

91ST MISSILE WING
SEPTEMBER
SQUADRON
OF THE
MONTH



91ST MISSILE SECURITY
OPERATIONS SQUADRON

WHAT'S INSIDE
THIS WEEK:

25TH ANNIVERSARY
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001
We will never forget
2001 • 2026

25 YEARS AFTER 9/11:
A DAY THAT CHANGED
AMERICA FOREVER

A LEGACY THAT
LIVES ON:
ANN NICOLE NELSON
HALL

A2

A5



PARENTS &
STUDENTS TRY
ON CAP-
CIVIL AIR
PATROL HOLDS
OPEN HOUSE

B9



Minot Air Force Base leadership delivers the game ball by UH-1N Iroquois helicopter during the Prairie Warrior Bowl at Minot State University, Sept. 3, 2026. The special delivery showcased the partnership between Team Minot and the Minot State community while adding an Air Force touch to game day. See more from the event on page B6.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | AIRMAN FIRST CLASS ANTHONY RAMEY



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MONTHLY MEETING

(Third Tuesday of Each Month)

Tuesday, September 15

1200, Bomber Bistro (Back Room), Minot AFB

Looking for all AFA members, and potential AFA members.

For more information contact:

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25 Years After 9/11: A Day That Changed America Forever

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY



New York City Manhattan downtown skyline at night with the Tribute in Light in memory of September 11.

If someone is old enough to remember September 11, 2001, chances are they remember exactly where they were when it happened. They remember being glued to the television as the nation watched the World Trade Center towers burn. They saw the Pentagon come under attack and the story of Flight 93 unfold in Pennsylvania. They watched as America changed in real time.

For those serving in the military, the attacks carried an even deeper meaning. September 11 transformed the way the military operated and changed how an entire generation understood the commitment they had made when they raised their right hand.

For Master Sergeant (Ret) Theo Toliver, that realization came at Minot Air Force Base. Toliver had joined the military less than a year earlier and was assigned to what was then the 741st Missile Security Forces Squadron. On the morning of September 11, he walked out of his dorm room and into the day room for what was supposed to be a training day.

In the day room a television was showing breaking news that

an airplane had struck one of the World Trade Center towers. At first, there was confusion about what had happened. Then Toliver watched the second airplane strike the other tower live on television. “I left the building because I had to get to training, but all I could see from the moment I walked out was people running, just chaos,” Toliver recalled.

When he entered the Security Forces building, the mission had changed. Airmen were told to arm up and prepare to be posted throughout the base. Toliver and other Security Forces members remained in the vehicle barn for weeks, prepared and ready to support operations. “We didn’t leave the base for months”, said Toliver.

Minot AFB went into Force Protection Condition Delta, the highest level of force protection. Toliver’s unit also helped fill in for the 5th Security Forces Squadron by providing additional security posts throughout the installation. When members weren’t out in the missile field they were helping on the installation to fill manning needs.

For a young Airman who had only recently joined the military, the seriousness of the moment became very real. Toliver remembered being scared and thinking he might actually have to give his life for his country.

Like many young people entering the military, Toliver originally joined for the benefits and opportunities the service provided. But after September 11, “I stayed for different reasons,” he said.

Before 9/11, some young Airmen may have understood the significance of wearing the uniform but perhaps never expected they would actually be called upon to defend the country. Suddenly, the possibility of war was no longer an abstract idea. “Everything changed from there,” Toliver said. “Procedures, our lives, everything.”

The change was felt not only by service members, but also by their families.

5th Mission Support Group Deputy Director (Retired Lt Col) Bruce Bartholomew and his wife Christine were living through their own experience of the attacks. He was attending Air Command

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Retired MSgt Theo Toliver serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 2009, as part of the military operations that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. His deployment reflects a generation of military service shaped by the events of 9/11.



Lt Col (Ret) Bartholomew and classmates at Air Command & Staff College during the 9/11 attacks.



25 years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks America still stands to honor and remember the lives lost that day.

and Staff College at Maxwell AFB in Alabama when the attacks occurred.

Initially, Bartholomew and his classmates thought the crash could have been an accident. Then the first tower collapsed and military officials were directing students to leave the installation and head home.

His wife, Christine, was at home with their children, including their six-week-old daughter, when she saw the second plane strike. She recalled thinking that this was a terrorist attack before it was ever said. The following morning, a routine appointment for the newborn demonstrated how quickly life had changed. Security measures at the base had been dramatically increased, turning what would normally have been a short trip to the hospital into three hours of waiting at checkpoints. Her vehicle was searched numerous times, along with the baby's diaper bag.

For military members, the years that followed brought increased deployments and a prolonged period of conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Although Minot was considered a deployed-in-place location and many members stationed there did not deploy, Toliver later deployed to Afghanistan while stationed at Nellis Air Force Base.

Bartholomew also saw the aftermath of 9/11 shaped military operations. While stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base in 2003, Bruce became involved in the deployment of B-2 bombers to Diego Garcia in support of the Shock & Awe operation in Iraq.

The 9/11 attacks also changed how Americans viewed military service and influenced why some people chose to join. There was a noticeable increase in patriotism across the country, with American flags appearing on homes, businesses and vehicles and communities rallying behind service members.

Twenty-five years later, many of today's young Airmen have no personal memory of September 11. Some were not yet born when the attacks occurred. Because of that, Toliver believes that makes it even more important for veterans to share their experiences. "Young Airmen need to understand why they signed up because unfortunately something could happen, and they need to be ready," he said.

For those who lived through September 11, the significance of the attacks goes beyond the images preserved in history books and television archives. It was the day Americans watched an attack unfold on their own soil. It was the day military service took on a different meaning for an entire generation.

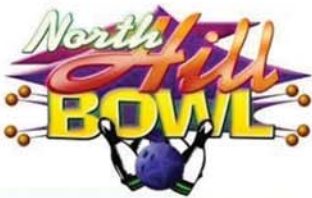
And for veterans such as MSgt (Ret) Theo Toliver and Lt Col (Ret) Bruce Bartholomew, 25 years later, it remains a reminder of the responsibility that comes

with wearing the uniform. The memories have not disappeared with time. They have become stories passed from one generation of service members to the next.

To the families who lost someone on September 11, 2001, the country remembers with you. Their lives mattered. Their stories matter. Their sacrifice matters. Twenty-

five years may have passed, but the promise remains the same; We remember. We honor. We will never forget.

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Men

TUESDAY (9/22)

- 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY (9/23)

- 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY (9/23)

- 7:00 PM

Mixed

SUNDAY (9/20)

- 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY (9/23)

- 7:00 PM

FRIDAY (9/18)

- 6:30 PM

THURSDAY (9/17)

- 9 PIN NO-TAP
- 14 WEEK SEASON
- 7:00 PM

Youth

SATURDAY (9/19)

- 9:30 AM
- REGISTRATION AND START 9/19
- AGES 5 AND UP
- BUMPER LEAGUE AVAILABLE

THURSDAY (9/17)

- 3:45 PM
- AGES 7 AND UP

SUNDAY (9/20)

- 6:00 PM
- AGES 12 AND UP

MONDAY (9/21)

- 5:00 PM
- AGES 12 AND UP

Women

TUESDAY (9/22)

- 6:30 PM

THURSDAY (9/17)

- 6:30 PM

THURSDAY (9/17)

- 1:00 PM
- 3 PERSON TEAMS
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Seniors

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WEDNESDAY (9/16)

- 10:00 AM

FRIDAY (9/18)

- 1:00 PM

MEN'S & WOMEN LEAGUES WILL HAVE A LEAGUE MEETING THE WEEK BEFORE START DATE!

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Never Too Old...



A VIEW FROM OUR SIDE
ROD WILSON

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SERIOUSLY...YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE THIS!

As our summer winds its way toward fall, we took the opportunity of a nice summer-like evening this weekend to kindle a campfire and enjoy S'mores. Once the campfire had turned into the perfect S'more fire—lots of hot red coals and very little open flame—out came the roasting forks, the marshmallows, graham crackers, and Hershey's chocolate bars.

What's that saying about never too old to learn new tricks? My son's girlfriend arrived at the picnic table with a new ingredient for tonight's S'mores: a package of Reese's Peanut Butter Cup candy bars. Her declaration that "our family has always made S'mores with Reese's Peanut Butter Cups" convinced us that it was certainly worth changing the recipe for tonight's late evening snack.

I have always been a fan of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. They kind of fall in the same category as bacon and ranch dressing in that they are one of those items that is a for sure when added to a recipe.

The process of crafting S'mores on this night was pretty much the same. Marshmallows toasted to a golden brown, but in place of the normal Hershey's candy bar was a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup, placed between two halves of a normal-sized graham cracker. The first bite was something just short of awesome. WOW! Where have I been for all these years? This was indeed a recipe, while maybe not



UPSIDE DOWN UNDER
MARVIN BAKER

We can't deny that through the month of July, North Dakota's drought was getting worse as the days got shorter. Some emergencies had been declared.

Three weeks back a lot of us got soaking rain which helped, but wasn't nearly enough to nullify all drought conditions. Sure, the grass was greener since that rain, but if you tried to dig into the ground, notice how hard the soil had become.

A week later bam, another soaking rain as if it was mid June. Some places recorded 5 and 8 inches of rain in one event. Does that kind of thing ever happen in August? Then one last blast on Aug. 29 to end August with plentiful precipitation.

We aren't strangers to drought conditions or heavy rain. As you know, North Dakota is cyclical.

completely replacing the original S'more recipe, that would at least be offered as an option.

I only warn you that you may want to control the number of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups brought to your summer campfires for S'more making, because it's really hard not to turn down a second or even a third round.

There's still a lot of nice fall evenings ahead. Give this recipe a try. It's one of those "for sure" recipes, something like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

THOSE NEW PHONES ARE AMAZING, TOO...

It had turned completely dark at our campfire when someone noticed that there was a rustle in the bushes about 50 yards away, and then two—well, actually two pairs of—eyes appeared from the shelterbelt. A pair of deer, kind of looking like maybe younger whitetails, were watching us from a distance.

We could just barely see their shapes, but taking a lesson from our Northern Lights experiences, I picked up my smart phone and, sure enough, the image that my phone produced was much better than what we could see with the naked eye.

My curiosity piqued, and I decided to try a photo. The only caveat, as far as I could tell, was that my phone prompted me to hold as steady as I could for 10 seconds. Then, without a flash, the photo was finished. And the results were again amazing.

My friends often show me their photos from trail cameras strategically placed to monitor the movement of deer during the fall hunting season, but those photos are normally fairly close. These two youngsters were at a distance. I have included the photo that my phone produced as a "hey, give it a try...you never know" challenge.

AND 25 YEARS LATER

From the glow of a campfire and the surprise of a phone camera, the week also brings us to a much quieter kind of remembering.

It was a cloudy morning in Minot on September 11th, 2011. We had a business meeting scheduled in our conference room at 8:30 AM. In the busyness of the day, we had not bothered to take the

Sometimes we get a "monsoon," and other times we want to do something so drastic as washing our car so it will rain.

When we look at agriculture across the state, now is the time farmers want dry conditions so they can get their grains harvested. Unfortunately, the timing couldn't have been worse to get the most welcome rain of the summer. It certainly stalled wheat and barley harvest. But, as one producer said, "the rain is nice, but it's too late."

A few weeks ago, I was back in Emmons County and as soon as I stepped out of my vehicle; grasshoppers, lots of little grasshoppers were all over the prairie. That was a little creepy as I hadn't seen anything like that since the summer of 1989 which was a hot and dry summer.

Honestly, grasshoppers can be worse than drought itself because if things are bad enough, the grasshoppers will eat whatever is in front of them. It's probably too late in the season for them to do any serious damage now, although any damage to vulnerable crops and pastureland is too much.

We've had grasshopper problems before as well and we got through it. These problems come and go as they always have. But the odd part of it is, while there appears to be an infestation in Emmons County, in numerous other counties you have



time to turn on the large television in our reception area. I walked past the front desk on the way to my office, and our administrative assistant was standing looking at the television with the remote still in her hand. Almost in a whisper, she said, "Oh my God."

The first plane had hit the twin towers at 7:46 AM, almost 30 minutes earlier. Our clients arrived at 8:30 AM, and we all stood and watched in disbelief as the tragic story of 9/11 unveiled itself right before our eyes. The second tower, then the Pentagon, and finally a voice in the room that had stood silent for almost 30 minutes said, "Perhaps we should re-schedule our meeting for another day?"

The pieces of girders and concrete that form the 9/11 Memorial at the Peace Garden don't show the whole story, but instead they cause people to pause, and if they were alive on September 11, 2001, remember that day, and more specifically the minute or minutes when they

became aware of this horrific event. It was beyond surreal. It couldn't be true...and no one expected the outcome to be as terrible as it was.

I read a short article that gives me fear because it talks about how events like Pearl Harbor, D-Day, and, in that same category, 9/11, are chronicled in our history books and don't show the emotion and the realism of the day. For the friends and families of the 2,977 who perished as a result of 9/11, and Americans who were alive on that day, it is still so very real, even 25 years later.

RAMBLIN'S

If your Saturday isn't planned out, there's still time to head for the Downtown Minot Fall Festival. Starts at 10 AM and goes until 4:00 PM. More details on downtownminot.org.

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

Wisdom is what you can attain if you survive all the times you were stupid.

Did our months get mixed up?

to search for them.

Going into September, this drought is somewhat different than in years past. The southern counties bordering Montana have extreme drought, which isn't too far out of the ordinary, but all of Cass and all of Traill, most of Barnes counties and parts of Richland, Griggs and Steele, that's odd because those counties normally have ample moisture.

The other anomaly here is where there isn't drought. A good portion of Dickey County is good with only the northern townships being abnormally dry. The other spot is in the northwest. Northern Divide, northern Burke, northern Renville and the northwest corner of Bottineau County all had ample moisture.

Another unusual part about this drought is that a good portion of the southwest was in a severe drought, which you wonder why sometimes because there have been good thunderstorms across the southern tier this summer.

My best guess is the heat. Thank goodness it is mostly over for the summer, but we had two periods with extreme heat, coupled with zero moisture and moderate wind. Plants dry up very quickly in that environment. And yes, numerous locations hit or exceeded 100 degrees Fahrenheit during those two heat domes.

Bismarck and Watford City officially peaked at 106 degrees this summer. Bismarck and Dickinson each had five days hit the 100 threshold, while Minot and Williston each had one day at 100 or higher.

On July 12, in Forsyth, Mont., near Miles City, recorded a temperature of 118 degrees. On that same day, it was actually hotter in eastern Montana than it was in Death Valley, almost always the benchmark for hot temperatures in the United States.

In late July, Vermillion, S.D., recorded a heat index of 131 degrees. Can you imagine that? I can because I have this quirky habit of going into my greenhouse when it's extremely hot to experience it. A couple of things happen when the temperature exceeds 130, plants can no longer sustain themselves and it hurts to breath at that temperature. I can stand it about a minute and I have to bail out. What I can't imagine is dealing with that for an entire day.

Now, it's looking like this winter will be an El Niño which is good news and bad. First, it normally makes our winter season much more tolerable than in routine years, but El Niño also is known for below-average precipitation, which is just what our farmers and ranchers don't need.



SHE'S NOT FROM AROUND HERE
AMY ALLENDER

I've gotten a surprising number of questions lately from parents asking where they can host a child's birthday party in Minot. Especially from families who are new to town or have recently PCSed here.

So many messages have come through I thought I'd take time to organize a few options for you right here.

This is by no means an exhaustive list. Minot has plenty of creative ways to celebrate a birthday. Rather, think of this as a starting point; a list to get your wheels spinning. I have experience with these options, and broke the list into categories so you can find one that might be right for you.

LET SOMEONE ELSE HANDLE IT

If your primary birthday-party goal is to have someone else do most of the work, Get Air Trampoline Park is hard to beat. We've both hosted and attended parties there, and it's easy to see why it's popular. The facility is fun for a wide range of ages, and the indoor play area they added last year made it even better. And grown-ups can stay to supervise at no extra charge to the party. Everything you need is

provided from food to jump socks for the kids.

For another low-hassle option, you can book a private movie showing at Oak Park Theater. The package includes the movie and popcorn, which means your entertainment and party treat are taken care of in one stop.

SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT

For an active party that's outside the box, Shots Fired Paintball is worth knowing about.

A close friend recently hosted her son's 10th birthday party there and raved about how easy it was. In addition to traditional paintball, they offer gel blasters—paintball-style guns that shoot soft water-beads. They're considerably less painful when you get hit and can work for a wider range of ages. We went with kids as young as 5 and adults, and everyone it was fun for all.

The staff is highly responsive to questions, sets up the games, explains how everything works and even referees the action. Just keep in mind, this is an outdoor activity, so it's best for summer and fall parties.

For a completely different kind of party, Taube Museum of Art offers birthday packages for up to 12 children. You bring your own food, and the museum leads the kids through two or three age-appropriate art projects based on your party's theme.

DON'T OVERLOOK THESE OPTIONS

One of Minot's more unexpected party possibilities is a conference room at Hampton Inn & Suites

Minot Airport. You don't have to rent a hotel room. Instead, you can rent a conference room for a few hours or for the day, bring your food and gifts, and everyone attending gets access to the pool. Keep in mind, rental price is based on how many hours you book the room, and there is a limit on the number of guests.

The pool and hot tub are clean and appealing, making this a particularly fun option during colder months. There isn't a lifeguard, so adult supervision is required.

For a bigger groups, check out the seasonal Fun Zone at the Armory in the City Auditorium. Minot Parks offers the opportunity to rent the armory along with one of the Fun Zone inflatable bounce houses. The armory is a full-sized basketball gym, so there's plenty of room for additional activities, scooters, balls or whatever else you'd like to bring or do. You can bring your own food, and the rental price isn't based on the number of guests, making this a particularly useful option when you need lots of space, or are hosting lots of guests.

If you want something low-key, consider the library. You can rent a room, bring food and create your own party. A movie party with a rented or borrowed projector, or a board-game party using games from the library's collection, is fun without requiring much fuss.

Another party option for creative kids is Margie's Art Glass Studio. Party rentals include a keepsake for the guest of honor and space where everyone can create an object of their own choosing.

And finally, a great party doesn't

require you to leave home at all. Outdoor Recreation on base has a long list of items available to borrow, including bounce houses. The year we rented a bounce house for the back yard lives on as one of our sons' favorite parties ever.

So, if you're new to Minot and

staring at your child's birthday on the calendar, hopefully this gives you somewhere to start. And if you know of another great local birthday-party option, consider this your invitation to pass it along. There's always room for another good idea.

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A Legacy That Lives On: Ann Nicole Nelson Hall

VERONICA KELLERMAN, NORTHERN SENTRY

For more than two decades, Ann Nicole Nelson Hall has been more than a performance venue at Minot State University. It has been a place where music fills the room, performers take the stage, students learn, speakers share ideas and generations of community members gather together.

Located inside Minot State’s historic Old Main, the auditorium has been part of the university’s story for more than a century. According to Minot State University’s official history, the north auditorium opened in 1925 with seating for approximately 950 people, a balcony, wide stage and dressing rooms. It was later named McFarland Auditorium after Dr. George McFarland, the university’s third president and a strong supporter of the arts.

The auditorium entered a new chapter during Old Main’s \$8.6 million renovation between 2001 and 2003. The performance space received updated seating, an orchestra pit, modern lighting and other improvements while retaining the character of the historic building. But the most significant change was still to come.



Every person who walks through these doors adds another chapter.

VISIT MINOT PHOTO

College, Cambridge University in England and a study program in China. She traveled extensively and viewed the world as an opportunity to learn.

Ann was 30 years old when she died in the September 11, 2001 attacks while working as a



Her name lives on in every performance, every gathering, and every story shared here.

MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY PHOTO

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But for Minot, this hall carries a deeper meaning. Remembering one life. Honoring 2,977. Keeping Ann Nicole Nelson's legacy alive through generations.

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For decades, these seats have brought people together.

VISIT MINOT PHOTO

bond broker for Cantor Fitzgerald at the World Trade Center. Her parents' decision to memorialize her through an educational and performing arts venue reflected what they believed mattered most about her life, which was learning, experiencing the world, appreciating other people and continuing to grow.

The Nelson family also intended the hall to represent something larger than their own loss. According to the Minot Daily News, they hoped the auditorium would honor all those affected by September 11 and serve as a reminder that differences could be addressed through understanding and peaceful resolution.

One of the hall's most poignant symbols came from Ground Zero. According to the Nelson family's memorial website, Jenette received an iron cross made from steel recovered from the World Trade

Center site during a visit there in November 2001. An ironworker who learned that she had lost her daughter later returned with the handmade cross. The family eventually presented it to Minot State during the preview of the renovated auditorium.

Since its dedication, Ann Nicole Nelson Hall has continued to build its own legacy.

The first symphony performance in the newly dedicated hall took place February 2, 2003. Since then, the space has hosted countless concerts, theatrical productions, opera performances, university ceremonies, guest speakers and educational programs.

The hall remains an important home for the performing arts in Minot. In 2024, it hosted the 95th performance of Handel's Messiah, continuing a tradition that has connected generations of Minot musicians and singers with local

audiences.

In 2026, that legacy remains visible in the hall's continued role. The building is still an active stage rather than simply a memorial. This year, Ann Nicole Nelson Hall hosted university ceremonies, concerts and performing arts productions, including Minot State Theatre and Western Plains Opera's production of Chicago. It has also continued to serve as a gathering place for educational and community events. 20 years

after it was dedicated in Ann Nicole Nelson's memory, students are still performing on its stage, musicians are still filling the auditorium and community members are still gathering inside its walls.

Every student who performs on its stage, every musician who plays beneath its lights, every audience member who takes a seat and every person who enters for an event becomes part of the story the hall continues to write, and preserves the legacy of Anne

Nicole Nelson

Every performance adds another chapter to the legacy of Ann Nicole Nelson Hall, ensuring that her name remains connected not only to her own legacy, but also to the 2,977 lives lost in the September 11 attacks. What continues to be created, learned and shared within those walls will continue to live through every person who walks through those doors.

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WATCHING FOR THE WHITE TAILS
TIPS TO AVOID DEER COLLISIONS



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There is no doubt that the fall and winter seasons are the most common time for a person to hit a deer while driving, mainly because this is the time of year that deer are out looking for food. As with any other type of automobile accident, however, the good news is that there are many ways for you to prevent yourself from hitting a deer.

The steady increase in North Dakota’s deer population has been felt on vehicles as well as driver’s pocket books across the state. Vehicle mishaps involving deer strikes have had a steady increase of 34% since 2000. According to State Farm Insurance stats 1 in 136 vehicle operators will have a deer strike this winter season.

Typically the month of November has the highest number of deer strikes crashes. In 2018, there were approximately 31 per day in November. Deer strikes occur most often between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., and again in the evening from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

According to Linda Butts, NDDOT Deputy Director of Driver and Vehicle Services “Drivers should always wear a seat belt whether driving on a highway or a rural road, and need to be especially vigilant during the early morning and evening hours.”

Avoid Hitting a Deer By Driving Slow

If you want to avoid hitting a deer, the first thing that you will start doing is driving slow - or at least slower than usual. The main reason is because

you will be more likely to slam on the breaks and bring the car to a stop before your car comes close to hitting the deer. You will allow yourself more time to react to a deer crossing the road when you drive slower than if you were to drive faster. Following speed limits, or doing lower than the speed limit in areas where you know that deer may be spotted frequently, is one of the best ways to prevent hitting a deer this winter.

Avoid Hitting a Deer By Using High Beams

It is important to keep in mind that using your high beams is not allowable in certain areas, such as highways or main roads, however, there are many areas where you still can use your high beams, such as secluded back roads or wooded areas - which are both places where deer enjoy hiding out. The reason that using your high beams is likely to help you prevent hitting a deer is because you will be able to see further away than if you used your headlights alone. This will give you much more time to react and to be aware of the fact that a deer is crossing the road in front of you.

One of the best ways to prevent hitting a deer is to avoid distractions. This includes talking on a cell phone or fumbling with the cd player while you are driving. As with any other type of car accident, you will be giving yourself less time, if any time, to react to situation when you have too many distractions

going on at once. If you really want to prevent hitting a deer this winter, you will want to allow yourself that extra reaction time by being aware of what you are doing, without distractions.

These are just some of the things that you can do to prevent hitting a deer this winter. Unfortunately, there are situations in which hitting a deer is entirely inevitable. If you do feel like you are about to hit a deer, the best thing that you can do for yourself and your automobile is just hit it. The main reason is because more injuries and deaths occur from those who choose to swerve, ultimately landing themselves wrapped around a tree, telephone poll or even another vehicle. Although your car may have some damage, it is likely that the injuries you may face from hitting a deer will not be half as bad as if you had swerved.

If you hit a deer, you are to contact law enforcement to report the crash if the damage is over \$1,000. Remove the deer to the side of the roadway if it is safe to do so. If you are unable to do so, law enforcement will move the deer.

If the deer is a traffic hazard and you can’t move it to the side of the road, and law enforcement isn’t involved, you may contact the NDDOT district office in Minot at 837-7625, or North Dakota State Radio at 1.800.472.2121 so they can make arrangements to remove the deer.

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What they do: Heating and A/C systems work to keep your vehicle cabin warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The A/C system also serves a double function of operating your defrost in the wintertime. Heating systems are made up of a heating system core that acts like a small radiator behind the dash, fan, and hoses that run the heat energy from the engine to the center. Air conditioning systems operate similarly, by delivering coolant to the fan to blow cool air in the cabin. Unlike house cooling and heating systems, your heater and A/C don’t entirely run off electrical elements, however they utilize the engine’s heat and the engine’s cooling abilities to alter the temperature level.

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

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

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

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

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

- Evaluating the interior and blower
- Examining radiator coolant level, hose pipes, pressure cap and thermostat
- Examining the compressor belt
- Examining for leakages or other damages.
- A cooling system pressure test
- Contrasting the air conditioning pressure to producer requirements
- Screening the A/C system for refrigerant leakages
- Examine the interior vent air temperature

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ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

Things can be two things at once. A person can be a military spouse and still have ambitions of their own, while also caring about their spouse, other military spouses, and military families. Just because one thing is true doesn't mean something else can't also be true. This is evident in realtor, military spouse, and Minot PCS Pay It Forward Ambassador, Sarah Kotecki.

Sarah came to Minot in 2024 with her active-duty spouse, Technical Sergeant Nicholas Kotecki of the 69th Bomb Squadron. The couple trekked from Alaska to get here, so they were used to the cold, but they weren't used to the small-town vibe. Sarah explained that in Alaska, it was like a tourist town, and every weekend it felt to her like they could go out and do "this once-in-a-lifetime experience." They loved it, but they have also come to embrace the small-town and slower-paced life that Minot offers.

Once here, after purchasing their home off base and settling in, Sarah realized there was a need for someone to help guide military families on their way to Minot. There is so much to learn about this place, and any PCS can be confusing, so people need help. So Sarah signed on to be the Minot PCS Pay It Forward Ambassador.

PCS Pay It Forward is an established organization with chapters at many military installations all over the country. Their goal is to be the face of incoming PCS moves and to be a person there for incoming families. Most of their chapters are led by a local realtor who is experienced in the ins and outs of not only moving for the military, but also the nuances of buying and selling around the VA loan and other military options, as well as the local area.

Sarah became a realtor several years ago after she and her husband purchased a home and realized how many hoops there were to jump through. She decided she wanted to be someone who could help others navigate the process, especially since buying a home is one of the biggest purchases people make in their lives.

That brought her to where she is now: leading the Minot PCS Pay

It Forward group on Facebook. Sarah admitted that, yes, the page exists partially to help homebuyers find her, a quality realtor who specializes in VA loans, but it also exists to simply guide new families in general, which is something she is passionate about.

Sarah mentioned that one of her favorite parts of the group is the free Personalized PCS Plan she creates for anyone coming to Minot AFB. She said each plan is highly personalized to the individual or family and contains information pertinent to their specific situation. For example, if a family is coming with lots of kids, Sarah makes sure to include information about school districts. If they are coming with pets, she includes links and information about the best veterinarians to contact.

On the Facebook group page, she says, “My goal is to get to know you, your family, your timeline, and what’s most important about your

move. From there, I'll customize the plan you see here to connect you with the resources, information, and local insights that actually fit your situation...I'm here to help make your move to Minot a little easier."

Ultimately, whether someone is looking to see what they could do with their VA loan and buy a home, or just wants some information about the best restaurants in town, Sarah is there to help.

She said, "My main passion is to help people sort through all the internet fluff of what's out there when it comes to a PCS and get the info they really need."

Overall, Sarah is proving that people can co-exist as both someone who genuinely wants to help others and someone who hopes to grow their business. It doesn't have to be one or the other in this world. And when it comes down to it, having one more person in Minot willing to help others out is really what we all need.



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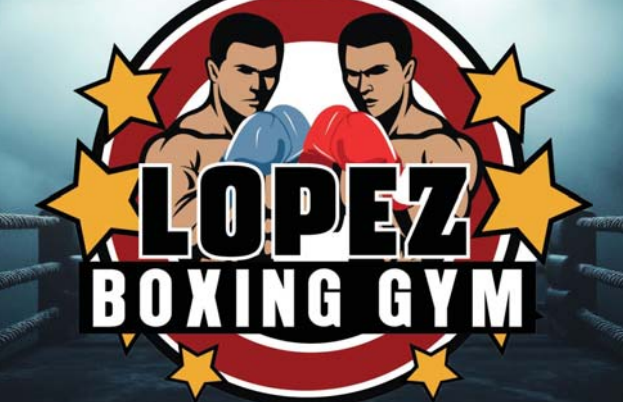
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SUDOKU PUZZLE

Solution to puzzle on page B10

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution to last weeks crossword

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- Across
- 1. Hollywood award
 - 6. Memorable times
 - 10. Sky light
 - 14. Snoozer's sound
 - 15. Opposite of fem.
 - 16. Luau dance
 - 17. Term of endearment
 - 19. Leprechaun land
 - 20. Help a hoodlum
 - 21. Playground reply
 - 22. Playground game
 - 23. Possesses
 - 25. Final tallies
 - 28. Washington Irving character Crane
 - 32. Doily material
 - 33. Deer mom
 - 34. Gives the cold shoulder to
 - 37. Longish skirts
 - 40. Rub out with rubber
 - 42. Actor Gibson
 - 43. Dote on
 - 44. Ohio city
 - 45. Oyster product
 - 47. Delivery vehicle
 - 48. Diplomacy
 - 50. Saturday + Sunday
 - 52. City road
 - 54. Credit application number: Abbr.
 - 55. Cheering word
 - 56. Of high ideals
 - 59. Husband of a British countess
 - 63. French money
 - 65. Term of endearment
 - 67. On the peak of
 - 68. Electrified swimmers
 - 69. Music symbols
 - 70. Something owed
 - 71. "Doggone it!"
 - 72. Curvy letters

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				
70						71					72			

- Down
- 1. Workplace safety agcy.
 - 2. Snooty type
 - 3. Ice-cream holder
 - 4. Soul singer Franklin
 - 5. "The Bridge of San Luis _"
 - 6. Flightless birds
 - 7. Talk wildly
 - 8. Wide tie
 - 9. Instructional institution
 - 10. That girl
 - 11. Term of endearment
 - 12. Fictitious name
 - 13. Called up
 - 18. American buffalo
 - 24. Attendance-book notation
 - 26. Mexican foods
 - 27. Battery fluid
 - 28. Notion
 - 29. Wine-bottle stopper
 - 30. Term of endearment
 - 31. Place for trash
 - 35. Spelling competition
 - 36. Shredded cabbage
 - 38. Turkey neighbor
 - 39. Put in a mailbox
 - 41. Fly high
 - 46. Bowling-alley button
 - 49. Got uptight
 - 51. Prepares to propose
 - 52. Fry lightly
 - 53. Sky-high structure
 - 55. Review one's notes
 - 57. Lugosi of film
 - 58. "___ we forget"
 - 60. Chimps and orangutans
 - 61. Widespread
 - 62. Subtraction word
 - 64. Make a choice
 - 66. Cola cooler

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SENTINEL REPORT



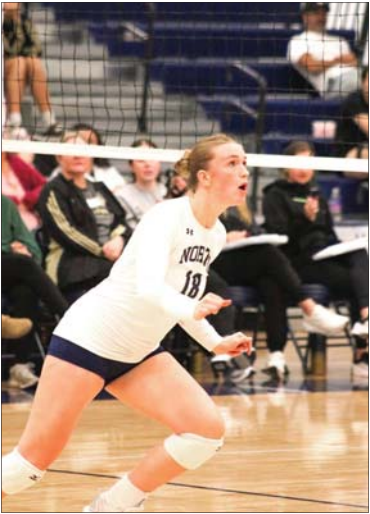
Building Something of Their Own: Jessen Leads a New Era of Minot North Volleyball

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, NORTHERN SENTRY

For Evelyn Jessen, volleyball has never been just about what happens when the whistle blows. As a senior on Minot North’s varsity volleyball team, she has spent the beginning of her final season watching a new group of players grow together, take on bigger roles and begin to shape the identity of a young program.

And if there is one thing Jessen has learned in her years of volleyball, it is that a team is built long before the first serve.

“When it comes to building chemistry for my teammates, that’s not a problem,” Jessen said. “All of these girls truly have become my closest friends.”



Evelyn Jessen ready for the ball at latest game.

ROBERT’S MULTIMEDIA

That chemistry has become one of the biggest strengths of this year’s Sentinels. Whether the team is celebrating a point or trying to recover from a difficult stretch, Jessen said the players rely on each other. The friendships formed through practices, games and team activities have created an environment where the players are not simply teammates, but people who genuinely enjoy being around one another.

“My favorite thing about the program is definitely the people,” Jessen said. “Not only do I get to spend time with them every day, but I get to play a sport we all love together.”

While the connection between the players may come naturally, this season has brought a different challenge: establishing a new identity. Minot North’s volleyball program is still young, having started with freshman teams in the fall of 2022. Last year, the players who had helped build the program from its beginning graduated, leaving this year’s team to take the next step forward.

For Jessen, that change has made the season feel less like simply continuing what came before and more like starting a new chapter. “This year more than others has been heavily focused on what we mentally put into the game,” she said.

That mental approach has become a major part of the Sentinels’ preparation. Jessen credits head

coach Mrs. Francis with giving the team strategies to turn to when a game begins to feel overwhelming. Instead of allowing one mistake or difficult stretch to determine the rest of a match, the team has focused on staying mentally prepared and finding ways to respond.

That mindset has translated into improvement on the court as well. The Sentinels have been working to quicken their offense, adjust to new positions, become more consistent in passing and serving, and, perhaps most importantly, continue fighting for every point until the final whistle.

Jessen has been part of that effort herself. Through nine sets, she has recorded 16 kills and 5.5 blocks, averaging 1.78 kills and 0.61 blocks per set. The Sentinels have also begun to build momentum, bouncing back from a 3-0 loss to Legacy with consecutive 3-0 victories over Williston and Dickinson.

Still, numbers only tell part of the story.

For Jessen, one of the most rewarding parts of the season has been seeing younger players become more confident. Players who once entered the program as eager freshmen are now stepping onto the court ready to take responsibility, and Jessen said she has been impressed by how quickly they have grown. “Watching players transition from eager freshmen into confident peers who stand right beside you on the court is rewarding for any

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Senior Media Day for Evelyn Jessen (Middle)

ARBAUT PHOTOGRAPHY

senior,” she said.

That perspective has shaped the way Jessen approaches her own role. Although she has experience in leadership positions throughout school and other areas of her life, she said senior leadership is not about commanding attention. Instead, it is about making sure every teammate feels supported.

“Leadership doesn’t mean being the loudest person in the room,” Jessen said. “It’s about being there for everyone, no exception.”

For Jessen, that means being someone younger players can look up to both on and off the court. She hopes they see someone who is fun, kind and willing to make smart decisions, even when doing the right thing means going against the crowd.

Ultimately, Jessen’s goals for her final season extend beyond the scoreboard. She wants her teammates to have fun, improve their skills and discover their own reasons for playing the sport. That

lesson, finding a greater purpose behind volleyball, is something she said has carried her through both school and club seasons, and there is still plenty of time to make memories.

From dress-up practices to team activities and the countless small moments that happen between games, Jessen said some of her favorite parts of the season have nothing to do with the final score. With the season still young, she is looking forward to seeing what moments are still waiting for the Sentinels.

For a program that is still writing its story, this season is another opportunity to build something lasting. Jessen hopes that when she eventually steps away from Minot North volleyball, she can leave the program with more than she found.

“We are grateful to have all of the people supporting us and for the chances offered,” Jessen said. “Keep an eye out because truly the best is yet to come.”



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TSGT DEVON ASHTON

Technical Sergeant Ashton hails from Fernley, Nevada and has served in the Air Force for twelve years and has been stationed at Minot Air Force Base for two years where he is currently the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of a Missile Alert Facility in the 741st Missile Squadron. Sergeant Ashton is also pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice and in his free time, he enjoys being with his friends and family.

Info from October 2025



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GAME BALL TAKES FLIGHT

Minot Air Force Base leadership delivers the game ball by UH-1N Iroquois helicopter before the Prairie Warrior Bowl at Minot State University, Sept. 3, 2026. The delivery highlighted the partnership between Team Minot and the Minot State community while bringing an Air Force presence to the annual game.



ARBAUT PHOTOGRAPHY



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U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | AIRMAN FIRST CLASS ANTHONY RAMEY



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | AIRMAN BENJAMIN SELCHOW

Upcoming Events

11 & 12 SEPT
MCDC RUMMAGE SALE
10:00 AM-4:00 PM
Magic City Discovery Center
1545 1st Street NW Minot

Find great deals on gently used items while supporting the Magic City Discovery Center! Shop a variety of household items, toys, games, decor, book and so much more! Magic City Discovery Center – 3rd Floor Lobby. Come browse, shop, and discover something new-to-you! All proceeds support the Discovery Center. *Regular admission ticket purchase required to explore the museum. Admission is not required to shop the rummage sale.



For more information:
Facebook/ Minot Parks/ Events

17 SEPT
THURSDAY’S MARKET IN OAK PARK
9:30 PM
Oak Park
1300 4th Ave NW

Our small but mighty Thursday morning market gives you a chance to meet your farmer, your baker, and the friendly faces that make items locally. This rarely-any-lines market is a peaceful way to start your weekend and stock up on the in-season produce, ask questions about the product, and meet a new friend. Check the market schedule to see if you’ll catch a food truck with hot breakfast items in our lineup. Enjoy easy parking! Reminder: You can meet at the front of the Market at 9:00AM for a community-group walk! Use this time to meet others, enjoy the park, and be accountable to your movement goals. You can log your Market Movers Club time from 9am to 12noon to be eligible for our weekly prize. Check our website for more info.



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

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

03 OCT
SERTOMA SIPS!
4:00 PM
Citizens Alley,
3 1st St SE Suite 2, Minot

Mark you calendar and get your tickets for Minot’s best beverage sampling event, new this year at Citizen’s Alley! Why You’ll Love It: Sample a wide variety of beverages: Beer, wine, seltzers, and non-alcoholic options. Discover new favorites to add to your mix! Enjoy music from High Pony Productions. Play cornhole with your friends. Savor delicious eats catered by Qdoba. Plus, the best popcorn in Minot! Bid on silent auction items and buy some 50/50 raffle tickets. Proceeds support local community projects through Minot Sertoma Club. Come sip, socialize, and savor the flavors on a beautiful fall evening. Gather your friends and join us for Minot’s best beverage sampling event!



For more information:
Facebook/ Minot Sertoma Club

NEW Community at the Northern Sentry

It’s more than Minot and more than Minot AFB, it’s a Shared Community.



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

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YOUTH IN ACTION

Deployment Support for Military-Connected Students

When a service member deploys, it affects everyone in the family. Students, especially, may be most impacted by the sudden change, as it can evoke powerful feelings and disrupt the normal home operations/ routines, which can produce negative effects in school. Fortunately, there are a number of resources available for military-connected students (including homeschoolers):

DEPLOYED PARENT DOLLS

Before the deployment, parents can contact the Minot Public Schools (MPS) Foundation to request one or more parent dolls for their student(s). Each doll is about three feet long and displays a picture of the deployed parent. To request a parent doll, please contact the MPS Foundation at 701-857-4555 or minotfoundation@gmail.com.

UNITED THROUGH READING

Before the deployment, Parents can contact this 501(c)(3) nonprofit, which helps service members record and share storytime videos with their children in their lives—regardless of where they’re currently serving in the world.

This parent comment on the United Through Reading website showcases the value of this service: “The program was a game changer for my girls when my hubs was deployed. We would record him reading their favorite books before he left on deployment each time. I kept the books he read in a basket near the TV. Whenever the girls were having a hard time, I’d ask them if they wanted to read with Daddy, and they would run to the books and plop down in front of the TV in anticipation. Not only did they get to see him and hear his voice, which kept them connected, but it also fed their love of reading” -The Baumer Family

To learn more, please visit: <https://unitedthroughreading.org/>.

ANCHORED4LIFE VIDEOS AND IN-PERSON PEER SUPPORT

Anchored4Life’s mission is “to provide proven resources and strategies to children so they can become resilient, confident, and resourceful, to create a better world for themselves and others.” Their purpose is “to design educational products that change youth lives by helping them become happier, healthier, and more confident.” Their vision is to create “a world where children feel heard, their feelings are validated, and they become confident self-advocates, regardless of their situation” (<https://anchored4life.com/>).

During the deployment, parents looking for ways to support their child(ren) can visit the Anchored4Life website and scroll down to their E-Learning Series. Here, they can click on any fun and engaging activity of interest to help build their student’s resiliency.

What’s more, if a student is fortunate enough to attend Erik Ramstad Middle School, he/she can receive targeted peer support through their new Anchored4Life Club.

MILITARY AND FAMILY LIFE COUNSELING

Before, during, and/or after the deployment, parents can contact Military and Family Life Counselors to support their students and themselves. MFLC stands for Military and Family Life Counseling, a program that provides free, short-term, non-medical counseling to service members, their spouses, and immediate family members. CYB-MFLCs support families.



They provide support on a variety of topics affecting young people, including anger and aggression, bullying, conflict resolution, divorce, feelings, self-esteem, separation, sibling and parental relationships, time management and more. They are located at Military and Family Support Centers, child development centers, DoWEA schools (including all three schools on Minot AFB), youth centers, and military treatment facility pediatric clinics.

If interested, please contact Ms. Erin Park, CYB-MFLC at the Child Development Center/Youth Center/Homeschool Students at 571-376-0703; Ms. Megan Armenta, CYB-MFLC at Minot Air Force Base’ Schools and for Off-installation School Support (Pending Approval) at 571-320-7162; or Ms. Jessica Stringfield, Adult MFLC, at 701-425-7905.

Children under 18 must have written parental consent to receive CYB-MFLC support. If you would like a parental consent form, please contact mafb.school.liaison@us.af.mil.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Before, during, and/or after the deployment, parents can contact their Local Education Agency (LEA) or school regarding the provision of excused absences to foster parent/ student connection, according to the Military Interstate Compact:

“SEC. 5.105 Absence as Related to Deployment Activities

(a) A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active-duty member of the uniformed services, as defined by the Compact, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of an LEA superintendent or head of school to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or guardian. Notwithstanding the above, an LEA superintendent or head of school may provide a



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



maximum number of additional excused absences.”

The Military Interstate Compact is an agreement between all 50 states and the District of Columbia that is accepted by public schools and “addresses key issues encountered by military families: eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation” (<https://mic3.net/background/>). The goal is to provide consistency for military-connected students who transition often from different school districts in different states, to ensure they continue making strides in their educational careers without falling behind or missing out on opportunities.



To obtain a copy of the Compact Rules, please contact the School Liaison Office at mafb.school.liaison@us.af.mil.

OPERATION HEROES EVENT

The Military & Family Readiness

Center is hosting an Operation Heroes event in the Youth Center on Saturday, September 12th, 2026 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. This event will be a hands-on deployment line experience for children, exposing them to the intricacies involved in easy-to-understand language, and end with a “Welcome Home Party” in which helping agencies and programs will provide deployment resources, support, and/or activities. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to this event to teach them about the deployment cycle, increasing their understanding of this event and reducing their fear of the unknown.

These six local opportunities offer families valuable connection and support before, during, and after deployments. Please contact me with any questions or comments regarding these resources at mafb.school.liaison@us.af.mil.

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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dakotahope.org/events



Dakota Hope Clinic
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ANSWERING THE CALL: EMERY RETIRES AFTER 27 YEARS OF AIR FORCE SERVICE

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Anik Emery, Minot Air Force Base installation fire chief, retires from the Air Force after 27 years of service during a retirement ceremony at Minot AFB, North Dakota. Emery served as the installation fire chief since July 2024, helping ensure the safety and mission readiness of Team Minot. Following his retirement, Emery will continue serving the Minot community as the City of Minot’s fire marshal.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS | MINOT AIR FORCE BASE PUBLIC AFFAIRS





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A “TOMORROW” FOR HUNTING, HABITAT, AND WILDLIFE

Patricia Stockdill

Tomorrow is another day.
The sun will rise and the sun will set.

The question that hunters might care to ponder is “how long will the sun rise on hunting and hunting opportunities?”
Surely it will never set.

Surely there will always be opportunities, not just to hunt, but opportunities to be out in the natural world that is hunting, places to hunt, and species to test one’s skills and knowledge.

Surely there will always be hunters.
And then again, maybe not.

While there are some numbers that point to an increase in hunting among certain participant groups, on the whole hunting and hunting participation isn’t enjoying a significant rise. And in some states hunting participation is status quo or declining.

Hunters have huge responsibilities: First and foremost, safety – for themselves and others. Legal responsibilities to follow laws and regulations. Ethical responsibilities, especially to the species they’re hunting, the land – whether it’s private or publicly owned – other hunters, the public, and themselves.

After all, a hunter must answer to more than other hunters, the public, landowners, and legal entities. They must answer to their own heart.

The discussion of ensuring a future for hunters and hunting stretches across societal issues and trends, habitat and environmental issues – even the challenge of deciphering the human mindset.

Good luck on that.

With some 2026 North Dakota hunting seasons already underway – early Canada goose, archery deer and pronghorn, and dove seasons, for example – perhaps it’s appropriate to contemplate how hunters could do their part to ensure a future for hunting.

There are obvious things like present a proper image of the hunt and hunters to the non-hunting public. We’re not barbaric people living in the past. The reality is wild game is about as healthy of food – laden in protein – as one could possibly obtain.

No preservatives. No growth hormones. All natural.

Plus, cooking wild game isn’t rocket science and it tastes wonderful. Explore the variety of wild game cookbooks or search the Internet for wild game cooking blogs – and then invite a non-hunter to dinner.

Leave the hunting area better than you found it. Pick up trash. Don’t field dress birds in the field and leave remains. Don’t deface signs and property – after all, that’s not hunting, that’s a crime called vandalism and depending on one’s location, destruction of public property.

Be safe.

Get involved. Join a wildlife conservation organization. It can help broaden one’s understanding of the critical role habitat plays in wildlife populations and hunting opportunities.

Support sound wildlife management practices based on science, not public opinion.

Ask yourself, “Is it good enough to take a kid or adult hunting once? Will they have other opportunities to truly appreciate the lifetime activity of hunting or will it just be one day outside?”

While it can be a great time outdoors, the harsh reality is it takes a commitment to help someone interested in hunting that may not already have the skills, finances, resources, and mentorship to make it more than just a one-day, feel good thing.

It doesn’t have to be every weekend or every day off. Just spending a little more time afield with that person so that “feel good” thing might be all it takes to create a life-long bond with hunting, fellow hunters, the outdoors, and wildlife.

It takes good habitat, access, proper management, good relationships with land managers – public and private – and hunters doing the right thing to make this hunting thing work into the future – we’re in this together.

Yes, the sun will rise and the sun will set.
It’s going to be a great day to go hunting and North Dakota still provides that opportunity.

Let’s do more than just hope it continues.



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Parents & Students Try On CAP

Civil Air Patrol Holds Open House

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

On an evening when extra chairs were being set up to accommodate a larger than expected audience, Deputy Commander of the 5th Bomb Wing Col. Mike Taylor welcomed parents and students on behalf of Minot Air Force Base and the 5th Bomb Wing.

Later, Taylor spoke with students interested in what it takes to pilot a B-52. His answer emphasized teamwork: “It takes a team. Once the plane is flying there are crew members whose responsibilities could include communicating with troops on the ground, or whose job is to defend the aircraft. Important jobs...and they don’t fly the airplane.”

TALKING CAP

Captain Zach Haun was one of the featured speakers and shared the purpose of the open house. “Tonight we are doing our annual open house,” Capt. Haun said, “to drum up some enthusiasm and excitement and push a little recruiting and push the CAP program because it can have a huge impact in our community.”

RECRUITING NEW CADETS AND VOLUNTEERS

Capt. Haun and the CAP cadets had a goal of doubling the number of cadets in the program. “We have 15 cadets and we are hoping to add another 15 tonight,” he said. “We have doubled our unit every year going back 3 or 4 years so although it seems like a tall order it just takes folks talking to each other.”

Helping out at the open house were six adult members, including Trinity Health Chaplain Jeff Musgrave, who serves as Chaplain for the Civil Air Patrol. “I really enjoy what I do with the CAP,” Musgrave said. “It’s not only being their Chaplain, but I also have the opportunity to do training and improve their program.”

BUILDING CONFIDENCE, LEADERSHIP, AND OPPORTUNITY

Capt. Haun explained many of the advantages of being in Civil Air Patrol. In addition to training for CAP missions, he said, “many Civil Air Patrol Cadets end up in military academies.” He noted that approximately 10% of the cadet corps at the United States Air Force Academy got their start in the Civil Air Patrol.

Most Minot Civil Air Patrol cadets are between the ages of 12 and 14, though cadets can be as old as 18. For younger cadets, Haun said, the immediate benefits are just as important as long-term opportunities. “Whatever age they are, they are building confidence, they’re learning leadership, learning how to interact with people in a more professional way,” he said.

Haun added that CAP experience can strengthen college and military academy applications and may also provide an enlistment upgrade, allowing qualified cadets to enter as an E-3 instead of an E-1.

TIME COMMITMENT AND CADET INVOLVEMENT

Capt. Haun described the CAP journey as a “build your own path kind of thing” when it comes to time commitment. Cadets are expected to attend most Tuesday night meetings throughout the year, which typically run two hours to two hours and 15 minutes.

Cadets who are part of the color guard arrive earlier for practice, and the unit also offers monthly Saturday events, color guard activities, fundraising events, physical training, and other gatherings. Haun said cadets can choose their level of involvement, but the program maintains a



Capt. Zach Haun gives the audience a run down on the Civil Air Patrol.

military model that emphasizes accountability.

FUNDRAISING THROUGH WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

The local Civil Air Patrol unit relies on fundraising, with much of that support coming through Wreaths Across America. “For every wreath we sell, and the wreaths are

\$29.00, the local Civil Air Patrol unit right here in Minot receives 29 per cent of the proceeds from those sales,” Capt. Haun said.

MORE CAP INFORMATION

More Information about The Civil Air Patrol can be found on the organizations’ web site <https://nd021.cap.gov>.



Col. Mike Taylor, 5th BW Deputy Commander, welcomed those in attendance to the CAP open house.



Presenting the colors were Cadet Senior Airman Nick Parker, CMSgt Emma Slocum, Cadet Captain Zeke Hoverson, Cadet SSgt Miles Batteiger.



Cadet 2nd Lt Kohen Merkel, Cadet A1C Jack May, Cadet Captain Zeke Hoverson, CMSgt Emma Slocum presented raffle prizes at the end of the night.



Civil Air Patrol Cadets that helped with the CAP open house.

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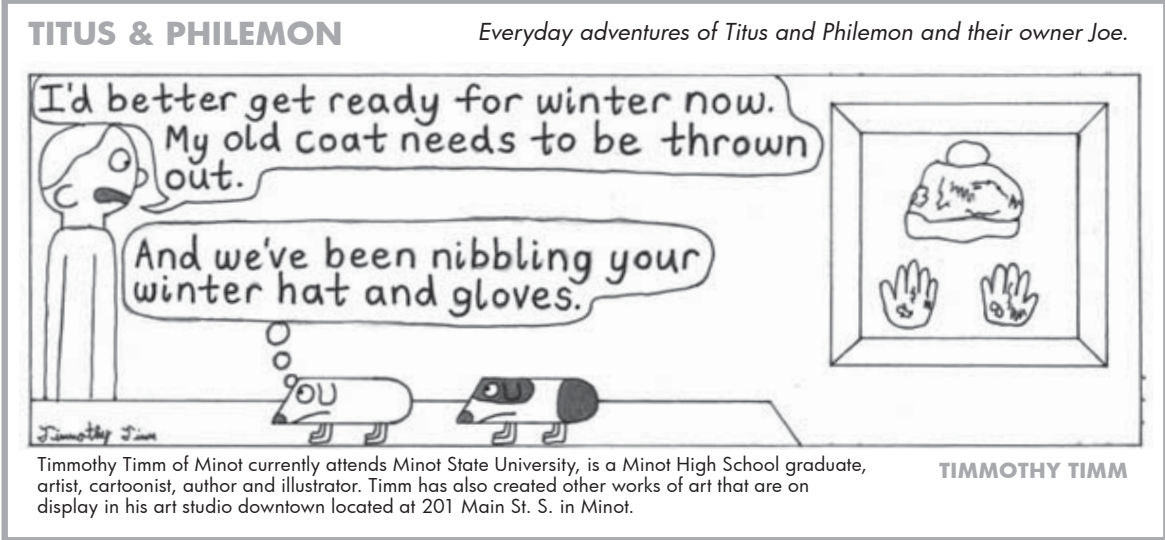
MINOT AFB

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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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TITUS & PHILEMON *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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The above members were notified for promotions to Staff Sergeant. In a career field that is saturated with typically higher ASVAB scores and special certifications, promoting to SSgt is an incredible accomplishment, especially for our first time testers.



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by Patricia Stockdill

FISHING:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, Sept. 7: 1,824.86 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 17,100 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Devils Lake elevation: 1,450.07 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

Stump Lake elevation: 1,450.06 MSL.

*N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: Not much activity on area lakes with a few more anglers on Devils Lake over the Labor Day holiday weekend.

*Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Try 22 feet with spinners and nightcrawlers on main Devils Lake for walleye.

*Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Weather permitting, anglers continue finding bluegill off the docks with some evening walleye activity yet.

*Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Not much activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea with inconsistent weather patterns moving through over the weekend and early in the week.

*Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Some walleye activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea. Work Mallard Island humps or along Old Hwy. 83 in 25 to 30 feet with slow death hooks or spinners and nightcrawlers. Also try the mouth of Steinke and Centennial bays. Limited activity on Lake Audubon with anglers having to work outside of the weed beds.

*Lake Sakakawea, New Town: Activity slowed in the Van Hook Arm with recent weather fronts moving through.

*Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook Resort, New Town: OK walleye success in the Van Hook Arm still working farther south in the Arm. Try around Shell Island deep in 40 feet. Bait shop open limited hours through Sept. 13 and closed for the season after that date. Campground and park open through the end of

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 warning for Lake Darling (Renville Co.) and Buffalo Lodge Lake (McHenry Co.). People and animals are advised to avoid those waters and keep pets and hunting dogs away. Blue-green algae can quickly become deadly for animals. Advisories listed for Lake Brekken (McLean Co.), Devils Lake (Ramsey and Benson counties), Epping-Springbrook Dam (Williams Co.), Antelope and Clear lakes (Pierce Co.), and Sykeston Dam (Wells Co.). Use caution and go to their for information and safety precautions, (deq.nd.gov/WQ).
- Anglers are reminded to keep fish taken from depths of 25 feet and more.
- Sept. 11: Patriot Day & Nat'l. Day of Service & Remembrance.
- Sept. 11: Yoga in the Park, Oak Park, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 12: Grouse, partridge, tree squirrels, and snipe seasons open. Go to the N.D. Game & Fish Dept. website, (gf.nd.gov), for licensing and regulations.
- Sept. 12: Festival on Main, Main St. Minot, featuring games, food, bounce house, and more, 10 a.m.
- Sept. 13: Expedition: Greenland, documentary of 21-day 1,400-mile expedition across Greenland's Ice Sheet, Ann Nicole Nelson Hall, 500 University Ave. SW, Minot, 1 p.m.
- Sept. 13: Scheels After Hours: All About Hunting, Dakota Square Scheels, \$10 (participants receive \$10 gift card) with information and activities relating to the upcoming North Dakota hunting seasons, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 15: Western Zone Early Canada Goose Unit closes (Missouri River Zone now closed).
- Sept. 18: Youth deer season opens.
- Sept. 19 & 20: Youth waterfowl season.
- Sept. 19 & 20: Active military personnel and special veteran waterfowl season.
- Sept. 19: Woodcock & sandhill crane seasons open.
- Sept. 19: Oktober Fest, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison, 4 p.m.
- Sept. 20: Minot Out of Darkness Community Walk for suicide prevention awareness, Oak Park, noon.
- Sept. 22: Eastern Zone Early Canada Goose Unit closes.

TOURNAMENTS:

- Sept. 12: Lake Sakakawea, Fort Stevenson State Park.

September, boat access permitting.

*Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace slow for walleye with best success at night from boats in the chutes. Also try from shore along the rocks for walleye. Catfish also slow. East end of Lake Sakakawea inconsistent for salmon. Look for fish to move shallower in the coming days and weeks and then switch to long-lining. Walleye are scattered so move around and try working various depths off points.

*Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Best walleye activity remains around the midsection of Lake Sakakawea more so than the upper end with low water levels becoming an access issue on the upper end as the lake continues dropping. Use caution on low water ramps. Larger fish coming with crankbaits but most consistent bite remains with spinners and bottom bouncers. Yellowstone and Missouri

rivers continue producing catfish activity.

*North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: limited activity throughout area lakes.

HUNTING:

*Archery deer: Warm weather limiting deer movement until later in dark hours yet.

*Doves: Lots of opportunities for birds throughout the region. Some bunching of birds starting to occur as they start to migrate, but good numbers remain.

*Upland: Spotty areas for the season opener for partridge with unencouraging grouse numbers throughout much of their range.

NUMBERS TO KNOW:

*N.D. Game and Fish Dept., main Bismarck office: (701) 328-6300, website: (<http://gf.nd.gov>).

*Report All Poachers: (701) 328-9921.

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What's Going On Minot AFB

FRIDAY 11

- Registration Closes: Youth Indoor Soccer, CYPBMS
- Junior Enlisted Foundations Course 300, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Fun Fri-Yay, 1600-1900, Jimmy Doolittle Center
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2300, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY 12

- Registration Closes: Air Force Birthday Tournament, <https://www.memberplanet.com/s/minotafclubs/afbirthday2026>
- Paintball Open Play, 1000-1400, Paintball Field, hosted by Outdoor Rec
- Operation Heroes, 1000-1400, Youth Center
- Air Force Gaming — Fighting Game Series, 1300, Northern Paradise AMD, inside of Bomber Bistro

SUNDAY 13

MONDAY 14

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Yellow Belt Process Improvement Fundamentals Class, 0800-1500, Atomic Spark Innovation Lab, next to B-Fifty Brew
- TAP DOW Transition Day, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Craft Club, 1800, Minot AFB Library

SPECIALS

- Rockers Bar & Grill Featured Item

Power Bowls
- Bomber Bistro Featured Item

Jalapenos Popper Pizza
- The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item

Pumpkin Spice Latte, Pumpkin Cold Brew, Pumpkin Chai

TUESDAY 15

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Yellow Belt Process Improvement Fundamentals Class, 0800-1500, Atomic Spark Innovation Lab, next to B-Fifty Brew
- TAP VA Services and Benefits Briefing, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Quiet Book Club, 1800-1930, Minot AFB Library

WEDNESDAY 16

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP Employment Fundamentals of Career Transition, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Storytime, 1030, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center

THURSDAY 17

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP DOL Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center

FRIDAY 18

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP DOL Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Air Force Birthday - Special Lunch, 1030-1330, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Air Force Birthday - Special Dinner, 1630-1830, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2300, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Progressive Bingo Fall Series, 1730, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Skate Night, 1800-2000, Youth Center
- National Observe the Moon Day, 1900, Minot AFB Library
- Karaoke Night Fall Series, 1930, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY 19

- Air Force Birthday Tournament, 0900, Rough Rider Golf Course
- Chess Club, 1200-1400, Minot AFB Library
- Minecraft Party, 1300, Minot AFB Library

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