these tips as you plan your family outing.

Be realistic. Everyone goes to the fair for all kinds of “forbidden” foods and hours of fun, so recognize your limitations and the inevitable choices there for the taking. But also recognize there are things you and your family can do to stay in control, such as taking frequent breaks, eating a balanced and filling meal before you leave and getting a good night’s sleep the night before.

Drink Water. Be sure to drink plenty of water before and during your visit. You can also take a cooler with you so water is readily available to prevent dehydration. Water can also help cut back on overeating.

Dress Appropriately. Ensure everyone is wearing a hat, has generously applied sunscreen and is wearing comfortable walking shoes. For a nominal fee, power and manual wheelchairs are available for those in need of

mobility assistance.

Practice Safety. Do your children have identification should they become separated? Remind your children about strangers, for assistance, Ward County Sheriff officers

are accessible throughout the fairgrounds.

Going to the North Dakota State Fair should be fun, so please remember these tips to keep your family and friends healthy and safe.

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Kiai o ka Lewa

FATIMZAHRA ELBOUAB, NORTHERN SENTRY INTERN

On every green-and-black patch worn by a member of the 5th Bomb Wing, a skull sits at the center, golden wings extend outward, and beneath it appears a familiar phrase: “Kiai o ka Lewa.” Though this Hawaiian phrase is often seen as simply part of an emblem, the motto carries more than just decoration. It represents a long lineage of service, identity, and mission that stretches back over a century.

“Kiai o ka Lewa” has been the official motto of the 5th Bomb Wing since its early years. The phrase translates to “Guardians of the Upper Realm,” a Hawaiian expression that was highly respected by Hawaiian warriors and frequently used as a battle cry. The motto itself is rooted in Hawaiian tradition. According to legend, Kiwaha and Halulu were guardians of the realm. Historian Samual Kamakau described the pair as mythical birds made of water from the orb of the sun. In their physical form, they appear as giant ‘iwa birds, with Halulu often described as a protector of the skies.

Its history began with the 2nd Observation Group, which was first activated at Luke Field on Ford Island in the Territory of Hawaii in 1919. Two years later, the group was redesignated as the 5th Observation Group, and later became the 5th Pursuit and Bombardment Group, flying the De Havilland DH-4 aircraft. During World War II, the 5th Bomb Group flew more than 1,000 combat missions. Its members earned more than 13,300 medals and decorations, including two Distinguished Unit Citations and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation. On July 25, 1968, the 5th Bomb Wing relocated to Minot Air Force Base and began operating the B-52H Stratofortress in order to preserve the unit from being inactivated after budget cuts planned to terminate the Wing at Travis AFB, California. Since moving the group to North Dakota, generations of Airmen have continued the mission while carrying forward the motto, “Kiai o ka Lewa.”

The emblem itself dates back to the beginning of the unit as well. The green and black fields reflect the colors of the Army Air Service at the time the 5th Bomb Wing was activated. The vertical line dividing the shield symbolizes the clouds in the sky and their mission in the upper realm. At the center, the winged skull represents the function of the bombardment. “Kiai o ka Lewa” reflects the spirit of this legend. Just as Kiwaha and Halulu were believed to guard the upper realm, generations of Airmen have carried forward the responsibility of protecting the skies. More than a century after the Wing’s beginning in Hawaii, the motto continues to symbolize the heritage, mission, and legacy of the 5th Bomb Wing.

5th Bomb Wing. (2021, November 9). Minot Air Force Base. www.minot.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/264218/5th-bomb-wing-minot-air-force-base

Manalo-Camp, A. (2022, August 1). The Storied Places of Lāna‘i. Ka Wai Ola. kawaiola.news/moomeheu/the-storied-places-of-lanai/



The 5th Bomb Wing emblem carries the motto “Kiai o ka Lewa,” meaning “Guardians of the Upper Realm.”

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO



An ‘iwa bird (also known as a Great Frigatebird) in flight. Hawaiian legend describes the mythical guardians Kiwaha and Halulu as appearing in the form of giant ‘iwa birds.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID PATTE/USFWS.



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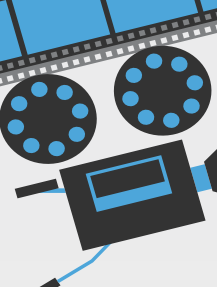
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YOUTH IN ACTION

State Literacy Team:
Efforts Underway to Improve
Student Literacy



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



Last week, I attended this year’s first State Literacy Team in-person meeting with 20 other state members at our North Dakota State Capitol. It was a pleasure to collaborate in our group of diverse perspectives to strengthen literacy efforts across North Dakota.

The State Literacy Team mission is to foster communication and collaboration among North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI), North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (NDDHHS), educational entities, and community members to amplify literacy priorities. The State Literacy Team vision is to support local literacy efforts, resulting in strengthened capacity across North Dakota to improve student outcomes.

At the meeting last week, we worked hard to develop accurate, comprehensive information on five chapters of our state’s literacy plan template. I particularly enjoyed our discussion during small-group sessions when Taylor Olsen, Program Coordinator – Comprehensive Literacy Grants, NDDPI – emphasized that curriculum is not the ND Standards. I was reminded of my Family & Community Child Care Coordinator roles when I trained our Family Child Care Providers on curriculum. Growing that program to become the Largest FCC Program in the Air Force was a major accomplishment, but ensuring all children-in-care received quality instruction was the most meaningful and rewarding work! At the state meeting, we also set future goals, voting on a unified statewide team signature activity. Next steps on this impactful work will be decided at our virtual meeting in October.

According to the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress or NAEP—also known as “The Nation’s Report Card”—North Dakota ranks 43rd in fourth-grade reading and 45th in eighth-grade reading (<https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/profiles> and [americanexperimentnd.org](https://www.americanexperimentnd.org)). Despite these national ranks, the AF base middle schools have done amazingly well in our state with regard to reading in the past few years! According to the 2022-2023 test results from the North Dakota Academic Progression of Learning and Understanding of Students (ND A-PLUS) assessment system, Nathan Twining Middle School on Grand Forks AFB took the lead in the state for the highest ND A+ ELA (English Language Arts) Middle School reading score. Memorial Middle School ranked second. In 2023-2024, Nathan Twining Middle School ranked first, and Memorial Middle School ranked third. In 2024-2025, Memorial Middle School ranked first, and Nathan Twining Middle

School ranked fourth. This information was recently briefed at a Minot Public Schools District #1 School Board Meeting.

Despite these impressive local scores, statewide student success remains our North Dakota Literacy Team’s focus. In North Dakota, scientifically based reading instruction is required for students in kindergarten through third grade. This has been the case for the past four years. Screenings for dyslexia are also required. These initiatives are very important, but unfortunately ELA proficiency levels in North Dakota remain lower than pre-pandemic levels (North Dakota: 2025 Assessment Results. statetestscorerresults.substack.com). Thus, our students deserve our heightened awareness and continued support for literacy.

During this past year as a School Liaison Program Manager, I have actively worked to link students and teachers to reading resources, providing literature on the following: United Through Reading, tutor.com, Minot Public Library reading programs, and

Minot AFB Library reading programs. I participated in our local “Literacy in the Field” event last Fall and will do so again this year. I distributed over 440 Legendary Family Learning Guide “Building Literacy Skills” books (also referred to as “Legendary Learners books”) to base schools, community schools, the Child Development Center on Minot AFB, homeschoolers, and local libraries. Lastly, I ensured our youth received educational History of America activity books at our nation’s 250th Anniversary Celebration—Freedom Fest—on Minot AFB. These efforts aim to improve our local students’ literacy skills and I hope our students are better for them, as I certainly enjoy the work and look forward to continuing 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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Climbing to New Heights: The Science and Adventure of the Magic Climber

MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER

Stretching an incredible 37 feet tall, the Magic Climber is a towering, industrial, creative masterpiece that takes children on a literal and physical adventure through the landscape, history, and industries of Minot and the greater North Dakota region. From the dirt beneath our feet to the expansive skies above, the Magic Climber turns regional history into a massive, three-dimensional playground.

Let's break down the journey from the ground floor all the way to the clouds!

The Magic Climber is uniquely organized into levels and zones, combining wood, metal, organic curves, and bright geometric shapes. There isn't just one way up; multiple winding pathways allow children of different ages and abilities to navigate the terrain at their own pace.

THE PRAIRIE DOG BURROW & UNDERGROUND LIFE

The adventure begins under the earth! In this zone, little explorers can dive into a prairie dog crawl.

- The Sound of the Prairie: Interactive buttons let kids trigger authentic prairie dog communication, from sharp alarm calls and territorial alerts to sweet mother chirps.

- Discovery Boxes: Peek inside hidden scenes showing what life looks like for critters living underground.

- Costume Area: Kids can slip into a costume to truly become a prairie dog or another burrowing animal, sparking early dramatic play.

THE OIL DERRICK & INDUSTRY

As children climb higher, they transition into the industries that drive North Dakota.

- The Hand-Crank Oil Pump: Kids can interact with a moving oil pump model using a hand crank, learning the mechanical physics of kinetic energy.

- Visual Graphics: Clear, kid-friendly graphics describe how the oil process works, blending engineering with geology.

THE CLOUDS, TRESTLES, & AIR CANNONS

Suspended in sky-blue pathways, children get a whole new perspective of the museum space as they climb through the "clouds" and cross a train trestle.

- Air Cannons: Visitors on the 2nd floor can blast gusts of air from specialized cannons, watching their invisible energy ripple across wind

catchers and shimmer disks down below.

- Radio Control Tower: Before making the final ascent, kids can staff the traffic control tower, acting as the ground crew to contact the pilot in the plane above.

THE B-52 AIRPLANE

Culminating at the very top of the 37-foot tower is a massive B-52 plane simulation, constructed from a sturdy metal frame and flooring. Minot is incredibly proud of its strong military ties and the Minot Air Force Base, making this the ultimate local tribute.

When young pilots reach the cockpit, they are treated to a spectacular, 360-degree view looking out across the stunning vista of Minot, as well as a thrilling view looking almost 30 feet straight down to the museum floor. Inside the cockpit, kids will find a simulator screen and realistic controls to pretend they are flying high over the state!

RISK, REWARD, AND SPATIAL MATH

While the Magic Climber looks like pure, high-energy fun, it is secretly a powerhouse for child development. • Navigating Perceived Risk: The climber safely challenges a child's boundary of what feels risky versus what is actually safe. Pushing past that slight hesitation builds immense self-confidence and a feeling of profound personal accomplishment when they reach the top.

- 3-D Geometry and Spatial Math: As kids figure out where to place a foot or how to twist their bodies through curvilinear shapes, their brains are calculating spatial awareness, logic, and geometry in real-time.

- Cognitive Focus: Navigating the moving pathways improves core cognitive functions like memory

and concentration. ("What position worked last time? Where should I reach next?")

- Social Cooperation: Because multiple kids climb at once, they naturally practice communication, agility, and teamwork, using their spoken words to negotiate space and direct fellow climbers.

The Magic Climber is the perfect place to let your child test their independence. Here is how you can support them from the ground or the platforms: 1. Follow Their Lead: Ask, "Do you want me to climb with you, or do you want to explore on your own?" If they want to try it solo, trust them! A safe environment like MCDC is the perfect place for them to learn to trust themselves. 2. Be the Ultimate Cheerleader: If they get stuck or nervous, use encouraging, specific language: "You are so strong! I love how you put your left foot on that block to help you steady yourself. You've got this!" 3. Play I-Spy: Help them identify the distinct parts of the superstructure. Can they spot the oil pump? The hidden birds?

Here are some mind-blowing facts about the real B-52s stationed right here in Minot:

- A B-52's wingspan is 185 feet which is longer than half a football field!

- They can fly at 650 miles per hour (that is Mach 0.86!).

- Without a single refuel, a B-52 can fly 8,800 miles across the globe.

- Just two B-52s can monitor 140,000 square miles of ocean or land in just two hours.

- These legendary planes were first deployed all the way back in February 1955.

Are your kids ready to conquer the climb? Head on over to the Magic Climber on your next visit, start at the prairie dog burrows, and see how fast your family can reach the clouds!





N.D. Asia

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PUZZLE ON PAGE B3

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

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MINOT AFB

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

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Everyday adventures of Titus and Philemon and their owner Joe.



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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Trusted Tire & Auto Appoints Jake Welsch as New Manager of Minot Air Force Base Location



Trusted Tire & Auto is pleased to announce the appointment of Jake Welsch as the new Store Manager of its Minot Air Force Base location. With years of dedicated service to the company, Jake has played a key role in delivering exceptional customer care to military personnel, their families, and the broader Minot community. He previously served as Assistant Store Manager at the Minot location before stepping into this leadership position at the on-base shop at 61 Missile Ave.

“Jake is a natural leader who embodies our core values of trust, expertise, and community focus,” said Jarid Lundeen, owner. “His deep understanding of automotive service, combined with his commitment to supporting our military families, makes him the ideal person to lead our Minot Air Force Base team. We’re excited to see him continue to grow our

reputation for reliable, high-quality service right here on base.”

In his new role, Jake will oversee daily operations, ensure the highest standards of customer service, and continue expanding the shop’s support for active-duty members, veterans, and families stationed at Minot AFB.

Jake brings strong local roots and a customer-first mindset to the position. He is committed to maintaining the shop’s reputation as a trusted, convenient resource for total car care on base.

“I’m really looking forward to leading the team here at the base,” said Jake Welsch. “Our main focus is simply keeping our customers’ vehicles safe and reliable so they have one less thing to worry about. Whether it’s routine maintenance or major repairs, people can expect honest advice and quality work every time they visit us.”



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by Patricia Stockdill

FISHING:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, July 13: 1,828.25 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 18,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases. Devils Lake elevation: 1,450.47 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Stump Lake elevation: 1,450.11 MSL.

- N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: No new reports from area lakes or Devils Lake.
- Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: No new reports with heat limiting activity on Devils Lake.
- Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: Hot weather keeping many anglers off the water on area lakes.
- Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Good numbers of bluegill continue from the docks and shore. Wait for cooler evening temperatures for any walleye bite.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Try a variety of presentations and baits on the east end of Lake Sakakawea as shallow as 3 to 4 feet out to 25 feet with anglers pre-fishing throughout the week for the Governor’s Cup Fishing tournament July 17 & 18. Missouri River tailrace remains fair for walleye. No Lake Audubon reports.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Lake Audubon weedy out to 20 feet so anglers working 25 to 35 feet for walleye. Look for nice smallmouth bass activity, as well. Reports limited from Lake Sakakawea.
- Lake Sakakawea, Indian Hills Resort, Garrison: Solid walleye bite working sand flats and rocky points shallow from 5 to 15 feet using slow death hooks with nightcrawlers.
- Lake Sakakawea, New Town: Nice numbers of eater-sized, 17- to 18-inch walleye coming from the Van Hook Arm. Try Lindy rigs with nightcrawlers.
- Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook

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).
 - July 17 – 25: N.D. Game & Fish Dept. Conservation & Outdoor Skills Park open in conjunction with the N.D. State Fair.
 - 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 18: N.D. Junior Governor’s Cup Fishing Derby, Fort Stevenson State Park for children up to 17 years of age. Free except for park admission. Contact the park, (701) 337-5576, 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.
 - July 22: Registration opens for Sept. 18 – 20 Wild Outdoor Women program, Lake Metigoshe State Park. Go to, (www.parkrec.nd.gov/wow), for program details with registration available beginning July 22 at noon on the link, (bit.ly/LMSPEvent).
 - July 26: Arts in the City, Oak Park, 4 p.m.
 - July 27: Yoga in the Alley (free), Citizens Alley, 6:30 p.m.
- TOURNAMENTS:**
- July 17 & 18: Lake Sakakawea, Fort Stevenson State Park.
 - July 18 & 19: Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook Arm (bowfishing).
 - July 22: Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook Arm.
 - July 25: Lake Sakakawea, White Earth Bay; Devils Lake, Creek Bay; South Hoffer Lake.

Bait & Tackle, New Town: Fair to good walleye activity in 12 to 18 feet using leeches or nightcrawlers throughout the Van Hook Arm with better success on days with a little breeze.

- Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott’s Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace continues producing walleye and catfish with better success in the morning and evening, especially from boats, using Lindy rigs and nightcrawlers or jigs and minnows. Some trout mixed in. Try late evening after 10 p.m. from the rocks from shore for walleye. Try 20 feet for walleye with spinners or Lindy rigs on the east end of Lake Sakakawea but look for fish to move deeper with hot weather. A few salmon coming from Deadman’s Bay in 40 to 75 feet but not many salmon anglers on the water yet.
- Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Upper end of Lake Sakakawea starting to clear with good walleye bite around White Earth Bay. Also try the Van Hook Arm or New Town area using spinners and nightcrawlers or leeches, starting in 12 to 15 feet. Catfish active with the warm water of the upper end of the lake as well as the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. Try jigging style plastic baits for smallmouth bass around the casino area by New

Town. Low water ramps generally all accessible on the upper end with the exception of Lewis & Clark State Park, which is limited to small watercrafts. Kota-Ray Dam continues producing decent panfish and rainbow trout with improving walleye activity from McGregor Dam.

- North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdve. Hank, Towner: Extreme heat limiting activity on area lakes.

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

- Lake Darling, Foxholm: Lake elevation 1,597.97 feet.
- Little Missouri River, Long X Bridge: River stage, 7.42 feet; streamflow, 112 CFS.
- Little Missouri River, Medora: River stage, 1.73 feet; streamflow, 54.6 CFS.
- Missouri River, Williston: River stage, 14.55 feet.
- Missouri River, Washburn: River stage, 9.66 feet.
- Souris River, Broadway Bridge, Minot: River stage, 41.86 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

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

SUNDAY19

MONDAY20

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Passport Day, 0900-1300, Bomber Bistro
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center

TUESDAY21

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Career & Certification Exploration Track, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Minot AFB Library
- Staycation - Special Lunch, 1030-1330, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Staycation - Special Dinner, 1330-1830, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Quiet Book Club, 1800-1930, Minot AFB Library

FRIDAY24

- Friday Flicks, 1630, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY25

- Pokémon Escape Room Game Begins, Minot AFB Library
- Paintball Open Play, 1000-1400, Paintball Field, hosted by Outdoor Recreation
- Air Force Gaming – Fighting Game Series, 1300, Northern Paradise AMD, inside of Bomber Bistro

SPECIALS

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Rockin' Chicken Sandwich

The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item
Red, White, & Brew Burner

Bomber Bistro Featured Item
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WEDNESDAY22

- 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, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center

THURSDAY23

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Pre-Separation Briefing, 0830-1130, M&FRC
- Career & Certification Exploration Track, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- First Duty Station Officer Financial Course, 1300-1500, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center

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