



WHATS INSIDE
THIS WEEK:



AIR FORCE
ASSEMBLES
INERT SENTINEL
MISSILE

A2



GEN. DAVID
C. JONES
CHAPTER
EARNS
NATIONAL
RECOGNITION

A6



MEET THE
FIREFIGHTER:
CHIEF MICHAEL
"CHIEF E"
ERICKSON

B2



From left: Cadet K. Merkel, C/Capt. Zeke Hoverson, C/CMSgt. Emma Slocum, C/MSgt. Jeannie DeHaan, C/A1C Jack May, C/SrA Nick Parker, Cadet M. Merkel and C/SSgt. Miles Batteiger pose following the 2026 MinotWreaths.org Cadet Challenge at Minot North High School's Sentinel Field. Civil Air Patrol cadets logged 52 miles during the 90-minute challenge, helping generate support for veteran wreaths at Rosehill Cemetery and the squadron's Cadet Program. See more from the event on A3.

CIVIL AIR PATROL MAGIC CITY COMPOSITE SQUADRON PHOTO



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Air Force assembles inert Sentinel missile, moving with pace toward flight testing

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The LGM-35A Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile program reached a critical milestone by completing the vertical stacking of the inert missile at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California. The vertical integration event demonstrated the maturity of the missile’s design and verified that all critical subsystems are on track for initial flight testing in 2027.

“This is more than a milestone, this integration demonstrates our commitment to moving forward with the pace necessary to modernize the ground-based leg of our nuclear triad and deliver critical capability to the warfighter,” said Gen. Dale White, director, Critical Major Weapon Systems for the Department of War.

The stacking event concluded a rigorous four-month test campaign that proved the viability of all missile stages, propulsion elements, shroud and subcomponents to be assembled into a single configuration on the test pad. The operation also verified key segments of the weapon system’s operational lifecycle, confirming that all handling processes and personnel are fully capable of executing complex field assembly.

“Executing this test campaign proved that our logistics pipeline and test operations work in complete lockstep,” said Maj. Gen. William S. Rogers, Air Force Portfolio Acquisition Executive for Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles.

“From cross-country transport and specialized crane lifts to precision interface checks on the pad, bringing all of these elements together validated our technical baselines and proved Sentinel is ready to support the next phase of development.”

In parallel with on-pad integration, the Air Force Test Center’s 719th Test Squadron completed the first flight test Design Review, confirming that the missile’s design maturity and hardware testing satisfy stringent requirements for performance, safety, and mission assurance ahead of flight testing scheduled in 2027.

Together, these achievements mark a decisive transition from

digital modeling into a fully integrated system.

“Sentinel is no longer conceptual or designs for what the nation’s next-generation ICBM looks like; it’s a physical, fully integrated system that is one major step closer to being ready for flight testing,” said White. “While this is a significant achievement, we will keep driving, firmly focused on delivering a modernized, credible strategic deterrent that will safeguard the nation and its allies well into the future.”

Sentinel remains on track to field initial capability in the early 2030s, ensuring a safe, secure and credible ground-based deterrent for decades to come.



An inert LGM-35A Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile erected on a test pad at Vandenberg Space Force Base, Calif. The vertical integration test event, called Pathfinder, demonstrated the maturity of the missile’s design and verified that all critical subsystems are on track for initial flight testing in 2027.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN COURTESY PHOTO

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Turning Miles into Money - Minot Cadets Power the 2026 Cadet Challenge

ROBYN STONER, ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMANDER FOR CADETS,
ASSISTANT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
CIVIL AIR PATROL MAGIC CITY COMPOSITE SQUADRON

Minot, ND — The MinotWreaths.org 1st Annual Cadet Challenge delivered a surge of energy Sunday as cadets of the Civil Air Patrol Magic City Composite Squadron transformed a 90 minute fun run into a major community impact event. Minot businesses kept pace by pledging donations for every mile logged, sponsoring veteran wreaths at Rosehill Cemetery through MinotWreaths.org, the local effort of Wreaths Across America. In a display of grit, determination, and unmistakable

cadet spirit, participants logged 52 miles at Minot North High School's Sentinel Field. With a portion of all wreath funds returning to the community to support the squadron's Cadet Program, every stride meant these cadets were directly supporting their own training and development. Local businesses responded in force, pledging approximately \$10,000 in support of MinotWreaths.org. Those pledges will provide nearly 600 wreaths to honor veterans at Rosehill Cemetery this December.

MinotWreaths.org Coordinator Robyn Stoner noted the cadets' drive from the opening lap. "The Civil Air Patrol cadets were driven once they hit the ground running. Since 29% of all wreath funds return to our community to support their own Cadet Program, every stride meant these kids were supporting their own squadron. Not only did they work for wreath sponsorships to honor our veterans, they also generated \$2,900 that returns to our community to strengthen their cadet emergency services training, leadership development, aerospace education and year round service activities. The event was created to include all members of the squadron, ensuring every cadet had the opportunity to participate, contribute, and support the mission of honoring veterans through MinotWreaths.org, even those not geared toward fundraising. And our Minot community stepped up!" The Cadet Challenge showcased a standout group of cadets who pushed hard from start to finish: C/Capt. Zeke Hoverson, C/2d Lt. Kohen Merkel, C/CMSgt Emma Slocum, C/MSgt Jeannie DeHaan, C/TSgt Tyler Todd, C/SSgt Miles Batteiger, C/SrA Nick Parker, C/A1C Jack May, and C/Amn Miller Merkel. Their determination and stamina set the tone for an event that blended athletic challenge with



Cadets Todd and Hoverson led the pack with 7-1/4 miles each.



Cadets Slocum and DeHaan



Cadets DeHaan, K. Merkel, Batteiger and Hoverson.

community remembrance. MinotWreaths.org and Civil Air Patrol Magic City Composite Squadron extend sincere appreciation to the businesses and supporters who turned miles into meaningful tribute. Each wreath sponsored through this event ensures a veteran's name will be spoken aloud and remembered with honor during the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony on December 19, 2026. For more information or sponsorship opportunities, visit MinotWreaths.org or contact MinotWreaths@gmail.com.

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No Need To Defend What We Know Is Good



**A VIEW FROM
OUR SIDE**
ROD WILSON
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MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NEWSPAPER | WWW.NORTHERNSENTRY.COM

NORTH DAKOTA NICE
I am not attempting to pick out one state as an example of displaying rude behavior but this weekend I experienced three separate examples or being downright rude, all from people who were from the same eastern state. I know that the exception is not normally the rule, but these folks tested my North Dakota nice to the max.
The first incident happened as I was standing in a very controlled and cordial line waiting to get coffee before our conference began. A lady stepped in front of me and said that she wanted to get some donuts before all of us people took them all. First, I wouldn't just cut into a line and second, if I felt I had to I would certainly excuse myself. Nope, neither of these common courtesies took place. After she cut into line she took additional time to pick through the pastries that were offered for those attending and then turned and talked to the whole line about how these were not the donuts that had been promised, and then as if we should know, asked about where we thought they would be because they certainly are not here.
All of us were so surprised with her behavior that we didn't say a word. One gentleman from Minnesota looked at me and asked "what just happened here?"



**UPSIDE DOWN
UNDER**
MARVIN BAKER

If you drive on North Dakota highways, you may notice that hardly anybody these days adheres to speed limits. The best example is the interstates. Since the speed limit was increased to 80 miles per hour, motorists are now creeping past 85 mph.
Likewise on U.S., state and county highways.
Why does everyone seem to be in such a hurry. Granted, as a retired person, I'm never in a hurry these days, but there were times in my newspaper career I was pushing deadlines, so I understand being in a hurry. But, if I was on the road, I always tried to observe the speed limits as much as I could. Seldom did I or do I exceed the speed limit.
But, a lot of people do exceed it and it sometimes makes me

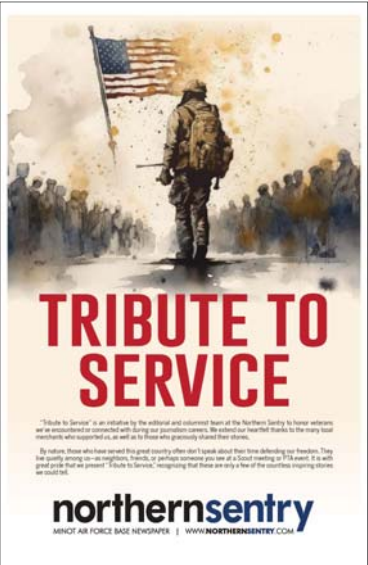
Another lady responded, "kinda like on the playground...she just took cuts."
Incident number two took place at lunch as once again we all were waiting in a buffet style line to get lunch. Those going through line were helping themselves to "build your own" chili. At the end of the line was a basket of spoons. When we reached the area where we were afforded the opportunity to take napkins and a spoon, there was one spoon left in the basket. Another lady from the same state delegation as before cut into line to grab the last spoon and said "I'll just take the last spoon. I am sure they are going to bring more. You people aren't going to need a spoon for a while, anyway." Again, no common courtesy like excusing herself, just cut into line, grab the last spoon and take off...but not before letting all of us know that even though we had reached the end of the serving line, we certainly weren't going to need a spoon right away.
Finally, incident number three would happen that evening as we were sitting enjoying conversation with fellow convention attendees. One of the chairs was empty at our table, but we were kind of holding it for a lady who went to get a glass of water. A table of Pennsylvania folks was also sitting in this area. They had 4 chairs but needed a fourth. Guess where they grabbed their needed extra chair from. Yep, our table. Without asking about the availability of the chair it was taken from our table. Now reverse the situation about 45 seconds later when our friend arrived. Our chair sat empty at their table, but when our friend asked nicely if we could have our chair back there were several comments about the chair being used. The last comment which pushed my North Dakota Nice button to North Dakota Not Nice button was "can't you see?" My comment was not appropriate. I fired back "there is no one sitting in that chair, I am certainly able to see that."
We All Need To Be North Dakota Nice, Right?
North Dakota nice was coined, as



Be sure to pick up The Northern Sentry next week for a story on my trip to Leaderdogs for the Blind in Detroit, Michigan.

I remember, during COVID. Then Governor Doug Burgum stressed that it would take being North Dakota Nice to get through these tough times. It has hung on as a way to describe how we do things in North Dakota.
However, even before we called it North Dakota Nice we would talk about being brought up to use common courtesy. To let people, even when driving, but that conversation is for another day, cut into line. But when you allowed someone to do so, you expected a thank you in return.
"Cuts" are not allowed on the playground because children have a way of enforcing the basic rules everyone is expected to follow. Maybe adults could remember that, too. It took three separate incidents to breach my North Dakota Nice, and even then I felt guilty for letting that breach happen at all.
ROD'S RAMBLINS'
A LOOK AROUND MINOT
Be sure to take a minute to read Amy Allender's article this week. She shares scenes that remind us why we appreciate Minot and the surrounding area.

VETERANS SPECIAL INSERT
Our Veterans Special Insert is coming up on November 6th, and we are always looking for stories about veterans. You can email story ideas to sentrysales@srt.com.



TODAY'S CHUCKLE
You know you've gotten old when people stop saying you're looking good and start saying you're looking well.

People love to fly... and complain

wonder. People just love to fly down the highway with their Ram, Ford F-150, GMC or Chevy, 4-wheel-drive pickup trucks. They all have plenty of giddy up, but I own a Ford F-150 and I know what kind of mileage it gets at 80 or 85 miles an hour. When I go beyond 65, the mileage drops like a rock.
So why do people go so fast, but still complain about the price of gas? I say, if you want to fly down the highway, don't complain because there is something you can do about it.
A lot of motorists seem to be unaware, may have forgotten or don't care, but if you slow that big Ford F-150 down 5 miles per hour, your gas mileage is going to increase. It may not be a show stopper, but it will increase.
I learned that a long time ago in college. Trips from Grand Forks home to Hazelton are 250 miles and on many of those weekend trips, my speed was 50 miles per hour because I didn't have enough money to fill the tank at will and I wanted to spend the weekend with my parents.
One time on the way home, the gauge showed empty at Napoleon, which is 26 miles east of Hazelton. I slowed down to 45 miles per

hour and drove that 26 miles on North Dakota Highway 34 and I made it home, although I was on pins and needles that last 10 miles. But, it worked.
Of course, we can't always drive 45 miles per hour on a trip across the state, but I'm merely pointing out, again, that slowing down 5 miles per hour helps.
Nor, do many of us want to drive a Yugo. For those who don't want to stop complaining, there are two alternatives; electric or hybrid. Otherwise, it's going to cost... a lot....to fill the tank with gasoline.
I'm sure we've all heard stories about an oddity vehicle like a big old Lincoln Continental that could get 40 miles to the gallon. I don't know if those stories are true, but it's possible because 50 years ago, a lot of mechanics were keen on fine tuning carburetors.
About a year ago, my Trans Am stalled on a Minot city street, Friday afternoon at 4 p.m., no less. It was towed out to Motorhead Repair and after a diagnostic, they told me the carburetor was gummed up, some of the screws were loose and so on. They took it completely apart, rebuilt it and now that car, with a 305 V8 is getting 28 miles per gallon on the highway. The mileage wasn't that good when it

was my primary car. I once drove it from Fargo to St. Joseph, Mo., on a tank of gas. It worked out to 26 miles per gallon. Now, at 41 years old, it's actually getting better mileage because of the carburetor.
Today, with fuel injected engines, I highly doubt any of that is possible. However, the auto industry as a whole, I'm sure, could figure out how to improve mileage in vehicles. They probably already know. We can put people on the moon, but we can't get a car to hit 40 miles per hour unless it's the smallest car and engine possible.
Regardless, I'm just saying, we can control our own fate here. I don't know about you, but my monthly gas bill has nearly doubled since January and it's eating away at what would otherwise be spending money for other bills, groceries, clothing, whatever. In my own mind, I have to slow down a bit. It's the only positive I can find that actually helps.
My F-150 was paid off a long time ago and I can't get anything for it on a trade because it now has 315,000 miles. So, I'll just keep it and slow down a bit. It's better than paying 7 percent interest on a new vehicle and \$4.20 for a gallon of gas.

Fall Color Walks You'll Love



SHE'S NOT FROM AROUND HERE
AMY ALLENDER

As the plane started its descent over Bismarck, my five-year-old opened the window shade. We'd been engrossed in a game together on a tablet borrowed from the library, but the dings overhead



September and October offer a grand opportunity to explore North Dakota's colors and trails. Woodland Trail shown here.
AMY ALLENDER PHOTO

and reminders to "be sure your tray tables are in their full upright position" told us we were almost home.

At first, the bright light was a shock to my eyes. But once they adjusted, I noticed something beautiful had happened in the five days we'd been gone. The leaves that had been completely green when we left had started turning shades of gold and red.

As we drove from Bismarck back to Minot (we found a great deal flying out of Bismarck instead of Minot), I watched the trees pass by my window, each at a different stage of their fall transformation.

I've heard it said that North Dakota only has two seasons: winter and construction. But the leaves tell a different story.

Fall is here, even if it's fleeting. And while we may not have as many trees as some of our Midwestern neighbors, there are still plenty of places around Minot to enjoy autumn color.

If you love fall as much as I do, here's your unofficial list of places around Minot to take in the colors while they last.

CAMP OWETTI TRAIL AT OAK PARK:

All of Oak Park gets a dose of fall color in September and October, but this wooded trail makes the most of it. It's an easy place to wander beneath the trees and get that unmistakable fall feeling while being in the heart of town.

MINOT'S OUTDOOR RECREATION TRAIL:

Take in views of colorful rolling hills along the paved path, or head off onto the more rugged terrain for hiking and biking. This one is near Berry Acres Pumpkin Patch if you want to extend the fall fun.

BARK PARK TRAIL:

This one is easy to customize to your time and energy level. Start near the Bark Park by Jack Hoven Park or at Wee Links Golf Course and choose your distance. You'll get some fall color, river views and a paved path that works well for bikes, scooters and strollers.

BISON PLANT TRAIL:

With thick trees and paths that twist through rugged terrain, this trail can make you feel a world away. It's a good spot for hiking, biking, but strollers beware. Stick to the main trail, or explore some of the "challenge" trails that branch off.

WOODLAND TRAIL:

The trail winds beneath a canopy of trees and crosses a small bridge over the water. It's accessible for a range of ages and abilities and is stroller friendly. It's also the site of Minot's annual Pumpkin Walk in October.

For those willing to venture a little farther from town, there are a few more places worth adding to your fall list.

COTTONWOOD NATURE TRAIL:

Just west of Minot AFB, this is one of the few official hiking trails in the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge. The moderate trail offers beautiful scenery, but keep in mind that it's an out-and-back, so plan accordingly.

DENBIGH EXPERIMENTAL FOREST:

A forest in North Dakota is worth exploring all on its own, but the history of this preserve makes it even more interesting. Many of the trees are evergreen, but in the fall, the whole area takes on a golden glow. You'll find it between Granville and Towner.



The Bison Plant Trail offers hikers and bikers seemingly endless trail options that twist and turn through wooded grounds
AMY ALLENDER PHOTO

NORTH DAKOTA SEGMENTS OF THE NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL:

The North Country Trail ends in North Dakota, and its wooded landscape makes for a beautiful fall outing. Look for access points at Lake Sakakawea State Park and the Audubon National Wildlife Refuge.

Fall in North Dakota doesn't stick around for long. One week the trees are green, the next they're glowing, and before long we're talking about snow.

So grab a coffee, load up the kids, take the dog or just go by yourself. You don't have to travel far to find a little bit of fall in North Dakota. Sometimes you just have to slow down enough to notice it.

For more on life in North Dakota join me on social media @heyminot or online at amyallender.com



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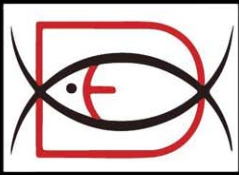
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Air & Space Force Excellence: Gen. David C. Jones Chapter Earns National Recognition

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

The Gen. David C. Jones Chapter 135 of the Air & Space Forces Association brought home multiple honors from the 2026 AFA National Convention, recognizing the chapter's work in education, advocacy, community partnerships, and support for Airmen and their families.

SETTING THE STAGE

"There is a bar that we challenge all chapters to meet," said Air & Space Forces Association Field Director Chris Canada. "We purposely set that bar high enough so chapters that work hard to educate, advocate for, and support our Airmen and their families are truly an example of excellence." Canada, who chairs the Board for Field Operations, works with hundreds of AFA local chapters throughout the year. That work culminates in the Air & Space Forces Association's annual awards banquet, held this year during the AFA National Convention at the Gaylord Convention Center at National Harbor, minutes from the nation's capital.

AFA CONVENTION 2026

Chapter 135 was represented at the 2026 AFA National Convention by President Rod Wilson, Vice President of Partnership Recruitment George Masters, Teacher of the Year and third-place national recipient Thomas Sando, and longtime AFA members Bonnie Goldschmidt and Ron Garcia.

The chapter's recognition



(L to R) Rod Wilson, George Masters, Thomas Sando, Bonnie Goldschmidt & Ron Garcia at the 2026 AFA National Convention.

reflected all three pillars of the Air & Space Forces Association: education, advocacy, and support. During the convention, Chapter 135 was recognized for its Teacher of the Year success, Community Partner achievements, advocacy work, and individual member contributions.

EDUCATION RECOGNITION

Education was one of the chapter's strongest areas of recognition. Thomas Sando, the Gen. David C. Jones Chapter Teacher of the Year and North Dakota AFA Teacher of the Year, earned third place in the AFA National Teacher of the Year competition. Sando teaches flight and serves as a flight instructor at Williston High School. "I know the

two teachers who took first and second, and they are certainly great teachers," Sando said. "I am sure that all of the teachers given state recognition were also great teachers. I am honored to be here at the AFA convention, and I plan on going back to North Dakota and helping our chapter continue honoring local teachers and hopefully gain recognition on a national level."

COMMUNITY PARTNER SUPPORT

Every Air & Space Forces Association chapter works to recruit Community Partners. These partners support local chapters through membership and dues, which help fund AFA programs such as CyberPatriot, a STEM program for grade school students, and StellarXplorers, an annual competition that encourages high school students to build STEM skills through space-focused challenges.

The Gen. David C. Jones Chapter also uses Community Partner funds to support its annual Commander's Choice Awards, which allow each squadron to recognize an unsung hero. "It's the person who shows up and does the job," said

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Center stage at AFA National Convention.



Advocacy visit with Senator Kevin Cramer.

Commander’s Choice Chairman George Masters.

This year, the chapter received two AFA honors for its Community Partner work. The Exceptional Service Award in the medium chapter category recognized the chapter’s success in recruiting and retaining Community Partners. The Community Partner Gold Award recognized the amount of support generated to provide resources for outreach to Airmen and their families, advancing the AFA support pillar.

ADVOCACY: TELLING THE STORY

“It’s every AFA member’s job to advocate for the Air Force,” said Paul Hendrickson, chair of the AFA Advocacy Committee, “because it takes all of us to tell the story.” Advocacy requires a deliberate effort to reach local, state, and national officials with a clear message about strong air power and a strong Air Force. “It isn’t only about the best fighting machines, but it’s also about the best warfighters,” Hendrickson said.

Family support was a recurring theme at the AFA convention. “Longer and more deployments are the result of where we are at in our global theater,” said Gen. Dan Caine, the 22nd Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation’s highest-ranking military officer

and principal military adviser to the President, Secretary of Defense, and National Security Council.

The Gen. David C. Jones Chapter again set advocacy goals that included personal visits with congressional leaders in Washington, D.C. Those efforts earned the chapter the AFA Exceptional Service Award for Advocacy.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

“It’s always a team effort,” said past Gen. David C. Jones Chapter President Jim Bowman. “But we also had several individuals receive AFA awards.” Rod Wilson received the AFA Medal of Merit, while Bowman and George Masters received the AFA Exceptional Service Award.

ABOUT THE AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION

MISSION

The Air & Space Forces Association promotes dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong national defense. Its mission is to honor and support Airmen, Guardians, and their families while preserving and respecting the heritage of the Air and Space Forces.

STRATEGIC ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES

- 1. Ensure combat readiness in air, space, and cyberspace.

- 2. Define and articulate the Department of the Air Force’s requirements for executing the National Defense Strategy.

- 3. Recapitalize and modernize the Air and Space Forces.

- 4. Invest in and develop advanced technologies that strengthen U.S. air and space resilience and superiority.

- 5. Invest in and support people as the military’s most valuable asset.

EDUCATION

To accomplish its mission, AFA educates the public on the critical need for unrivaled aerospace power and advances aerospace and STEM education for a technically skilled, professional workforce.

AFA supports the next generation of Air and Space Force leaders through youth competitions and camps, national and local awards, grants, scholarships, professional development opportunities, and related programs.

SUPPORT

AFA supports Airmen, Guardians, and families across the Total Air Force and Space Force, including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, civilian personnel, families, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.



AFA Awards presented to Gen David C. Jones Chapter.

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You would never use a jack without also using a jack stand right!

The vehicle lifts that are supporting a vehicle you are working or being stored can represent one of the most productive tools in your shop, or one of the most dangerous pieces of equipment for you if not used and maintained properly. You'd never drive a vehicle that hadn't had the brakes inspected in years. Here are some basic and common sense principles apply to vehicle lifts in your shop and daily inspections are part of your job.

Whether you're using two-post lifts, parallelograms, mobile column lifts, drive-on lifts or in-ground lifts for servicing vehicles, you should follow these basic safety rules.

1. Buy Certified Lifts

There's only one nationally recognized safety standard for vehicle lifts: ANSI-ALI/ALCTV/CE, administered by the Automotive Lift Institute (ALI/ETL). ETL testing labs verify that a manufacturer's lifts meet the national safety standard for vehicles lift. The Automotive Lift Institute working through ETL testing procedures involves rigorous third-party testing verifying lift manufacturers comply with current ANSI requirements for lifts as defined by the International Building Code, which mandates that lifts be third party tested to meet these safety requirements. To verify equipment status, look for the gold ALI/ETL verification tag next to the lift's controls.

2. Buy Certified Lift Options

A commonly overlooked mistake is using an uncertified option or accessory on a certified lift. Doing so will void the lift's certification. It's simple: If the optional accessory isn't certified then the lift isn't certified. ALI/ETL standards (&ANSI standards & building code standards), require all accessories, such as drive-on lifts, rolling jacks and truck adaptors, to be certified. Although certification is good for the life of the lift, older models may not meet the most current standards. Complying with American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Public

Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) requirements is the key to keeping vehicle lifts at the highest possible safety level.

3. No locks are liability

Always raise the vehicle and then lower it onto the lift's mechanical locks as required by ANSI. Refer to ALI safety manual lifting it Right or the manufacturer's operating instructions for detailed information. An easy way to visually verify the locks are being used is to include a weight gauge (a pressure gauge calibrated to the lift's lifting capacity) on your lift. A weight gauge can also be a great diagnostic tool. If using an old in-ground lift that doesn't have locks, it's time for a new lift. While some in-ground lifts can be retrofitted with an aftermarket lock, it's not the most cost-effective option, and your lift will still not be ALI/ETL certified to be compliant with ANSI rules and building code laws.

4. It's easy to overload

Manufacturers of the most common two-post side by side lifts mandate that none of the four swing arms be overloaded. As an example: Some may think that a 15,000 pound rated lift that's loaded with a 14,200 pound ambulance isn't near capacity. They're wrong! It's easy to see why two-post side-by-side lifts are often overloaded, even though the total lift capacity hasn't been exceeded.

5. Inspect Equipment Annually

ANSI/Automotive Lift Institute ALCTV Standard for Automotive Lifts-"Safety Requirements for Construction, Testing, and Validation" requires technicians to perform a daily operational safety check. The code also requires an annual inspection by a qualified individual. Failing to do so could expose your shop to liabilities that could be associated with an injury if an accident were to happen.

6. Training and Testing

Contact the Automotive Lift Institute, your lift supplier, or a local lift inspection company for a copy of the 20-minute lifting it Right video hosted by legendary. Like any product, lifts vary in style, type, capability, longevity and warranty.

Oil Change Tips

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

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

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

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

What About The Oil Filter?

To reduce the costs of vehicle ownership and maintenance, many car makers say the oil filter only needs to be replaced at every other oil change. Most mechanics will tell you this is a false economy.

The oil filters on most engines today have been downsized to save weight, cost, and space. The "standard" quart-sized

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

Therefore, replacing the oil filter every time the oil is changed is highly recommended.

Filter Replacement

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

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

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

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



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Timeless Treasures in the Heart of Downtown



HOPE ANDERSON

Downtown Minot is filled with unique and interesting shopping experiences. You never know what you will find around every corner and in every nook. One of these hidden gems is tucked into the lower level of the Ascend Wellness building at 108 South Main Street. The Downtown Antique Mall is an eclectic mix of antique and vintage finds from days gone by, sparking childhood memories for many who walk through its doors.

Gene Brinkman, the curator of curiosities, is a wealth of knowledge and stories. He has been sourcing antiques for generations and credits his father for sparking his love of all things old and storied. When the shop opened in 1996, Gene had originally partnered with a small group of antique enthusiasts to start the mall. But when circumstances changed, he became the sole purveyor and has been running strong in the same location ever since.

When asked about current trends, Gene explained that it really depends on the individual shopper. For a time, Pyrex bowls and uranium glass were hot ticket items, but like all trends, their popularity has cooled. These days, customers are more often looking for unique conversation pieces, items that speak to them personally and that they simply have to have.

Among his favorite treasures to source are old metal signs and antique toys, though the variety in the shop stretches much further. From glassware to jewelry, artwork to collectibles, the Downtown Antique Mall truly offers something for everyone. Exploring the space feels like embarking on a treasure hunt, with every nook and cranny hiding something that could catch your eye or your heart.

If you enjoy a wealth of knowledge mixed with humor and a healthy dose of sarcasm,

Gene is the person to visit. I am fortunate to have him as a business neighbor and he always keeps the workday lively. This sense of camaraderie and community is one of the reasons Gene chose downtown back in 1996. To this day, the area is filled with small businesses that support one another and encourage customers to shop local.

Stepping into the Downtown Antique Mall is like opening a doorway to the past, where every piece holds a story and every corner invites discovery. Whether you are a seasoned collector, a curious treasure hunter, or simply looking for a cozy place to wander, the mall offers more than antiques. It offers connection, nostalgia, and the joy of finding something unexpected. Next time you are downtown, stop in and see what memories are waiting to be uncovered. You just might leave with a piece of history in your hands.



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Meet the Firefighter: Chief Michael “Chief E” Erickson

This week, we’re proud to introduce Chief Michael “Chief E” Erickson, a familiar face and invaluable member of the Minot AFB Fire & Emergency Services family!

Originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, Chief E began his fire service career with the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado 30 years ago, where he developed a strong foundation in wildland firefighting. He later joined the Vail Fire Department, working as a firefighter and gaining invaluable experience that would shape his career.

Chief E eventually enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, continuing his passion for serving others through fire and emergency services. Along the way, he has also served at Mountain Home AFB and Offutt AFB, before ultimately finding his way back to what has become his forever home here at Minot AFB.

Recently promoted to GS-9 Station Chief, Chief E serves on B Shift, where his years of experience and knowledge are an incredible asset to our department.

One of Chief E’s greatest contributions is the impact he has on our firefighters—especially the many new firefighters coming through our doors. His experience, expertise, and willingness to share what he has learned throughout his career make him an invaluable mentor and instructor. He brings

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AUGUST 2000

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Outside of the fire station, Chief E is also heavily involved in the Minot hockey community, continuing his commitment to supporting the community he calls home.





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SUDOKU PUZZLE

Solution to puzzle on page B10

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution to last weeks crossword

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- Across
- 1. "___ a Lady" (Tom Jones)
 - 5. See you, in Soho
 - 9. Parks of history books
 - 13. Kind of heat
 - 15. Milky gem
 - 16. Broad sts.
 - 17. Beginning of a quip
 - 20. Last Greek letters
 - 21. Spine-tingling
 - 22. Calls for quiet
 - 23. Wildcats' org.
 - 26. Demolitionist's charge
 - 27. Admission requirements, sometimes
 - 30. Quip (Part 2)
 - 33. Olympic ski champ Phil
 - 35. POB contents
 - 36. Footsore
 - 39. "Prevention" unit (two words)
 - 41. Lair of Matisse or Monet
 - 43. Cougars and Jaguars
 - 44. Shakespeare's stream
 - 46. Grandmas, affectionately
 - 47. Quip (Part 3)
 - 50. Jeanne d'Arc's title (Abbr.)
 - 51. Pickle holder
 - 53. Does not exist
 - 54. It's not free of charge
 - 56. "What ___ in the neck!"
 - 58. High-speed flash
 - 61. Quip (Part 4)
 - 66. Cogito ___ sum
 - 67. Needing liniment
 - 68. MacDonald's refrain
 - 69. Margin mark, perhaps
 - 70. Crossed out
 - 71. Trucker's allowance

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		
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33			34			35				36		37	38
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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			

- Down
- 1. Concorde, e.g.
 - 2. A few syllables from Santa
 - 3. K-6
 - 4. Items with dials
 - 5. Light throw
 - 6. Suited to the task
 - 7. Beret relative
 - 8. Menu phrase
 - 9. Throw a tantrum
 - 10. Prepares physically to a fault
 - 11. Begin, as winter
 - 12. Valuable possession
 - 14. Do justice to
 - 18. Foolhardy
 - 19. With no ice
 - 23. "It's ___ for Me to Say" (Johnny Mathis)
 - 24. First name in big noses
 - 25. Type of coach, briefly
 - 27. Apple Computer offering
 - 28. Carvey, "The Church Lady"
 - 29. For the near future
 - 31. Number of pipers piping
 - 32. First name in jazz
 - 34. Run with the ball through a hole
 - 37. Vegan's taboo
 - 38. Highland dialect
 - 40. Mama of music
 - 42. Sign a check's back
 - 45. Last qtr. kickoff
 - 48. Article in Der Spiegel
 - 49. Evening, in ads
 - 51. New Testament book
 - 52. Not connected
 - 55. Type of game pitchers dream of
 - 57. James Brown's "___ the Feelin'"
 - 58. Home for a mower
 - 59. Duff, on "The Simpsons"
 - 60. "Night" author Wiesel
 - 62. China's Lao-___
 - 63. In Boston, they are Red
 - 64. Number of Stooges in Italy
 - 65. Word with parking or odd

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(2026) Action, Drama, Quest, Adventure (R)

TOY STORY 5
(2026) Family, Animation, Comedy (PG)

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[illegible]

North Dakota Air National Guard Named Top Flying Unit at NGAUS Conference

NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD

Indianapolis, Ind. — The North Dakota Air National Guard’s 119th Wing, also known as the Happy Hooligans, were honored with multiple awards at the 148th annual National Guard Association of the United States Conference and Exhibition held August 28-31, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The 119th Wing was awarded the Air National Guard Spaatz Trophy, presented in honor of Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, the first Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force. The award is presented annually to the top flying unit in the Air National Guard and recognizes overall excellence and combat readiness. This marks the fourth time 119th Wing has earned this prestigious honor, winning in 1950, 2020, and 2022.

“The Spaatz Trophy is a testament to the amazing efforts of our Airmen and their commitment to performing at a high level every day,” said U.S. Air Force. Col. Christopher Domitrovich, 119th Wing commander. “The standard of excellence that our Airmen bring to every aspect of our mission is what makes the North Dakota Air National Guard one of the most capable and mission-ready units in the nation.”

In addition to the Spaatz Trophy, the Wing earned the Winston P. Wilson Trophy, awarded to the top Air National Guard flying unit equipped with fighter or reconnaissance aircraft. The Hooligans also earned the William W. Spruance Safety Award, recognizing the unit that contributed most significantly to accident prevention throughout the year and the John J. Pesch Flight Safety Trophy, presented annually to the two flying units that demonstrate the highest standards of flight safety.

“These awards are the result of the 119th Wing’s culture of

excellence,” said U.S Air Force Brig. Gen. Mitch Johnson, North Dakota National Guard adjutant general. “The men and women of the 119th Wing consistently prove that they

are ready and able to perform when their nation or state call upon them and add to the impressive legacy of excellence of the North Dakota Air National Guard.”



U.S. Air Force Col. Lee Teigen, commander, 119th Operations Group, 119th Wing, North Dakota Air National Guard, receives the Maj. Gen. John J. Pesch Flight Safety Trophy from (left) retired Maj. Gen. Ondra Berry, NGAUS vice chair-Air, and (right) U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Randy Efferson, the acting director of the Air National Guard, at the 148th NGAUS General Conference & Exhibition, Indianapolis, Indiana, August 31, 2026.



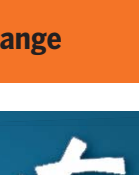
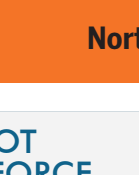
U.S. Air Force Col. Lee Teigen, commander, 119th Operations Group, 119th Wing, North Dakota Air National Guard, receives the Winston P. Wilson Trophy.



U.S. Air Force Col. Christopher Domitrovich, commander, 119th Wing, North Dakota Air National Guard, receives the Spaatz Trophy.



U.S. Air Force Col. Lee Teigen, commander, 119th Operations Group, 119th Wing, North Dakota Air National Guard, receives the William W. Spruance Safety Award.



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TSGT JESSE FORD

Technical Sergeant Jesse Ford has been stationed at Minot AFB for almost 5 years. She is the first member of her family to join the Air Force. Currently she is a Bioenvironmental Engineering Technician and plans to pursue culinary arts or forensics lab. Her hobbies include Pokémon, specifically Bulbasaur, diamond painting, Call of Duty, and spending time with her family.

Info from October 2025



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SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM MANAGER, GS-12

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM



As your School Liaison Program Manager, I interact or engage regularly with our “Core Four” or Commanders, Families, Schools, and Community Partners. The goal is to strengthen operational readiness by ensuring command teams are aware of local and state education challenges, supporting military parents and students through transitions, partnering with school staff to build stable and successful relationships and educational environments, and working with local community organizations to expand resources and opportunities for military-connected students. I am, essentially, the link between the installation and school community – connecting with this four-customer base – to positively influence military family’ readiness and retention. For more information or support, please contact mafb.school.liaison@us.af.mil.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE



SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM

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Upcoming 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!



TAP INTO ND!



For more information:
[Facebook/ Minot Sertoma Club](#)

09 OCT

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS 5K

8:00 AM

Bud Ebert Park
Minot Air Force Base

Join Brandee Hahn for the Breast Cancer Awareness 5K at 8 a.m. at Bud Ebert Park, Minot Air Force Base. Come together to raise awareness, show support and honor those affected by breast cancer.

CHECK YOUR PUMPKINS FOR LUMPKINS



For more information:
[Facebook/ Brandee Hahn /Events](#)

9-10 OCT

MIDWEST MONSTERCON

2:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Minot Municipal Auditorium,
420 3rd Ave SW Minot

Enter a world where the veil between reality and the unknown grows thin... Midwest MonsterCon, North Dakota’s only horror convention, invites you to experience the macabre like never before. With haunting vendors, spine-chilling films, twisted games, eerie contests, and celebrity guests from the world of horror, this is a gathering for all who crave the strange and unusual. If it’s creepy, paranormal, or downright terrifying... you’ll find it here. Admission: Adults 18 and up • \$20 — Two-Day Pass • \$15 — Single-Day Entry Kids 12 to 17 • \$10 — Two-Day Pass • \$7 — Single-Day Entry Under 12 Free



For more information:
<https://midwestmonstercon.square.site/>

09 OCT

MINOT NORTH DECA FALL FEST

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Minot North High School,
2100 21st Ave NW, Minot

Fall Fest is a fun-filled, donation-based community event created to bring families, students, and local businesses together while supporting a great cause. All proceeds from the event benefit Minot North High School’s Special Education Classroom, helping provide supplies, resources, and opportunities for students. This year’s event will feature: * Silent Auction with donations from local businesses * Car Show featuring classic, custom, and unique vehicles * 3 Food Trucks * 2 Dessert Trucks * Family-friendly activities * Community vendors and more! Whether you’re coming to enjoy great food, bid on silent auction items, admire amazing vehicles, or simply spend time with your community, there’s something for everyone.



For more information:
[Facebook/ Minot North DECA - Fall Fest/ Events](#)

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Embracing our North Dakota Lifestyle

A NEW SEASON

Patricia Stockdill

The words are familiar; it's become a ritual: "Sit. Stay. You know the routine. . . OK, let's go."

Yes, she knows the routine. Sit. Stay. A wave of the hand and the word "OK" releases a brown-and-white Brittany on a mission. She leaps onto the ground and joyously spins in a couple of wide circles. She freezes and eagerly turns back to her hunter. Her expression says it all: *It's time. It's what I live for. Hurry; get ready; let's go. We must hunt.*

The petite, powerful bundle of Brittany energy, like most hunting dogs, instinctively knows this day is for real; it wasn't just another training, exercise, and conditioning adventure.

It's a new season. It's for real.

Shotgun in hand, hunter and dog work in unison on the opening day of the sharp-tailed grouse and partridge season, trekking across a wide swath of North Dakota prairie pasture.

Enough of a breeze would likely settle any sharp-tailed grouse just over the top of the rolling ridge, out of the wind. At the same time, the ridge provides a vantage point allowing them to remain vigilant for potential intruders.

Cool morning air wouldn't yet prompt them to move to the shade of buckbrush, patches of silverberry shrubs, or clumps of buffaloberries and chokecherries. That will be their location of choice when it's warmer.

The quiet morning allows one's mind to wander, all the while focusing on the four-legged companion on her mission of finding a feathered treasure for her hunter.

The pasture is oh-so familiar: It's a treasured piece of ground the hunter has walked for years. A smile brings back memories of a child toddling along with Dad during deer season when prairie grasses and buckbrush seemed engulfing.

Fast-forward and the married hunter and her husband would introduce their first Brittany to the same patch of land. Later, young hunters would toddle along and, when old enough, proudly carry their own shotgun hunting behind their own treasured hunting dog in search of grouse, partridge, and pheasants.

A litany of Britts and family would walk the pasture. Stories would be told and laughter would abound. Dogs would be celebrated.

Thoughts of bygone hunting adventures and memories

bring more subtle smiles as the hunter and dog continue on their journey.

But the Brittany didn't care about her hunter's memories. She was intent on finding her quarry.

She stops abruptly, locked on point. Finally, a bird. "Hen pheasant," the hunter calls out, as if the Brittany would understand why she didn't pull the shotgun to her shoulder and shoot. "Pheasant, Magnum," she tells the dog.

The dog, in turn, looks at her as if to say, *Look, it's a bird, I don't care if it's a pheasant, it's a bird and I'm in my glory.*

"Pheasant. Good girl. Good girl, Magnum," the hunter says to no one other than the dog.

Accepting the praise, Magnum pauses briefly and then returns to her mission of finding more birds as if she's accepting the fact that pheasant season doesn't open for another month. It's not her fault it wasn't a grouse or partridge, it's still an upland game bird in her world and it smells so wonderful.

The pheasant would be the lone treasure for the dog that day, even though she couldn't present it to the hunter's hand.

The day was still a treasure even though it didn't yield any grouse or partridge in hand.

It brought back memories.

It created new memories.

It meant another day afield; hunter and dog working in unison across a patch of treasured prairie. More memories will follow.

And maybe some birds in hand.

It's time. It's what I live for. Hurry; get ready; let's go.



The 2026 grouse season opener wouldn't yield any birds for Magnum but it was a great day in the field.

PATRICIA STOCKDILL PHOTO



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This Autumn at the Discovery Center

MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER

As the weather finally starts to cool down, things are just starting to heat up at the Discovery Center. This fall, our calendar is jam-packed with all sorts of things to do (with a little bit of something for everyone!). Check out our upcoming events below!

NEW!! MADE WITH DISCOVERY: THE DISCOVERY WORKSHOP | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, 6:00 TO 8:00 PM

- Made with Discovery will be held on the first Monday of every other month from 6 to 8 PM starting October 2nd!
- A creative workshop series designed for kids, families, and adults to explore, experiment, and make something of their own. Rather than traditional instructor-led classes, each workshop provides a creative project, materials, examples, and guidance while allowing participants the freedom to make it their own. No prior experience or artistic skills are needed, just come ready to create!
- For October, we are DIYing custom doormats! All supplies are provided, we have stencils, and ideas to get you started or you can create something of your own imagination!
- All ages welcome (even adults!)
- Parents or guardians must remain with children during the workshop. This is not a drop-off class.
- Each purchased spot includes one take-home project. For example, purchasing two spots for two children means both children will receive their own project.
- Parents and guardians can purchase their own spot if they would like to complete a project alongside their child.
- Cost is \$25 for non-members, \$22.50 for members, \$20 for military members

MINOT MINOTAUROS MEET & GREET | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 2:00 TO 4:00 PM

- Tank and Tauros players will be here to sign autographs, take pictures, and meet fans of all ages. We will also have build you own mini hockey rinks and craft your own mini sticks to take home in our Makerspace!
- Plus, sign up to be an honorary captain at one of the Tauros’ games!
- This event is FREE with museum entrance ticket!

DAY OFF DISCOVERIES (MPS NO-SCHOOL DAYS!) | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 3:30 TO 5:30 PM

- We’re refreshing Day Off Discovery for 2026–2027 with a new focus on career exploration through hands-on experiences. Held

on select no-school days throughout the year, each event will feature a new theme and connect kids with local professionals, organizations, and careers. From firefighters and pilots to engineers, artists, entrepreneurs, and athletes, kids will get to meet real professionals, try hands-on activities, and discover where their interests could take them!

- October is Fire Prevention Month! The Minot Fire Department will be at the Discovery Center for you to meet local firefighters, explore the fire truck and equipment, and learn what it takes to become a firefighter.
- All ages are welcome!
- This event is FREE with museum entrance ticket!

SILLY SPOOKY SCIENCE (MPS NO-SCHOOL DAY!) | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

- Calling all mad scientists, curious creatures, and professional troublemakers! Get ready to experiment your way through a delightfully spooky science adventure! Create creepy concoctions, investigate mysterious reactions, and discover the science behind some of Halloween’s weirdest wonders! Will something ooze? Will something explode? Will you accidentally create a monster? Probably not...but science can be unpredictable! Come prepared to get a little messy, laugh a lot, and unleash your inner mad scientist!
- For ages 9 to 13
- Cost is \$25 for non-members, \$22.50 for members, \$20 for military members!

ADULTS ONLY NIGHT | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 6:30 TO 9:00 PM

- Explore exhibits, try hands-on activities, and enjoy a night of discovery made just for grown-ups.
- For ages 21+
- Admission is \$10 a person but if you come in costume we’ll give you a free drink!

CHOPPED HALLOWEEN | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST, 12:00 TO 2:00 PM

- Chopped is back at the Magic City Discovery Center!!! An artistic twist on the cooking show, only this time with a SpOoKy twist! Students in this class will be tasked with making different creations, using only the art materials that are given to them. As in chopped, “pantry” items will also be available to use. Guest judges will award prizes for the most creative and spooktacular works of art!
- For ages 5-12
- Cost is \$25 for non-members, \$22.50 for members, \$20 for military members!

TIME TRAVELERS: RACE AGAINST HISTORY | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH, 2:00 TO 4:00 PM

- Grab your passport, it’s time to travel through history! Young time travelers will journey to different eras, from the age of dinosaurs to Ancient Egypt, medieval castles, and the future. At each stop, they’ll complete hands-on STEAM challenges, create themed projects, and discover how science, engineering, and creativity have shaped the world through time.
- For ages 5-10
- Cost is \$25 for non-members, \$22.50 for members, \$20 for military members!

NOVEMBER DAY OFF DISCOVERIES | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH, 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

- November is National Aviation History Month and the Minot International Airport will be at the Discovery Center! Explore aviation, learn about careers in the sky, and discover how pilots and air traffic controllers keep us moving safely.
- All ages are welcome!
- This event is FREE with museum entrance ticket!

TINY THINKERS | EVERY THURSDAY, 10:30 TO 11:00 AM

- Tiny Thinkers is a STEAM-based series for young children!
- Activities include hands-on science, sensory play, stories, art, movement activities, and more.
- Geared for toddlers although all ages are welcome, even grandparents!
- This event is FREE with museum entrance ticket!

SENSORY FRIENDLY NIGHT | SEPTEMBER 21ST, 4:00 TO 5:30 PM

- Sensory Nights are designed for children and their families who may have special needs, differently-abled individuals, and those who have sensory sensitivities. We understand that the museum can be a bustling place. During Sensory Friendly Night, we provide adjusted sound levels and limit attendance to create a calmer environment. Sensory bags will also be available at the front desk. Families can explore the museum at their own pace.
- Sensory Night is held on the third Monday of each month from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
- Cost is \$5 a person and FREE for members!

Visit MagicCityDiscoveryCenter.com to learn more!



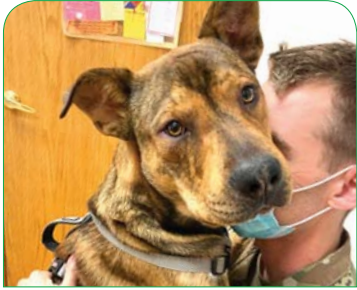
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All About Pets

Pets have allergies too!



Just like their humans, pets can have allergies too, and they are no fun for your furry friends! Pet allergies can be triggered by a variety of things including food ingredients, bug bites/stings, seasonal, prescriptions, chemicals, and more. Did you know that protein sources (including chicken, beef, or lamb) are some of the most common allergens for dogs? Here are some of the symptoms of allergies in your cats and dogs:

- Itchiness
- Hives
- Swelling—in the face, ears, lips, eyelids, etc.
- Red, hot, and inflamed skin
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Sneezing
- Runny eyes
- Constant licking or other restlessness

If you suspect that your pet might be having an allergic reaction, its best to contact your vet immediately. They can administer quicker solutions for more severe reactions and can also give you advice on how to prevent future allergy attacks. Sometimes it’s as easy as cutting out a specific trigger (such as chicken in the diet or a certain dog shampoo), but sometimes it may

take a lot of trial and error to narrow down a culprit. Make sure you keep accurate tabs on which products you use on and around your pet, as well as all the foods that they ingest and what they are around when outside. If your pet is showing severe signs of allergic reaction and even anaphylaxis (swelling, hives, itching, excessive salivation/drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, pale gums, seizure, wheezing or trouble breathing, etc.) drop everything and get your pet to the emergency vet immediately! One of the closest emergency vets to Minot Air Force Base is Pinkerton Animal Hospital. In more mild cases, Benadryl is usually the go-to at home remedy, but do not give your pet any medication or remedies without consulting your veterinarian first as you can potentially do more harm than good without the guidance of a professional. In order to help our pets live their best lives, it’s important to keep an eye on them, their habits and their reactions to catch any allergies as soon as possible. If you got sick every time you ate chicken, you probably wouldn’t want to keep eating it every day, would you? Neither does your pet!

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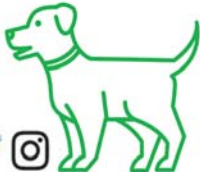
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Reflection on the Vigilant Parent Initiative Sessions Held on Minot AFB: What Parents Need to Know (Part I)

Three sessions titled “Vision Parent Initiative” were held on Minot Air Force Base in 2026 on May 21st, June 23rd, and July 27th. These sessions were brought to the base by North Dakota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (NDICAC) and were coordinated by our Prevention Office. They were designed to empower parents to guide and protect their children online through successful navigation of five apps. Parents were encouraged to attend all three sessions, although I’d argue attending even one session – if that’s all a schedule can accommodate – is more than worth it.



On May 21st, 2026, the session lasted from 5:30pm to 8:20pm. Our 5th Bomb Wing Commander at the time, Col Lamarand, attended. We reviewed Snapchat and TikTok and each attendee was given a tablet to interact with these apps. Here are some takeaways:

Children are not predominantly on Facebook. The average age for children who are targeted or exposed to explicit material on apps is nine years-old.

Parents need to have a conversation with their child if they see an app they don’t recognize. Ask, “What is this?” and “Why do you have it?” When a child is targeted and exposed, a child says, “I wish I would have talked to my parents.” A parent says, “I wish I had asked more questions.”

Sextortion – A form of online abuse and sexual exploitation. It happens when a person uses coercion to obtain sexual photos, videos, money, or more from a victim. The kids who are being targeted the most are usually the ones who have something to lose (e.g. kids in the media with sports scholarships, class President, etc.). These students care about the ramifications of not sending an explicit photo, video, or money to



Jab – Electronic Detection Canine that assists the BCI

a perpetrator online, which is the exact opposite of what most people think – kids doing drugs, drinking etc.

If you suspect your child has been extorted, report it. You can contact Mr. Cassidy Halseth, Special Agent, Cyber Crime Unit, Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) in Minot, ND at chalseth@nd.gov. You can also contact Ms. Analena M. Lunde, Victim Witness Specialist, BCI in Dickinson, ND at alunde@nd.gov. They will go after the perpetrator, obtain a search warrant, and can find their electronic devices with the help of three local canines – named “Jab” in Minot, “Ursa” in Bismarck, and “Jib” in Fargo – who are trained to smell the glue in hard drives.

You are also encouraged to contact your local law enforcement agency and tell them you would like to make a report to the North Dakota ICAC Task Force. Your local agency can make sure the information gets to Mr. Halseth and your local BCI agents/specialists.

Another established way to report concerns involves contacting the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). Reports of suspected online child sexual exploitation can be made through the NCMEC CyberTipline or by calling 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678). Additional information and resources are available through the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

“Parents don’t come to us in the numbers that kids do, sadly. Burying their head in the sand [with regard to their kid’s technology use] is like putting kids in cars to drive down a highway with no doors or seatbelts.” -Mr. Cassidy Halseth

SNAPCHAT

You need to be 13 years-old to have Snapchat, but there are kindergartners on it, because children can put any birthdate they want (no verification is required) to make their account. Also, they cannot open Snapchat unless they turn their camera on.

If location is “on,” your children are being tracked. They can see their friends’ locations, too.

If they click the chat bubble, your children can see other children in their local area and add them. As a parent, put a face to who their Snapchat friends are. Ask if your child knows them.

Through “spotlight,” your children can add a creator of a video as a friend. Sometimes they can see live streams happening in their area (e.g. riots, etc.)

If your child has “my eyes only” setup in “memories,” request their password. Have a conversation with your kid about that. “The crimes against kids are living there.” -Mr. Halseth

Your child can talk to other children using only emojis. In Google, you can look up emojis to decipher their meaning, but children create other, more complex ones not listed.

If you look at your child’s chat, check if they deleted some of their conversation. Ask your child what

happened in that scenario. They might be hiding something.

Click the gear icon located in the top right corner. This is their privacy controls. See how your child is sharing their location. The safest location setting is ghost mode. Check who can contact your child. Check blocked users. If you see a lot of people, it’s time to have a conversation. What is going on in their Snapchat experience? Are they being extorted? Bullied?

Click on “Settings.” There’s a “Family Center.” In there, you can control what your child’s doing. Setup their account. Note: If your phone updates and their phone doesn’t, the settings may not stay. Check periodically to make sure the settings stay.

“Download Snapchat and play with it before you allow your child to use it.” -Ms. Lunde

Children can now monetize what they put on Snapchat. They can link to Amazon etc.

Click on “My Account Status.” You can see if your child was ever banned, reported for bullying, etc.

If your child asks for a new account, it’s probably time to have a conversation. Your child probably got banned for some reason.

If you click on “Settings” and “My Data,” Snapchat will send you a zip file of everything your child has taken pictures of etc., everything except “my eyes only” information. Tell your child you’re downloading their data and looking through it. There will be a lot of PDFs and spreadsheets. Click “Ctrl F” to search specific, explicit terms or friend names. Plan to do this regularly. Please be aware that according to their disclosure agreement, Snapchat owns all data your child inputs.

TIKTOK

“TikTok and Roblox are both extremely popular platforms with kids, and because kids are there, bad actors are going to go there as well. Offenders will seek out platforms where they know they can find and interact with children.” – Mr. Halseth

If you click on the image icon on the right side, that’s where you find the creator. You can follow that person and make a connection.

On the right side, you’ll also see “Auto scroll.”. Your child doesn’t even need to move their finger to scroll.

Look at your child’s profile. They can connect their social media platforms (e.g. Instagram) to TikTok. They can get money on TikTok. Your child might have something called “tips” in which people can give your child money. Check this especially if your child’s account is public.

Click the “home” button. Click on the magnifying glass “search” icon on the top right and look at what your child’s searching. This might give you an idea of what’s going on in their digital world. Also check their “You may like” feature, which you can see even if they deleted their search history.

In “Settings and Privacy,” check the Activity Center. There is something called “Family Pairing.” As you set



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



up your child’s account, you can do this and have some control over what your child is doing. Just like I stated in Snapchat, phone/device updates are the biggest killer of this feature. Go in often and check that this setting remains on. If your kid is on an older device, you might lose some connections with your TikTok, too.

“When TikTok shut down, many people were upset, because TikTok has monetized the selling of pictures, videos, etc.” -Ms. Lunde

If your child has TikTok, tell them not to link Instagram etc. and integrated accounts. It creates a bigger issue.

“It’s all about the links, the likes,

the love,’ teenagers say. It’s very addicting.” -Ms. Lunde

Make sure your child’s account is private.

Click on “Rewards.” The more interactions your child gets, they can receive gift cards, trips, etc.

“Kids thrive on structure. Set limits.” -Ms. Lunde

“Have conversations [with your kids]. Talk about healthy relationships. Sexiness is taking out the trash. Making dinner. Teach [them] about good, healthy relationships. Do not freak out if your child did not come to you and sent an explicit photo and is now being extorted. Call me. Call the investigative unit.” – Ms. Lunde

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.

Want to read the full article? Visit our website for the complete story, and check out next week’s edition for Part II.

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Do Eat Asian Cuisine <i>All You Can Eat</i> 2400 10th Street Southwest, #522, Minot Phone: 701.837.9999 www.doeatasiancuisine.com	Meg-A-Latte 2045 N Broadway Suite #100, Minot Phone: 701-838-8479 www.mega-atte.com
Mi Mexico 3816 South Broadway, Minot Phone: 701.858.0777 www.mimexico.minotnd.com	N.D. Asia 3400 16th St SW, Minot Phone: 701.852.1240 www.ND-Asia.com
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2	4	3	1	9	5	6	7	8
7	8	5	3	4	6	9	2	1
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3	9	7	6	8	2	1	5	4
5	6	4	9	7	1	8	3	2
8	3	2	4	6	9	5	1	7
4	7	1	8	5	3	2	9	6
9	5	6	2	1	7	4	8	3

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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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- As students settle back into routines, it's crucial to reinforce fire safety. In dorms, remind students about the dangers of overloaded electrical outlets, using unapproved appliances (like hot plates or candles), and covering smoke detectors. At home, ensure children know two escape routes from their bedrooms and a family meeting place. A perfect time to practice your escape plan & route. Test and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- September is the ideal month to have your furnace, chimney, and other heating equipment inspected and serviced by a qualified professional. This ensures they are operating safely and efficiently, reducing the risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning when cold weather truly sets in.
- With increased use of indoor lighting and electronics as days shorten, it's wise to consider a general inspection of your



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home's electrical system. Look for frayed cords, loose outlets, and flickering lights, which can all be signs of potential hazards. Avoid overloading circuits and ensure all extension cords are used safely and are not run under rugs or heavy furniture or daisy chained.



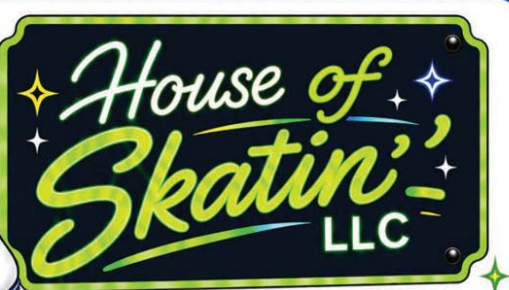
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2026 FALL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH	SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH
FRIDAY OCTOBER 23RD	SATURDAY OCTOBER 24TH
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6TH	SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7TH
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27TH	SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28TH
FRIDAY DECEMBER 4TH	SATURDAY DECEMBER 5TH
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SATURDAY DECEMBER 26TH	

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by Patricia Stockdill

FISHING:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, Sept. 21: 1,824.35 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 12,900 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: 1,449.97 MSL.
•N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: No reports from north-central area lakes. Missouri River System, and Devils Lake.
•Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Anglers transitioning to fall walleye techniques, using vertical jigs along the bridges. Still trying late summer trolling techniques, though, with somewhat fair success.
•Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Limited activity but the few anglers still fishing are finding scattered bluegill and walleye activity.
•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Fewer anglers on the east end of Lake Sakakawea with those going finding walleye in deep water, working at least 40 feet and deeper with a switch to minnows. Also try west around Deepwater Bay.
•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Hit-and-miss walleye success on the east end of Lake Sakakawea with fewer anglers on the water. Continue working deep water, though, but keep anything caught from 25 feet and deeper.
•Lake Sakakawea, New Town: Not many anglers on the Van Hook Arm but those going are finding some walleye activity in deep water.
•Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace producing nice catfish activity but walleye success is spotty, including at night from both boat and shore. East

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 warnings 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 and Blacktail 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. 26: N.D. resident waterfowl season opens.
- Sept. 26: Logger Fest Oak Park, noon.
- Sept. 27: Youth deer season closes.
- Sept. 28: Fall Wreath Making at the Badlands, \$45 registration with all supplies provided, Badlands Bar & Grill, Minot, 6 p.m.
- Oct. 2: Pronghorn season opens (lottery license holders only).
- Oct. 3: Nonresident waterfowl season opens.
- Oct. 3: MonDak Pheasants Forever Chapter banquet, Raymond Family Community Center, Williston, 3 p.m.
- Oct. 3 & 4: Youth pheasant season opens.



TOURNAMENTS:

- Sept. 25 & 26: Lake Sakakawea, White Earth Bay.
- Oct. 1 – 3: Devils Lake, Grahams Island State Park.

end of Lake Sakakawea slow with a few walleye in deeper water. Move around. Tough salmon bite now, as well, with generally inconsistent success.
•Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Somewhat improving walleye success from White Earth Bay to the west with most activity around Antelope Flats on the upper end of Lake Sakakawea. Missouri and Yellowstone rivers muddied up earlier in the week but look for more walleye success as it clears. Northgate Dam producing fair to good crappie and bluegill activity.
•North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: Little activity on the Souris River and area lakes.
HUNTING:
•Archery deer: A little more deer movement with cooler weather.

•Doves: Birds starting to bunch up with cooler morning temperatures.
•Upland: Hunting activity and success remains light in many areas with poor bird numbers.
•Waterfowl: Devils Lake area duck hatch seems fair for the waterfowl openers with fair local Canada goose numbers in parts of northeast N.D. Not much for local ducks around portions of west-central parts of the state with only local Canada geese. Overall poor wetland conditions in many areas, as well. Better waterfowl numbers and wetland conditions are in far northwest N.D. and parts of north-central N.D.
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

FRIDAY25

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Membership Day, 1600-1730, Youth Center
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2300, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Karaoke Battle, 1730-2130, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY26

- Kayaking Trip, Lake Darling, hosted by Outdoor Recreation
- Air Force Birthday Tournament, 0900, Rough Rider Golf Course
- Paintball Open Play, 1000-1400, Paintball Field, hosted by Outdoor Rec.
- Air Force Gaming — Fighting Game Series, 1300, Northern Paradise AMD, inside of Bomber Bistro

SUNDAY27

- Sunday Escapes Book Club, 1330, Base Library

MONDAY28

- Registration Closes: Parents Night Out, CYPBMS
- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- SR TAP DOW Transition Day, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Newbery Book Club, 1600, Minot AFB Library

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Jalapenos Popper Pizza

The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item
Pumpkin Spice Latte, Pumpkin Cold Brew,
Pumpkin Chai

TUESDAY29

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- SR TAP VA Services and Benefits Briefing, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Fall into Fitness 5K, 0900, Auto Hobby Shop, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Arts & Crafts — Auto Hobby Open House & Safety Fair, 1100-1400, Arts & Crafts Center

WEDNESDAY30

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- SR TAP Employment Fundamentals of Career Transition, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Storytime, 1030, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Fitness Advisory Council, 1200, Fitness Center
- Teen Paintball Showdown, 1800-2000, Youth Center

THURSDAY01

- Submissions Open: 2026 Air Force Art & Photo Contest, <https://forcesupport.awardsplatform.com/>
- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- SR TAP DOL Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center
- Youth of the Year Informational Meeting, 1745, Youth Center

FRIDAY02

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- SR TAP DOL Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Fight Force, 1800, Dock 4
- Parents Night Out, 1830-2230, Child Development Center & Youth Center

SATURDAY03

- Chess Club, 1200-1400, Minot AFB Library

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