

5TH BOMB WING
AUGUST
SQUADRON
OF THE
MONTH



5TH FORCE SUPPORT
SQUADRON

WHATS INSIDE
THIS WEEK:



MEET YOUR
COMMANDERS

COL. JOHN
BURRELL
A2

COL. GEORGE
CHAPMAN
A6



THE RETURN
OF PAPER,
PENCILS AND
EARLY
MORNINGS

B7



HOW MILITARY
COMMUNITIES
BECOME
FAMILY

B10

Airmen from the 5th Comptroller Squadron (5 CPTS) depart from a 54th Helicopter Squadron UH-1 Iroquois as part of Exercise Prairie Gold at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Aug. 12, 2026. While most military personnel may recognize finance-oriented Airmen from working Military Pay and Budget, the 5 CPTS works very different jobs when deployed, such as riding in helicopters as deployed paying agents and making purchases during contingency operations. See more from the exercise on page B5.

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



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Col John E. Burrell
5th Bomb Wing Commander



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5th Bomb Wing Changes Command Col. Burrell Takes Command

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

Col. John E. Burrell is no stranger to Minot Air Force Base, and his return to command the 5th Bomb Wing brings together years of local experience, deployment perspective, and a deep appreciation for the base’s relationship with the Minot community.

NO STRANGER TO MINOT AIR FORCE BASE

Col. John E. Burrell and his wife, Alicia, are very familiar with Minot Air Force Base. “We are on year three this time; however, it’s really year 11 over all of the different assignments, and if you ask my wife, indeed it was 11 years with several deployments. My first winter here, without going TDY or deploying, was my first year here as a commander.”

Burrell had assured his wife that when he arrived in Minot as commander of the 5th Operations Group, “I’ll be around the whole time.” But, as he noted, “lo and behold, there was the last deployment” — three and a half months for Operation Epic Fury.

I met Burrell, his wife Alicia, and their children, Will and Izzy, in 2024 as the family was active in building, financing, and mentoring a robotics team at Minot North High School. The Burrells and their team raised \$60,000 to build a new robot, provide extra parts, and cover travel expenses for the team. As commander of the 5th Operations Group, Burrell attended

many Military Affairs Committee meetings until his deployment took him downrange.

A WHIRLWIND YEAR

Asked to describe this past year, Burrell said, “It’s been crazy. I kind of feel like it’s still January or February. From February with Operation Epic Fury, to rolling through deployment and then back again and going through the process of moving houses and then taking over here — the 5th Bomb Wing command — it’s been a whirlwind. It might be time for a vacation.”

When asked about the possibility of vacations, Burrell answered, “None planned, but some owed because we had a Hawaii trip planned and we had a cruise to the Caribbean that were cancelled by deployment. So, I now owe her — Alicia — three vacations for two that were cancelled.”

DEPLOYMENT AND COMMAND PERSPECTIVE

The conversation shifted to Operation Epic Fury and the deployment experience, including the social media attention surrounding 5th Bomb Wing activity in England and the visibility of active B-52 tail numbers.

Burrell said he loved the deployment. “Obviously being there with the Airmen is something that we don’t get to do very often, so that was an amazing experience to be there not only with my Airmen, but Airmen from multiple

other bases working to get the mission done. Being in the deputy commander role, I got to learn a lot that I had not been exposed to as an operations group commander.”

He said one of the biggest benefits was learning what it meant to operate as a tenant wing with a host installation. “Learning how to be a tenant directly correlated to my responsibility here now as the host unit to take care of the 91st Missile Wing. Seeing that dynamic of when we asked for stuff, they responded. It made me see a new way of taking care of the 91st Missile Wing and what a responsibility it was.”

MINOT THEN AND NOW

What, if anything, has changed over the years as you have returned to Minot Air Force Base and the community of Minot in differing roles?

“Since I got up here in 2006, it’s not the same town. There were fewer chain restaurants; it was more mom-and-pop type places. 2011 was the biggest change with the flood and all of the construction after that. So coming back now, there are so many dining options.”

THE BASE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP

And the relationship between Minot Air Force Base and the community of Minot — how has that changed?

“It’s amazing communicating with the civic leaders downtown, the Chamber of Commerce. You



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U.S. Air Force Col. John E. Burrell, 5th Bomb Wing commander, addresses Airmen an all-call July 23, 2026, at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota.
U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENDRA A. RANSUM

don't see that anywhere else. Having been stationed at multiple bases, the community may like you, they may not, but they really aren't engaged, not like it is here. Case in point: change in command on base, and you can look out in the crowd and see all of the civic leaders who are on base. The mayor comes to our award ceremonies and hands out certificates to the Airmen. You just don't see that anywhere else. They have real jobs, and they take hours out of their days to do these things for us."

Burrell also pointed to Military Affairs Committee luncheons as another example. "You go to a MAC luncheon and every single person is there."

DEFINING MINOT AFB'S ROLE IN A CHANGING GLOBAL CLIMATE

After discussing Minot's local support network, Burrell turned to the broader mission of Minot Air Force Base and its role in an increasingly complex global environment.

"Our role hasn't changed in many ways. The world has changed and our responsibility to it does not. First and foremost, we are still the line of defense, whether it is the 5th Bomb Wing or the 91st Missile Wing. The deterrence mission that we bring for the president of the United States is unwavering, and it hasn't changed."

"What has changed is that as we are engaged in more and more conflicts over recent years, we had to go out and be a part of those conflicts; deploy, support, fight while still maintaining our mission set here. That means leaving one bomb squadron behind to maintain that deterrence presence and maintaining support of the 91st Missile Wing while they do their mission 24/7, 365."

The Future of the B-52 Mission
Recent press has talked about

bringing more B-52s out of Davis-Monthan. What is your opinion about taking that step?

"Well, I'm pretty sure that we'd all like to see more B-52s on the ramps here and at Barksdale. I think there are 11 sitting in storage still. I have not heard of any official plans to bring them out, but I would welcome more if that was the decision. The B-52, and really all of the U.S. bomber force, is a national asset. We have a lot of them, but there is a high demand and a relatively low density. With the B-52 getting the upgrades and flying through 2050, we are only going to be in higher demand as we go forward."

AIRMEN TODAY

What is different for Airmen now versus when you came in?

"When I entered the Air Force, we entered during a time of war. Now, the last couple of years, it is not a time of active conflict even though we are in conflict. These Airmen today are joining up for the benefits, the education, and then they are learning what it's like to serve and to be part of this amazing team. Twenty-three years ago, we were lining up to go serve, and we found out all of the other stuff as the Air Force brought us along. I think some Airmen are joining for a different reason now, but what is amazing is that when they get into the military and they learn about the job, responsibility, and how important it is to serve, I think that is when they really learn a lot."

In your opinion, is the community giving first-year Airmen what they need to appreciate being part of Minot Air Force Base?

"Absolutely. Take, for example, Operation Homeward Bound. Last year we sent somewhere around 130 young Airmen home for Christmas. The thing that this community does for young Airmen is truly special."



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And Your Assumption Would Be Incorrect



A VIEW FROM OUR SIDE
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THOSE LASTING WORDS OF WISDOM

I can't really remember the exact day that my Dad imparted a few words of wisdom to me, but as I remember it went something like this: Did you assume that I would not notice that the car was not parked where it normally is in the driveway? To which I answered, because I had taken a short spin up and down our driveway with the car, "Yes." Well, I did notice and your assumption would be incorrect.

What does this short teaching moment in my life have to do with The Northern Sentry? In a conversation amongst new arrivals to Minot Air Force Base, the topic of fall and the beauty of fall leaves in the mountains of the eastern United States came up, and one of the gentlemen said, "Yeah, we are really going to miss all those fall colors this year."

However, having lived in North Dakota all of my life, I would like to chime in and say, "your assumption would be incorrect." Besides the beautiful fall colors that adorn the city of Minot, viewable from either north or south hill, there are three or four "must see" areas of North Dakota. They may not be as large as the fall color regions found on the East Coast and up into Maine, but they are certainly worthy of visiting, camping, or photo stops.

THE SHEYENNE VALLEY NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

From North Dakota Legendary: Winding along the Sheyenne River in the southeastern corner of North Dakota, the 63-mile Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway passes by rolling hills, quaint farmlands, small towns, and notable historic sites. Start your journey at Getchell Township Hall on Barnes County Highway 21 north of Valley City and follow the byway along Highways 17 and 19 before curving back onto Highway 21 to Ransom County Highway 13, all the way to Lisbon.

I first visited this area because my roommate at the University of North Dakota was from Lisbon. He knew I was into outdoor photography, and one fall day while visiting him he said, "jump in the car, let's go for a ride, and bring your camera."

We drove to Fort Ransom State Park. I couldn't believe we were still in North Dakota. The fall foliage was spectacular. The Sheyenne River and Clausen Springs Creek provided winding valleys full of trees that made a spectacular backdrop for our drive.

Since then, they have added cabins, yurts, and even a Percheron wagon for folks to rent at Fort Ransom.

PEMBINA GORGE STATE PARK

Pembina Gorge State Park invites visitors to explore one of the state's most dramatic and diverse landscapes. The Pembina River winds through the gorge, offering kayaking opportunities when river conditions allow, with rentals available seasonally. Defined by steep valley cliffs, quiet prairies, and pocketed wetlands, Pembina Gorge is surrounded by the largest continuous, undisturbed forest in North Dakota. From sweeping views and unforgettable sunsets to miles of wooded trails, Pembina Gorge State Park offers both adventure and solitude in a landscape found nowhere else in North Dakota.

The Pembina Gorge is one of those best kept secrets, and now with the all-new Pembina Gorge State Park, more people are going to enjoy the area, especially in the fall when the entire gorge seems to explode in fall foliage. The Pembina Gorge is about three hours from Minot, and there is a lot of nice scenery along the way, including the Turtle Mountains and Lake Metigoshe.

TURTLE MOUNTAINS & LAKE METIGOSHE

Nestled in the scenic Turtle Mountains along the U.S./Canadian border, Lake Metigoshe is one of the most popular year-round vacation spots in North Dakota. The small lakes within the park provide excellent opportunities for kayaking, canoeing, and birding. Visitors can enjoy over 13 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails along with a three-mile self-guided interpretive hiking trail. The unique woodlands and wetlands of Lake Metigoshe State Park provide habitat for a wide variety of plant, animal, and bird species seldom seen elsewhere in North Dakota.

Definitely a day-cation possibility. The Turtle Mountains and Lake Metigoshe provide another photo-friendly backdrop. We often head up to this area for a day trip and fall picnic. There are many parks in the area for stopping and enjoying the fall colors.

THE CROSS RANCH

Located along the Missouri River, the Cross Ranch supports the oldest stand of cottonwood trees in North Dakota. Maybe not as spectacular because it isn't heavily wooded, but it is still a great fall adventure area.

MAKE YOUR FALL PLANS NOW!

So, if the assumption is that North Dakota cannot compete when it comes to fall color, I would



Clausen Springs bridge and creek along the Sheyenne River National Scenic Byway south of Valley City.



A fall scene in the Pembina Gorge.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF NORTH DAKOTA LEGENDARY.

gently suggest that assumption would be incorrect. The color is here, sometimes tucked into river valleys, wooded hills, state parks, and scenic byways, but it is here for those willing to go looking.

Fall comes and goes so quickly, and then we look at the "W" word—but not quite yet. The North Dakota Legendary site is a great resource, and I might add: take your time and enjoy the scenery and the landscape. For those who are so inclined, we'll have another photo contest down the road.

RAMBLINS'

Kopps Gardens at the Farmer's Market has been sending me a list of fresh-grown produce. Potatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, onion (several varieties), pickles, relish, cowboy candy, some carrots, peppers... just to name a few. There are two Farmer's Markets in town and from personal experience I can tell you the produce is awesome.

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

Conference: A gathering of important people who singly can do nothing but together can decide that nothing can be done.

Back to school, a blessing or a curse?



UPSIDE DOWN UNDER

MARVIN BAKER

Our grandchildren stayed with us for the past three weeks and the morning they were preparing to leave, I was sitting on the porch with my 14-year-old granddaughter talking about how the summer went.

I asked her if she's ready to go back to school and she told me she's been bored most of the summer because she has nothing to do. We invented things for the kids to do, which was good, but that encompassed about three weeks out of the entire summer.

She told me she hasn't had a schedule of any kind, doesn't necessarily like sleeping late in the morning and believes she is too young to try to build a daily itinerary.

So she can't wait to get back to school in Rapid City where she's a straight A student and middle school cheerleader for the boys basketball team.

Her 12-year-old brother couldn't be more opposite. He'd just soon live with his grandparents forever if he could. TV is far more important than school. He sees school as something his parents make him do. And, although he has friends in school, he tells us he can always see his friends after school and on weekends.

He's a good student and although he doesn't get the grades his sister produces, it seems his parents have to light a fire under his butt to get him to do his homework. Regardless, he excels, because he has to, he says.

These two school kids are most likely like all kids about that age. Some love it in school and some don't.

During my newspaper career, I was in schools a lot to cover sports, academic excellence, new teachers, science fairs and whatever else. And it seems I always ran into the same kind of mentality. Either kids loved school or they didn't.

I guess it's been that way forever. When I went to school, I didn't want to be there. Job opportunities in my hometown were calling my name and in fact, I had several temporary jobs in high school that could have turned to full time work.

High school wasn't so structured as it is for my granddaughter now. The only reasons I stayed in school was to pass English and compete on the track team. I knew I wanted to be a journalist so English was important, but man, when we got to Shakespeare, I was bored out of my mind.

Continued on next page



This Percheron Wagon is actually a cabin available to rent for unforgettable overnight stays.

The back to school feeling never leaves



SHE'S NOT FROM AROUND HERE

AMY ALLENDER

I remember being particularly nostalgic my senior year of college. As I sorted through my school supplies and prepared to complete academic journey, I remember thinking, It sure is going to feel weird next year when back-to-school is no longer a thing for me. August meant the smell of fresh paper, meticulously choosing new pens, and “desk candy” that promised to make me more organized and less prone to procrastination. Fancy to-do list trackers, gel pens in every color, heart-shaped sticky notes. It meant a new planner, reorganizing my life and committing to becoming a little more put together and a little more grown up. Buying new school clothes and supplies convinced me I was one step closer to becoming the person I hoped to be. At 22, I thought my senior year of college would bring that feeling to an end. I was wrong. The following year, I was married and a military spouse, living in Florida while my husband was in pilot training. When August rolled around and stores filled with back-to-school wares, I found myself with that same urge to reorganize my life. The back-to-school feeling had followed me, even though the

classrooms hadn't. Maybe it was because I had spent my entire childhood in that rhythm. Or maybe this time of year is simply a natural transition. Over the years, whether I had kids in school or not, I've come to embrace August as a time of renewal and recommitment. In some ways, even more so than January. In North Dakota, the transition between summer and fall is tangible. The air smells different. The daylight hours get shorter. Mornings and evenings are cool while midday is still warm. Acorns drop. Leaves begin turning. One season is closing while another begins. Unlike spring, when everything comes alive and we're eager to get outside and do all the things we can't do in sub-zero temperatures, this transition brings a natural slowing down. After a summer of travel, loose schedules and late bedtimes, a return to structure can feel welcome. After months of moving, traveling, playing and doing, fall gives us room to pause. To reassess. To reorganize. This year marks a big milestone in our house. For the first time, I'm sending not one, but two children to school. And not part-day preschool, not homeschooling. Two children, in school, all day. I'll admit, I'm nervous. For years, I've had an easy explanation for some of the things I haven't accomplished. Maybe that goal didn't happen because I had at least one child at home. Maybe I haven't gotten around to that project because I'm primarily a full-time mom. And now, that is changing. As I shopped for notebooks for my kids, I realized it's been years since I bought one for myself. I have a drawer full of them already. But I still feel that familiar pull

to reassess. I've been thinking about the goals I set in January. Some happened. Some didn't. Some don't even seem important anymore. And that's okay. January might be the traditional time to set goals and make big plans, but it isn't the only “right” time. In January, we're tired, coming off the holidays and, in North Dakota, quite literally freezing. Sometimes the things that seem important in winter look different after we've lived another six or seven months. To me, August always seems to extend another opportunity. What actually fits my life right now? What do I still want? What have I outgrown? What would make everyday life feel a little more like the life I want to be living? I'm less interested in setting ambitious goals than I am in figuring out what is realistic. What can I actually sustain? Maybe, like me, the back-to-school feeling never left you either. Even if you haven't been in a classroom for years. Even if you don't have children in school. The changing season can still give us an opportunity to pause. We don't have to dread what's ahead, and we don't have to grieve too hard for what's behind. This transitional time doesn't call for complete reinvention, or belittling ourselves for resolutions that fell to the wayside in February. Instead, we can choose to see this as an opportunity to slow down, regroup, and end this year with intentionality. And while intentionality doesn't call for anything fancy, a few pretty pens, and a beautiful new notebook never hurts. For more on living in North Dakota join me on social media @ heyminot. Find out more about me at amyallender.com

A BLESSING OR A CURSE?

Continued from previous page

Today's teachers do an exceptional job. They create the right environment. They create the motivation a lot of times and they are good leaders. Their jobs are never easy because not every kid is going to excel and get straight A's. Bless them because I know I wouldn't have the patience to educate a high maintenance kid. What really amazes me is how some kids perform at their age and with grace. When I worked in Langdon, I covered the volleyball team and in Kenmare it was the wrestling team. Those kids usually got up early, went on long road trips and although some would sometime complain about that,

they still managed to get straight A's and keep an after school job at the local grocery store or hardware store. That says a lot about a kid who is that motivated. Many of us had trouble just getting our homework done, let alone travel across the state to a wrestling match and not only get the homework done, but place in the tournaments. When I hear comments like all kids want to do nowadays is play video games, I beg to differ. There may be a small minority of kids who want to do that, but in my experience, the masses of teenagers are in it for a reward; a diploma, get college scholarships, work toward a career, impress a girlfriend. Whatever the reason, we need

to commend these kids for their hard work. Lord knows I couldn't have balanced a schedule some of today's kids have and I'm sure many adults my age would agree. A couple of weeks ago, I ran into my old boss at the farmers' market. He said he has five grandchildren, like we do. He said aren't they wonderful? They know so much that we didn't, such as technology. My 12-year-old grandson has bailed me out of tech problems numerous times. Don't ever underestimate today's kids. They have a lot to prove and from what I've seen during my career, and now as a Grandpa, almost all of them are doing just that.



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Taking the Reins of the 91st Col. Chapman Returns

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY



Col George L. Chapman
91st Missile Wing Commander

Col. George Chapman has returned to Minot Air Force Base as commander of the 91st Missile Wing, bringing with him a leadership philosophy centered on opportunity, teamwork, and the Airmen who make the mission possible. After serving as deputy commander of the 91st Missile Wing and later as deputy commander of the 20th Air Force at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Chapman sees his return to Minot not simply as a career move, but as a chance to lead a wing and community he already knows well.

Chapman compared that cog to an Airman: if leaders push Airmen too hard without paying attention to their maintenance and well-being, they can break too. “We can draw a parallel between the importance of taking care of our Airmen and taking care of something as small as one simple cog,” he said. “Both are important, and both need to be maintained.”

WHAT MAKES MINOT AIR FORCE BASE SPECIAL

Even though many people view Minot Air Force Base as special because it houses two legs of the nuclear triad, Chapman takes a different view. “What makes us different, what makes us special, is truly our Airmen,” Chapman said. “Without the people, it’s just stuff. It’s just equipment, bombs, weapons, material. But it’s the people who make it all happen, and that is without a doubt what makes Minot truly special.”

A small cog sat on Chapman’s table. He explained that even though it may seem like a low-priority maintenance item, the missile re-entry vehicle cannot be lifted and transported without it.

THE TRANSITION FOR THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Before leaving Minot, Chapman said, the final gift Schlachach gave him was a binder engraved with Schlachach’s call sign and containing his endorsement for Chapman to one day return as commander. At the time, Chapman did not know whether that opportunity would come. He went to Cheyenne to serve as deputy commander of the 20th Air Force; a role he considered an honor. He also found meaning in returning to the same building where he had worked as a captain and aide to the 20th Air Force commander from 2009 to 2011.

Chapman said he learned a great deal working at the operational command level between the wing and the major command, especially as an interface between policy and practical execution. That experience, he said, gives him additional perspective as he returns



U.S. Air Force Col. George Chapman speaks at the Purple Star Award ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Jan. 9, 2024.

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Chapman Family (l to r) Jaren, Haydn, Col. Chapman & spouse Erin, Liesl.

to Minot and works with mission partners across the installation.

“It was helpful for me coming back here to give additional perspective as to what it means to be a good neighbor,” Chapman said. “To come back and be a good teammate. The challenge that any installation owner has is trying to make everyone happy. It’s more helpful to have good teammates than for one mission partner to get their way.” Chapman said he continues to believe in the TEAM acronym he learned as a young captain: Together Everyone Achieves More. “Coming back here I look forward to teaming up with the other mission partners and the host installation to get after our needs, whatever they happen to be.”

Chapman said the move back to Minot also carries personal meaning because the base and community have become familiar ground for his family.

And the Chapman family? Chapman said the news came about a week after the school year began, while he was sitting in the parking lot at Central High School in Cheyenne. When Gen. Bussiere called to tell him, he had been selected to return as commander of the 91st Missile Wing, Chapman said he was “giddy.” Asked for his reaction, he answered with one word: “BULLY!” He said he was grateful for the chance to command wherever the Air Force needed him, but returning to Minot was a “huge family win.” His son would be able to rejoin friends and graduate with his peers, his daughter had always liked Minot’s snow and cold, and his wife—who had once hoped to avoid Minot—was excited to return. “For all of us it’s a good news story,” Chapman said. The news reached his children sooner than planned, when his son

began receiving texts from friends congratulating him on the move back to Minot.

THE BULLY PARADIGM

“A paradigm is only as good as it is useful,” Chapman said. He said the BULLY paradigm will help guide his command philosophy at the 91st Missile Wing, borrowing the word from

Theodore Roosevelt’s expression of appreciation for excellence. For Chapman, BULLY stands for Bold, United, Loyal, Lethal and You: being bold in the mission, united across the installation, loyal to the Constitution and the mission set, lethal through competence, and focused on taking care of every Roughrider on the team.



U.S. Air Force Col. George Chapman briefs local religious leaders during Chaplain Corps Clergy Day tour at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Oct. 2, 2024.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

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Have your antifreeze fluid changed and Cooling System flushed every 30,000 miles or 2 years. Newer formulas, however, may last up to 50,000 miles. To check coolant level, turn the car off and wait for the engine to cool. Locate the coolant reservoir (usually a translucent plastic tank) and eyeball the level of the coolant against the full and low indicators.

Just like human beings, the car needs to dissipate heat in order to avoid overheating and exhaustion. During combustion, the engine produces large amount of heat - about 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit. This is too much for the engine to bear so a cooling system is needed to keep it at a normal temperature. Cars usually overheat due to a damaged part in the cooling system, especially the radiator, the heart of the cooling system. It is therefore necessary that all its auto parts must be in proper working condition to ensure that the whole system works efficiently.

Aside from the radiator, the cooling system is composed water pump, freeze plugs, head gasket, thermostat, hoses, heater core, fan clutch and radiator fan. All these auto parts have special roles to perform thus the absence of one could significantly affect the whole cooling process and of course, the engine's performance. Take for example the hose, this may seem to be just an ordinary part but once broken, the coolant can escape and so it's no longer possible for the system to cool the engine. Even just the cap of the radiator is important. It holds the pressure in the cooling

system; thereby, affects its stability. How does the cooling system of your car work? The coolant, which is a mixture of anti-freeze and water, is the one that absorbs the heat from the engine. It is drawn by the water pump from the radiator and is pumped through engine block and the cylinder head to absorb the heat from the engine and its parts. It goes back to the receiving tank of the radiator through the radiator hose. The radiator has tubes that contain large amount of water and has fin area to allow outside air to pass through. As the coolant spreads over the top of the radiator tubes, it transfers heat to the air. The performance of your car is greatly dependent on your cooling system. No matter how gutsy its engine is, it can't work normally without a cooling system. The engine can even be inutile in an instant if it overheats and all other auto parts under the hood can also be damaged. They could melt as the engine burns the fuel inside the combustion chamber and the pistons in the cylinder could expand extremely that they can no longer move to complete the whole process in the engine. Your car can possibly overheat as well. Engine overheating is one of the most common problems auto users encounter. You can avoid this by adding water to your radiator. So if you notice a problem on a particular part in your cooling system, consult the best auto mechanic in town. But if you think the problem is worst, you may as well replace it right away.



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 - Family outings at the State Fair or a local baseball game

If it shows summer joy in North Dakota, we want to see it!
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CONTEST DETAILS:

- One winner will be selected at random from all entries
- Each photo submitted counts as one entry (limit one photo per person per day)

- Contest runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day 2026
- Winner will be notified by email in September 2026
- Photos must be taken in North Dakota during Spring/Summer 2026

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NOTES ON BEING SAFE

Pedestrian Safety: Know and Watch your Surroundings

Did you know approximately 5,900 pedestrians in America are killed by automobiles every year? Almost one-third of these victims are children under the age of 15. All of us are pedestrians at one time or another, and are obligated to abide by the same traffic laws that assure the safety whether we are walking, bicycling or the motorist, or an adult or child. As parents we are also obligated to teach our children the importance of traffic safety, especially in housing areas where streets have a tendency of being smaller. Here are a few pedestrian safety tips to follow:

- Walk on the sidewalks – Stay on the sidewalks and crosswalks. Avoid walking in traffic if there are no sidewalks or crosswalks. If you have no other choice, walk facing the traffic.
- Look LEFT, RIGHT, and LEFT for vehicles – Stop at the curb and look LEFT, then RIGHT, then LEFT again. Stopping at the curb signals drivers that you intend to cross. Cross in marked crosswalks and obey the signals.
- See and be seen- Stay out of the driver's blind spot. Make eye contact with the driver when crossing busy streets. If walking at dusk or dark, wear reflective gear and carry a flashlight. Vision is more impaired at night.
- Watch your children – Do

not let your children play in the streets or close to the roads. Do not let them cross the roads without supervision. While walking through the housing area ensure to be aware of any cars pulling out of their driveways, especially if they are backing out. They may not always see you. Children are small, unpredictable, and cannot judge vehicle distance and speeds. Start teaching your children at an early age on traffic safety. Teach the colors of all of the traffic lights and the vehicle lights and what they mean. Educate the importance of not darting out on the road, even to chase a ball.

As a motorists on Minot AFB do not always assume the people around you are paying attention. Sometimes their attention can be diverted especially if they're children. All people are unpredictable and as a motorist, you should always be alert. You can encounter a pedestrian anytime and anywhere, even in places where they are not supposed to be. They can be hard to see, especially at night or while it's raining. Slow down if you can not see clearly. Stop for pedestrians who are in the crosswalks and when you stop for a pedestrian in the crosswalk, make sure you are far enough back for cars in the other lane

to see the pedestrian in time to stop. If vehicles are stopped in the street in front of you, do not just assume you can pass them, maybe their waiting for a pedestrian to cross the road. When turning right on a red right, always look to the right as well as the left to make sure pedestrians are not crossing in the crosswalk. If you spot a pedestrian wearing headphones or using a cellular phone, be attentive for they may not hear your vehicle. Remain vigilant at all times, especially in areas where children may dart out unexpectedly into traffic areas. These include base housing and school areas, near school buses and around ice cream trucks. While backing out of your driveway, always look in your back window as well as your mirrors to ensure no kids are behind you. If you have to, walk around the vehicle before driving out.

One last tip to keep in mind, if you see a child in the front yard or near a curb, always assume they will dart out on the road. If you always keep this in mind, this will lessen the chances of a child being struck. By paying attention to your surroundings, whether you are the pedestrian or the motorist. It could be a matter of life or death.



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SUDOKU PUZZLE

Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution to last weeks crossword

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. Unrestrained episode
6. A long way off
10. Cast wearer's frustration
14. Lionel Richie hit
15. Windsor welfare
16. Bait for shoppers
17. Office quip, part 1
20. Place for a catcher
21. Cafe option
22. Surpass
23. It might be one red
24. Nursery rhyme domicile
26. Spreadsheet elements
29. Sand imprint, perhaps
33. Office quip, part 2
36. One of the Gabors
37. Golden rule word
38. Verdict voter
39. The yoke's on them
40. Card deck total for Caesar?
41. Office quip, part 3
43. The Bluegrass State
45. Panoramic view
46. Quantities (Abbr.)
47. "... sting like ___"
49. Daggers in manuscripts
52. Peter, for one
53. "___ Bop" (Cyndi Lauper hit)
56. Office quip, part 4
60. Adam's garden
61. Folklore fiend
62. Type of sea duck
63. Bird's ___ soup
64. City on the Rhine
65. Sweethearts

Down

1. Show signs of waking
2. Use a prie-dieu
3. Trick
4. Yellowstone beast
5. Start of a Huxley title
6. Ticket word
7. Indy winner A.J.
8. Priest's garment
9. Model T contemporary
10. Debate topics
11. 300-pound President
12. Knucklehead
13. Sizable deli offering
18. Rather or Rowan
19. Like many chimneys
23. Sister of Erato
24. "Me too" relative
25. Be a pack rat
26. Make watertight
27. Bert's buddy
28. Romance language
29. Sudden attack
30. Lone Star locale
31. Happening
32. Zoo attraction
34. VCR button
35. Walrus weapons
39. Steinbeck migrant
41. Muggy
42. Stuffed
44. Scout type
47. Vail rival
48. Ewe's plaint
49. Sign of foreboding
50. Augur
51. Days before special days
52. Become a traitor
53. Word with club or baking
54. Farmer, at times
55. Creates a snafu
57. Unruly crowd
58. Freudian focus
59. Perjure

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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Minot finance Airmen test wartime skills during Exercise Prairie Gold

SENIOR AIRMAN KENDRA RANSUM, 5TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D.

Airmen assigned to the 5th Comptroller Squadron tested their ability to provide financial support in a simulated deployed environment during Exercise Prairie Gold, held at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Aug. 10-12, 2026.

“With things happening in the world, this was a good opportunity for us to get caught up with in-the-field skills,” said U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Alexander Stojadinovic, noncommissioned officer in charge of budget operations. “The whole purpose of this exercise is to get proficient in finance operations that we don’t normally do in the regular office.”

Simulated deployment scenarios that the 5 CPTS practiced in the exercise included: limited communications, cyberattacks, power outages and other disruptions.

"While most of our wing may recognize us from working Military Pay and Budget, our Airmen work very different jobs when deployed," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Stefan Choquette, 5 CPTS commander.

To make the training more realistic, the squadron worked with the 5th Security Forces Squadron, 5th Civil Engineer Squadron and 54th Helicopter Squadron.

“The support from 5 SFS, 5 CES, and 54 HS was phenomenal. Our Airmen received realistic Airmanship training to ensure they’re ready to operate in austere conditions in a hub-and-spoke model when they’re asked to do so,” Choquette said. “We made investments in ourselves to obtain realistic training props to exercise cash disbursing operations, a key skill required in the future fight.”

During the exercise, 5 CPTS Airmen operated from a simulated main base set up in tents. They practiced core finance tasks such as exchanging currency, processing emergency purchases, handling invoices and vouchers, and paying simulated local vendors with physical cash.

The field setup helped Airmen



U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 5th Comptroller Squadron (5 CPTS) review financial paperwork as part of Exercise Prairie Gold at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Aug. 11, 2026. During the exercise, 5 CPTS Airmen operated from a simulated main base set up in tents.

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

practice skills they do not often use during day-to-day work.

“The financial management community has decided that we are putting the warfighter back into finance,” said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Erik Odegaard, a 5 CPTS quantitative analyst.

Comptroller teams had to secure financial records and contingency funds, close their vault, pack equipment and continue operations while tracking multiple currencies, including U.S. dollars, Australian dollars, Korean won and Hong Kong dollars. The exercise also tested how Airmen would respond if normal systems became unavailable. In the scenario, a simulated cyberattack disabled network systems, followed by a simulated strike that cut power. Airmen secured funds, put on Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear, sheltered in place and later conducted a post-attack reconnaissance sweep.

"Our Airmen, when forward deployed to serve Global Strike forces, special operations or any other theater, will be able to arrive with a bag of cash ready to acquire the resources needed to continue to project power," Choquette said.

The exercise also included the simulated arrival of a 54 HS UH-1 Iroquois, which required the immediate deployment of a paying agent, a finance Airman responsible for carrying funds and making purchases during contingency operations.

The exercise was the first of its kind for the squadron and helped set a standard as the comptroller career field renews its focus on contingency operations.

The 5 CPTS will continue to hone their skills sending a team to compete in the inaugural Iron Ledger competition where they will be graded on their ability to perform comptroller contingency operations in a small team.

“This exercise has never been done, and it was an incredible challenge, but it helped set the bar for comptroller squadrons across the Air Force as the career field transitions to a renewed focus on contingency operations,” said Choquette. “Our NCOs and Junior Officers put in an immense amount of effort to make this exercise an overwhelming success and only further shows ONLY THE BEST COME NORTH!”



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Alexander Stojadinovic, 5th Comptroller Squadron (5 CPTS) noncommissioned officer in charge of budget operations, counts foreign currency as part of Exercise Prairie Gold at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Aug. 12, 2026. The exercise was the first of its kind for the squadron and helped set a standard as the comptroller career field renewed its focus on contingency operations.



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Lakindra Favors, 5th Comptroller Squadron (5 CPTS) financial analysis flight chief, counts cash as part of Exercise Prairie Gold at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Aug. 12, 2026. The 5 CPTS made investments in themselves to obtain realistic training props to exercise cash disbursing operations, a key skill required in the future fight.

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

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



Airmen from the 5th Comptroller Squadron (5 CPTS) construct an expeditionary shelter system during Exercise Prairie Gold at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Aug. 10, 2026. The purpose of the field training exercise was to give 5 CPTS Airmen an opportunity to employ contingency training so they can lead from the front if called upon.

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



Airmen from the 5th Comptroller Squadron don Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear as part of Exercise Prairie Gold at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Aug. 12, 2026. Conditions practiced during Prairie Gold that finance Airmen may face while deployed include: limited communications, cyberattacks, power outages and other disruptions.

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

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A promotional banner for Magic City Car Wash. On the left is a logo featuring a vintage pickup truck above the text 'MAGIC CITY' in a stylized font, with 'CAR WASH' below it. To the right of the logo, the text 'WELCOME TO THE CLEAN ZONE' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters against a dark blue background with white clouds. Further right, a red circular badge contains the text '10% MILITARY DISCOUNT' in white. Below the main text, three white boxes on a dark blue background contain the following text: 'MONTHLY PASSES AVAILABLE', 'FREE VACUUMS WITH WASH PURCHASE', and 'ADVANCED WASH TECHNOLOGY'. On the far right is a blue Facebook logo.

YOUTH IN ACTION

Local Resources to Support Student Literacy

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

STUDENT FOCUSED

PARTNERSHIP DRIVEN

SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM

ALYSSA KELLY

SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM MANAGER, GS-12

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM



Literacy is important. It is the foundation of all other learning. To facilitate reading, writing, and communication skills, I have compiled a list of six resources (not all inclusive) for our military-connected students:

1. UNITED THROUGH READING

This is an organization that offers literacy and of parent connection during deployment, providing free books to military families. Their website provides additional information on their mission: “When duty calls, distance can make connection hard for families. We make it easier. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, United Through Reading helps service members record and share storytime videos with the children in their lives, ensuring every military child can hear a loved one’s voice—no matter where in the world they serve. Since 1989, we’ve helped millions of military families stay close through the simple, powerful act of reading together. Because even when miles apart, stories can keep hearts connected.” (unitedthroughreading.org)

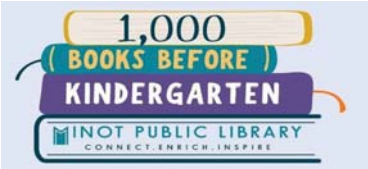
2. TUTOR.COM

This is a free service, requiring registration for military-connected students and families: “24/7 Tutoring Anytime, Anywhere. Learners can get personalized help from an expert tutor—anytime, on any internet-connected device, from anywhere in the world. Expert Tutors in 150+ Subjects. 4,000+ rigorously vetted tutors are available in more than 150+ subjects, including bilingual Spanish offerings in math, science, social studies, writing, study skills, and parent coaching. Safe, Secure, Anonymous. Every tutoring session is anonymous and takes place in a

secure online classroom. Our tutors undergo comprehensive screenings, including background checks, and are monitored for quality control.” (https://military.tutor.com/home)

3. MINOT PUBLIC LIBRARY

This local resource is located at 516 Second Avenue in SW Minot. It has a “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” challenge, which is a “fun early literacy challenge for children from birth to kindergarten.” It requires reading with your child regularly to reach 1,000 books before he/she starts school. Registration is completed through an app and progress is tracked (https://www.minotlibrary.org/). In addition, the Minot Public Library has an upcoming event titled, “Fall into Reading,” which will be held on Saturday, September 26th from 1-4pm. Community members, including myself, will be present to provide hands-on literacy activities.



4. MINOT AFB LIBRARY

Their Facebook page titled “Minot AFB Library” lists current and upcoming events. They regularly offer reading programs, storytimes, and fun activities/resources that help generate excitement for your young reader!

5. LITERACY TUTORING

Ms. Lisa McGinnis offers one-on-one reading tutoring support for grades K-4. This is a paid service that is available to local students on Minot AFB. It is a new, available resource this school year.

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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Upcoming Events

28 AUG

MOVIE IN THE PARK:

TWISTERS

SUNSET (9:30 PM)

Oak Park,

1300 4th Ave NW, Minot

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



For more information: Facebook/ Minot Parks/ Events

30 AUG

10TH ANNUAL MINOT

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Oak Park

1300 4th Ave NW, Minot

This family-friendly event brings together a wide variety of food trucks, local vendors, free entertainment, and a full day of fun with friends and community. From savory meals to sweet treats, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Admission is available at the gate on the day of the event: \$5 General Admission, \$3 Students and Children (Ages 4–12), Free for children ages 3 and under. The Minot Food Truck Festival also serves as a fundraiser supporting The Film Dudes, a program of ND Strong that provides hands-on film education opportunities for students across North Dakota. Come hungry, bring your friends, and spend the day with us celebrating great food, local flavor, and 10 years of community.



For more information: Facebook/ Minot Food Truck Festival/ Events

11 SEPT

YOGA IN THE PARK

7:00-9:00 PM

Oak Park,

1300 4th Ave NW, Minot

Grab a friend and your yoga mat and come out to Oak Park. This event is free to attend and open to all ages and abilities. Yoga in the Park takes place at the Oak Park Amphitheater and begins at 7:00pm. A big thank you to Overhead Door of Minot for sponsoring this summer's Yoga in the Park series!



For more information: Facebook/ Minot Parks/ Events

20 SEPT

MINOT OUT OF DARKNESS

COMMUNITY WALK

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Oak Park,

1300 4th Ave NW, Minot

Walk with us to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide! The Walks are an opportunity to find a supportive community of people who get it, to know you're not alone, and to make a difference together. Walks are between 1 to 3 miles and non-competitive. The route and additional information specific to the Minot Walk will be added closer to Walk day. Our program includes an opening ceremony, activities of hope and healing, resource tables, and complimentary honor beads for every participant. Activities open at 12:00 pm, and the opening ceremony starts at 1:00 pm. Dollars raised support AFSP fund mental health research, prevention education, advocacy, and support for loss survivors.



For more information: Facebook/ American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - North Dakota Chapter/ Events

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The Return of Paper, Pencils and Early Mornings

VERONICA KELLERMAN, NORTHERN SENTRY

There is something about the start of the 2026-2027 new school year that feels a little bittersweet. The backpacks are packed the night before the start of the week on August 18th.

The school supplies are bought months prior, the new shoes are tied just before heading out the door around 8:00 am, and suddenly the house is filled with the excitement and the chaos of another school year beginning.

For some moms, it is the excitement of sending their baby off to kindergarten. For others, it is watching a teenager begin another chapter. For most military families, a new school year can sometimes mean starting over in an entirely new place.

“I felt emotionally prepared for the start of the school year, although it is definitely a bittersweet and exciting milestone.” Explained Kauther Coffee, a mom sending her oldest child off to kindergarten, who felt excited and nervous all at once.

“I’m so proud of how much she has grown and the little person she is becoming, but seeing her start kindergarten makes me realize how quickly time has gone by.”

Coffee said five-year-old Nova Mae, “seems excited about starting kindergarten and is looking forward to making new friends, learning new things, and having new experiences. She expects there may be some normal first-day nerves, but overall, Nova Mae is excited and ready for this new adventure.”

“As her parent, I’m excited to support and encourage her as she begins this important new chapter,” Coffee said.

For mom Lisa Schafer, whose two boys are thirteen and eleven, the first day of school at Memorial Middle School doesn’t necessarily get easier. It just changes.

“This first week has honestly been

a pretty emotional one for us. They were in the German school system their entire lives, so transitioning them into American school was a HUGE change for all of us.”

“Their first day [of school on Minot AFB] was definitely a ‘holy crap, we actually made it’ moment for me. After everything it took to get them back here and get them settled, seeing them walk into their American school for the first time was incredibly emotional.”

For Schafer, the biggest part has been realizing that getting her kids settled physically was only the beginning.

Schafer realized that returning home was only the beginning, and adjusting emotionally to their new normal has been just as important as getting everyone physically settled.

“Starting over is part of our story.”

For another Minot AFB mom Monique McDonald, who is in the middle of a PCS to Texas, the beginning of a school year can bring a completely different set of emotions.

“Trying to manage a household while packing and my daughter starting middle school for a week and a half, then moving to start a new school a week later in Texas is overwhelming and hectic.” McDonald was thankful “to have a husband that helps tackle the challenges and handles the grunt work”

“My daughter wanted to start school here because she has developed solid friendships here in Minot. but her being with her friends and having as normal of a life as she could before we move was important to us as her parents.”

It is likely that many military moms understand that sentiment too.

Whether you have lived here your whole life or just arrived this summer, or the past seven years the

beginning of a school year gives all of us an opportunity to start fresh.

And maybe a little more patience with yourself, because while your children are learning and growing, so are you.

So, to the mom standing in the school drop-off line trying not to cry, the mom packing lunches before the sun comes up, the mom sending her teenager off with a quick “Have a good day” while secretly worrying about everything, and to the mom starting another chapter in a new place: you aren’t alone.

Take the pictures. Give the extra hugs. Let them pick the silly backpack, and when that first day finally comes, remember that you don’t have to have it all figured out. Neither do they. You’re both just beginning another year.

Sometimes, the best part of motherhood is getting to watch your children grow while realizing that you are growing right alongside them.



Mom, Lisa Schafer stands between her growing teen boys Nathan 13 and Jake 11. A memory captured of the start of new beginning in American schools.



The walk to remember. Nova takes her first steps, confidently into Kinder. While proud Mom, Kauther Coffee follows behind.



Brooke McDonald is starting middle school here on Minot AFB, and just a week and a half later, she'll be saying goodbye and starting over again in Texas as her family make their PCS move. She gets to start the journey with familiar faces and warm hearts.



Ariella nervously holds her moms hand as she stands in the drop off line, for her first day of Kindergarten.



5 Year Old Nova Mae prepares for her first day of Kindergarten.

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GLENBURN

BABY BOY BORN
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MINOT, ND

BABY GIRL BORN
AUGUST 14, 2026 TO:
MARIE AND ZACHARY BAROSS
MINOT, ND

BABY GIRL BORN
AUGUST 18, 2026 TO:
ANNAH MARIE DUPUY AND
JAMES DUPUY
SURREY, ND

BABY BOY BORN
AUGUST 19, 2026 TO:
ORIAN LEALIIFANO BOWMAN
AND GRAYDON BOWMAN
MINOT, ND

BABY GIRL BORN
AUGUST 19, 2026 TO:
KELSEY AND ANDREW RUDY
MINOT AFB

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

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Knighthawk Airmen Spotlight

SSgt Alex Kulac

SSgt Alex Kulac, an Avionics Craftsman who recently earned his qualification as a Dedicated Crew Chief for B-52H A0028 “The Tired Eagle.” Whether he’s on the flightline or at the hockey rink, SSgt Kulac is always ready to give his best.

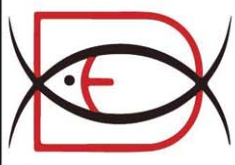
Originally arriving at Minot nearly 11 years ago, SSgt Kulac has built a career around supporting the B-52 mission. His passion for the aircraft is what inspired him to become a Dedicated Crew Chief. He says he always thought it would be rewarding to have his name on an aircraft, and now he proudly serves as the Dedicated Crew Chief for “The Tired Eagle.” For him, there isn’t much better than launching a B-52 and knowing he’s played a direct role in making the mission happen.

When the workday is over, you’ll likely find him on the ice with the Minot Air Force Base Hockey Team. Although he’s only been playing hockey for about three



years, the sport has become much more than a hobby. It’s given him the opportunity to build friendships across Team Minot, grow his network on base, and travel for tournaments with his teammates. From keeping bombers ready to Take Flight to representing Team Minot at the rink, SSgt Kulac continues to embody the dedication, teamwork, and pride that make the Knighthawks mission successful.





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PERFECTO AND THE CHICKEN

Kim Fundingsland

Sometimes deep, dark secrets in a person’s past silently chew on them enough to force a confession, rather than continuing to “bottle up” a troubled and agonizing truth. What follows, dear reader, is written with the belief that revealing a long-held secret that has tormented me for years will relieve me from further internal suffering and recurring nightmares. The description of events is entirely factual, other than a few minor details understandably muddled by the excruciating strain of recalling a very unpleasant episode. Perhaps a warning is appropriate here too, as some of what I am about to reveal is somewhat graphic in nature. Now that I’ve cleverly set the hook to capture your attention, please read on.

The year of this unfortunate incident shall remain a secret, mostly because I can’t recall it with any precision. So, the distant past or several years ago will have to suffice. Anyway, what really matters is the content which I am about to publicly reveal for the first time. Here goes. Several years ago, when I was a television reporter doing a year-long series of stories on historical people, places, and events in North Dakota, I came across the name of George Perfecto Baye in an old newspaper. Intriguing, I thought, but further investigation into Perfecto uncovered little. Nuts.

As my good fortune would have it, a month or so after giving up on creating a genuinely interesting story about Perfecto, whoever he was, I recalled a man who had politely invited me to hunt on his private land. Since it was now pheasant season, I called him to inquire if his invitation still stood to hunt on his property closed to all others.

Before I could inject the reason for my phone call he began talking about my historical series on television. Then, to my complete shock and surprise, he mentioned George Perfecto Baye. I’d forgotten about Perfecto and had long since shelved the story. Huh?

Without any prompting from me, he proceeded to detail the life of Perfecto before dropping a complete stunner – George Perfecto Baye used to live in a small cabin on his land and he would like to show me the site. Wow! Incredible luck! Then he added, “Bring your shotgun and dog. There are pheasants everywhere.”

That’s the ticket! Not only would I get an exclusive on George Perfecto Baye, but I would be able to hunt a favorite bird on land closed to all others. The offer was quickly accepted.

I drove into his farmyard a day or so later with my Brittany “Dandy” seated next to me. Against the back side of the barn, which was visible from the entrance road, I noticed a large pile of chicken feathers, evidence of recent butchering.

Not seeing any chickens or other animals roaming the property, I let Dandy out to run a bit and knocked on the farmhouse door. I was greeted with a powerful handshake from a very friendly man who graciously invited me inside for a cup of coffee and a generous wedge of homemade pie. It was my favorite – junberry.

After a lengthy and infinitely informative and friendly conversation he stood up and said, “Let’s go to Perfecto’s place.” With that I headed for the door, grabbing my jacket off a hook located in the entryway.

As I opened the door, and my host was right behind me taking his coat off a hook, I saw Dandy sitting proudly on the porch with a chicken in her mouth. Yikes! I’m doomed! I understood the killing of farm animals of any size is a heinous act, regardless of circumstances. I had visions of being buried up to my neck next to an anthill if discovered. Oh, what to do?

My host, whose view was blocked by this writer’s presence, said, “I’ll be right out. I have to get my hat.” With that, he turned and walked back into the house.

Quickly, I had Dandy drop the chicken into my hand. The chicken’s head was hanging but its feet were still kicking. I tossed that bird into the feather pile next to the barn just as my wonderful host was emerging from the house, a broad western hat on his head.

As we climbed into his old pickup truck, dog too, my eyes were fixed on the pile of feathers and assorted chicken parts, fearful that Dandy’s chicken would come wandering out any moment and greatly change the demeanor of my kind host.

Driving across some broken pastureland bordering a wooded creek bottom, he brought the pickup to a halt. “Here it is. This is where Perfecto lived for years,” he said. There was some evidence of a cabin still visible, foundation and the like, but the walls were completely gone. My host pointed out a small stream, not more than a foot wide, that ran very close to the cabin site. It was from that tiny stream, he said, that Perfecto drew water for his cabin.

Then he showed me a scrapbook containing some old, yellow newspaper clippings about George Perfecto Bay. The aged articles confirmed Perfecto had quite a reputation as a roper in early day Dakota, winning at rodeos and performing rope tricks at schools and fairs and similar venues.

A short time later I was shown the location of the best pheasant hunting on the property. My thoughts again turned to the chicken that would likely be limping around the farmyard when we returned to the house to get my vehicle and commence a few hours of hunting.

I’m sure I had a few nonsensical stories made up as an explanation for a wounded chicken but was grateful I never had to blurt out such unbelievable garbage. That previously healthy chicken was still in the feather pile. How long it remained there, or when it was discovered, I cannot say. I wasn’t about to inquire either. In fact, I never spoke to or crossed paths with my fine host again.

There, dear reader, is the truth about an egregious incident that has haunted me for years. I feel better already. There’s comfort in knowing I have confessed to the sordid affair.

For all you sleuths wondering where these events unfolded, I leave you with one clue – George Perfecto Baye.



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SUDOKU SOLUTION

PUZZLE ON PAGE B3

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

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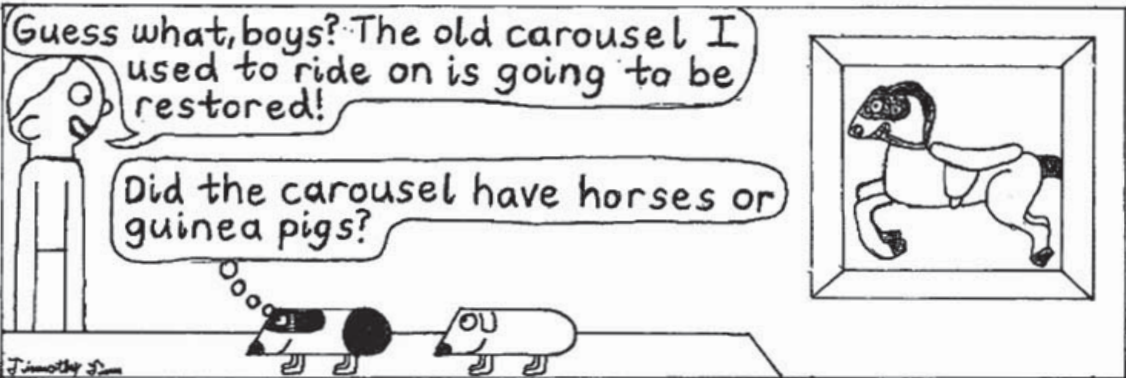
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Timothy Timm of Minot currently attends Minot State University, is a Minot High School graduate, artist, cartoonist, author and illustrator. Timm has also created other works of art that are on display in his art studio downtown located at 201 Main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

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How Military Communities Become Family

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

In military communities, neighbors are often much more than the people living in the house next door. They can become trusted friends, an extra set of eyes on the neighborhood and over time even family.

Military life has a way of bringing people together. Families arrive at new duty stations knowing they may only be there for a few years and the people living nearby can quickly become an important part of their support system. While civilian neighbors may exchange a wave or a friendly hello, military families often find themselves relying on one another in ways that go much deeper.

On a military base, people see families come and go. Some neighbors become friends, while others become the kind of people who feel like family long after one of them receives orders to move somewhere else.

Sometimes, a neighbor is also a coworker. Other times, it is the person who checks in when a spouse is away at the field or on a mission. It may be the neighbor who watches for a package, keeps an eye on the house or sends a quick text to let someone know the garage door was left open or the kids accidentally left a side door unlocked. Those



Samantha Babcock and Stephanie Johnson, a friendship that began as neighbors, survived military orders, and is soon to be reunited. Some friendships truly stand the test of time.

small acts of kindness can make a significant difference during the challenges of military life.

For some families, the relationship with a neighbor becomes so close that they become part of one another's background checks or family care plans. Trust develops through everyday moments, sharing a meal, helping with children, checking on a home or simply being there when someone needs a

familiar face.

Erin Beene remembers that kind of connection from the very beginning of her military-spouse journey. "The very first military spouse I ever met was our duplex neighbor at my first base almost 17 years ago. She came over with a plate of cookies one day and invited me to go sledding."

What started with cookies and an invitation to go sledding grew into a friendship that has lasted nearly two decades. Today Erin shared that they are still "BFFs" and she even flew down to celebrate her 40th birthday and they have girls' trips frequently.

For Samantha Babcock, having a great neighbor has also made military life feel a little easier. "It can really make life so much better if you love your neighbors, and we sure hit the jackpot with her neighbor, Stephanie Johnson!" Samantha shared.

Although military orders can eventually separate even the closest neighbors, those friendships often continue long after a move. For Samantha and Stephanie, they won't have to wait much longer, the two friends will soon be reunited.



Neighbors by chance, friends by choice. Image: Chelsea Raley

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A whole street of strangers who became family and built their own little village on Siesta.

On Siesta, Chelsea Raley said her neighborhood has become its own community. “We hit the neighbor jackpot here on Siesta! Our group has turned into a real village!” Chelsea shared. “Between daily hangs, impromptu potlucks, and all of our kids running around together, we’re constantly looking out for each other. They say it takes a village. I’m so glad we found ours.”

That village mentality is one of the things that can make military communities unique. With deployments, temporary duty assignments, training exercises and frequent moves, military families often understand the importance of having people nearby who simply get it.

Neighbors may be the ones who notice when someone has had a difficult week. They may be the people who step in when a spouse is gone, invite a family over for dinner or make sure no one spends a holiday alone. For military families, the right neighbors can make or break the experience at a duty station. A house can be just a house, but the people surrounding it can turn it into a home.

In the end, military life may be defined by movement, but the friendships built along the way can become some of its most lasting memories. A neighbor may start as

a stranger across the street, but with a little kindness, a plate of cookies, a shared potluck or a helping hand, that person can become part of the family.

As a military spouse, a special shout-out goes to my awesome neighbor, Madison Kennon, who always calls or texts when the dog gets out, shares conversations from across the street, joins in for ladies’ nights, brunch, and most of all, has become a wonderful friend. Thank you for your friendship and for making the neighborhood feel a little more like home.

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WOODLAND RESORT

OUTDOOR

REPORT



by Patricia Stockdill

Lake Sakakawea elevation, Aug. 24: 1,825.31 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 17,200 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Devils Lake elevation: 1,450.16 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Stump Lake elevation: 1,449.86 MSL.

•N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: Not much activity on north-central area lakes. Generally tougher walleye bite on Devils Lake as fish transition into fall.

•Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Late summer bite becoming tougher for walleye with most fish on the smaller size. Overall fair success, though, with anglers working harder for larger fish. Look at fall techniques, including vertical jigging along the bridges or slip-bobbers along the weed beds. Some trolling success, yet.

•Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Continued bluegill activity with some nice-sized walleye showing up.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Walleye going into deeper water on the east end of Lake Sakakawea. Try a variety of presentations and move around.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Walleye activity slowed somewhat on the east end of Lake Sakakawea. Try 27 to 37 feet with slow death hooks and minnows or nightcrawlers. Improving salmon success along the south side. Good smallmouth bass bite on Lake Audubon with walleye activity in deeper water, 30 feet or more, beyond the weed beds.

•Lake Sakakawea, Indian Hills Resort, Garrison: Steady walleye bite with some reports of fish moving into 17 to 25 feet from deeper water.

•Lake Sakakawea, New Town: Continued fair walleye activity in the Van Hook Arm. Work a variety of depths, from shallow to 20-plus

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:

- Anglers are reminded to keep fish taken from depths of 25 feet and more.
- N.D. Dept. of Environmental Quality issued blue-green algae advisory for Lake Darling (Renville Co.), Lake Brekken (McLean Co.), and Devils Lake (Ramsey and Benson counties). Use caution and go to their for information and safety precautions, (deq.nd.gov/WQ).
- Aug. 28: Movie in the Park, Twisters, Oak Park, 9:30 p.m.
- Aug. 28: Lace up for Literacy 5K Run/Walk, Leach Park, 2400 2nd Ave SW, \$25 entry fee, 6 p.m.
- Sept. 1: Dove season opens.
- Sept. 2: Fall turkey applications due.
- Sept. 5: Archery deer season opens.
- Sept. 5: Mountain lion season opens.
- Sept. 5: Evening Hike Series, Lantern Hike along its perimeter trails with paper lanterns, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison, 8:30 p.m.

TOURNAMENTS:

- Aug. 27 – 29: Lake Sakakawea, Fort Stevenson State Park.

feet with fish scattered.

•Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook Bait & Tackle, New Town: Van Hook Arm continues producing walleye from the middle of the Arm to the south. Work deep but keep anything caught in 25 feet and deeper. Try jigging Raps off the bottom or heavy bottom bouncers with nightcrawlers.

•Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace remains slow for walleye with better catfish success. Best bite is in the chutes in dark hours after sundown. Try evening hours casting crankbaits from shore for walleye. East end of Lake Sakakawea remains tough for walleye. Anglers are locating fish but they're not active. Try vertical jigging or spinners and bottom bouncers. Work 80 to 100 feet for some nice-sized salmon using a variety of techniques. Look for continued improving success as they move to spawn.

•Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Low water levels on Lake Sakakawea could result in fewer access points on the upper end of the lake this fall. Best walleye activity remains around New Town and Van Hook Arm in 40 to 60 feet with jigging Raps. Keep all fish taken from that depth, however. Spotty success working west of New Town. Kota-Ray Dam continues producing bluegill and a few rainbow trout. Pike activity remains on Blacktail Dam with some bass success.

•North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: Limited reports from throughout area lakes.

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

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- Registration Closes: Twin Cities Trip, Outdoor Recreation
- NCO Foundations Course 500, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP DOL Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- 3rd Quarter Birthday Meal, 1630-1800, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Karaoke Battle, 1730, Rockers Bar & Grill

MONDAY31

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Quarterly Food Service Advisory Board, 1300, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Palace Chase/Front Briefing, 1400, Professional Development Center

FRIDAY04

- AFGSC Family Day
- For a full listing of Labor Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com
- Registration Closes: Operation Heroes, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FA4AD23A2F8C34-64817602-operation#/>
- Twin Cities Trip, hosted by Outdoor Recreation

SATURDAY29

- Club Championship, 0800, Rough Rider Golf Course

TUESDAY01

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Elevate Your Relationship, 1200-1600, M&FRC
- Quiet Book Club, 1800-1930, Minot AFB Library

SATURDAY05

- For a full listing of Labor Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com
- Twin Cities Trip, hosted by Outdoor Recreation
- Chess Club, 1200-1400, Minot AFB Library

SUNDAY30

- Club Championship, 0800, Rough Rider Golf Course
- Sunday Escapes Book Club, 1330, Base Library

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WEDNESDAY02

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Investing 101, 0900-1000, M&FRC
- National Preparedness Month Storytime, 1030, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Brown Bag Book Talk, 1200, Base Library
- Elevate Your Relationship, 1200-1600, M&FRC

THURSDAY03

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Home Buying Seminar, 1300-1500, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center

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