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MAFB CLOSES 2024 STRONG



Looking back on 2024 at Minot Air Force Base is a chance to celebrate the hard work, innovation, and milestones that made this year unforgettable. It's a reminder of how far we've come and sets the tone for an even brighter future. Inside this edition is a look back at some highlights of the year in this "Year in Review."

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JANUARY 2024

EXERCISE PRAIRIE/BAYOU VIGILANCE 24-2



Defenders from the 5th Security Forces Squadron sweep of the flight line during a purge in support of Exercise Prairie Vigilance/Bayou Vigilance 24-2 at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Jan. 5, 2024. A "purge" consists of a team of defenders sweeping the flightline for any hazardous material and securing the area.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | SENIOR AIRMAN ALEXANDER NOTTINGHAM

MINOT AFB SCHOOLS RECEIVE PURPLE STAR AWARD



Dakota Elem. receives their Purple Star Certificate (from left to right): Minot AFB School Board Members Mr. Brian Lawley and Mr. Anthony Foerster, 91st Missile Wing Deputy Commander Colonel George Chapman, School Liaison Program Manager Joy-Nicole Smith, Dakota Elementary School Principal Mrs. Kathryn Lenertz, North Dakota School Superintendent and Administrator of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction Kirsten Baesler, 5th Bomb Wing Deputy Commander Colonel Benjamin Jensen, Minot Public Schools Assistant Superintendents Mrs. Bryn Iverson and Dr. Scott Faul.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | SENIOR AIRMAN ALEXANDER NOTTINGHAM

FROM ENLISTED TO ENLIGHTENED

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Daniel Starr, chapel augmentee flight NCOIC, poses for a photo at the North Plains Chapel at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Jan. 25, 2024. Starr was recently selected to attend Air Force Officer Training School to commission as a chaplain.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KYLE WILSON

YEAR IN REVIEW

LET'S TAKE A LOOK BACK AT MINOT AFB IN 2024! THESE PHOTOS FROM LAST YEAR ENCAPSULATED SOME OF THE STAND-OUT MOMENTS, SPECIAL EVENTS AND HARD WORK FROM OUR AIRMEN LAST YEAR.



MINOT AFB COUPLE GIVES BIRTH TO NEW YEAR'S BABY

The Krofts – Stephen Sr., Meredith, Katie and Stephen Jr. welcome Evelyn Grace, their newest family member and the 2024 New Year's baby for the Minot area. Joining them is Naycee Labodda, RN, a nurse in the Trinity Health Family Birth Center.

TRINITY HEALTH PHOTO



GUAM DEPLOYMENT

A B-52H Stratofortress, assigned to the 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, taxis on the flight line at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Jan. 30, 2024. Bomber missions enable crews to maintain a high state of readiness and proficiency and validate the United States global strike capability.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ALYSSA BANKSTON

NOTES ON BEING SAFE

SLOW DOWN, AND BE CAREFUL



SSGT JOE VERGARA
5TH BOMB WING
NCOIC OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY



Although it may seem a bit intimidating at first, it doesn't take much time for first-time winter drivers to learn to properly tackle snow-packed and icy roads in the local area. Patience is key when heading out on winter roads for the first time, many people end up in accidents each year because they drive too fast for the conditions. The following are things drivers should remember when the snow and ice starts to fall.

For maximum power when starting cars in cold temperatures, turn off all accessories, including the radio and heater, before turning the ignition key. For carbureted cars, depress the accelerator once and release it. For fuel-injected vehicles, don't touch the pedal. Turn the key and hold it for about 20 seconds. Don't over grind the starter; it can damage it. Let the engine run for at least a minute before driving. Don't accelerate too quickly for at least a mile or two.

Not all vehicles handle in winter weather conditions the same, and it's important for people to know how to handle their vehicle in demanding winter weather. It's a good idea for people to carefully practice slow-speed maneuvers on an empty snow- or ice-covered parking lot. The vehicle owner's manual also outlines handling characteristics.

Front-wheel-drive vehicles generally handle better than rear-

wheel-drive vehicles on slippery roads because the engine's weight rests on the drive wheels to improve traction. The back end of rear-wheel drive vehicles, especially pick-up trucks, tends to slide from side to side when turning on icy roads. To compensate, people with rear-wheel drive should add weight in the trunk or truck bed to give the wheels more grip.

Even a little bit of ice and snow can turn a 2,000-pound car into an unguided bobsled. To avoid accidents, drivers should pay special attention when approaching intersections.

Slow down before approaching an intersection. Scan left, then right, then left again for pedestrians and vehicles cars on cross streets. If you're having trouble stopping, they probably will too. Prepare for drivers sliding into intersections from the side, then decide if you can safely get through the intersection or stop to avoid hitting an oncoming vehicle. After stopping, press the accelerator slowly to get going again. Vehicles with manual transmissions should start in second gear to keep the wheels from spinning.

When approaching an icy hill, find a path with the best traction. Watch the cars ahead of you, and steer clear of spots where people are spinning their wheels or sliding backward. Try driving on unpacked snow; it sometimes offers better traction.

Build speed gradually while you're still on level ground. If you have shift-on-the-fly four-wheel drive, shift into it before you reach the hill. When you reach the crest, begin to decelerate slowly, shifting into a lower gear to allow engine drag versus your brakes to cut your speed.

Slow down before you enter an icy curve. Any sudden acceleration or deceleration in a turn could send you into a skid.

Controlled speed and smooth steering and braking helps prevent skids. If your wheels lose grip, gradually release the pressure from the pedal you're using. Smoothly steer in the direction you want the car to go.

People who get stuck in snow, ice or mud often do the wrong thing and stomp on the gas pedal and end up spinning their wheels and digging in deeper. To free your vehicle, try turning the steering wheel gently from side to side and use light foot pressure on the accelerator. Then rock the vehicle forward and backward while pointing the front wheels straight ahead. It's a good idea to check the owner's manual first because this procedure can damage the transmission on some cars. If you're still stuck, stay with your vehicle and make use of your winter survival kit until assistance arrives!

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FEBRUARY 2024



23 EBS CONDUCTS BOMBER TASK FORCE MISSION

U.S. Air Force Capt. Christian Ashley, electronic warfare officer, assigned to the 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, prepares to board the B-52H Stratofortress at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, as part of a routine Bomber Task Force mission, Feb. 5, 2024.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
MASTER SGT. AMY PICARD



COPE NORTH 2024

U.S. Air Force Capt. Hudson Walberg, a B-52H Stratofortress pilot, receives a Republic of Korea Air Force patch from a ROKAF sergeant after a static tour of the aircraft at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Feb. 13, 2024. The ROKAF airmen are deployed in support of COPE NORTH 2024, the largest multilateral exercise hosted by Pacific Air Forces.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
CAPT. STEPHEN J. COLLIER



B-52 FLYOVER AT SINGAPORE AIRSHOW

Two B-52H Stratofortresses from the 23rd Bomb Squadron conduct a flyover at the Changi Airbase East, Republic of Singapore, Feb. 22, during the Singapore Airshow 2024. The U.S. Department of Defense participated in the event with aerial demonstrations and static displays as an opportunity to build on the already strong ties with Singapore, demonstrate flexible aircraft capability, enable engagement with foreign partners, and expand power projection capabilities.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
TECH. SGT. ANDREA POSEY



ROUGHRIDERS CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

91st MW pose for a photo in recognition of Black History Month at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Feb. 20, 2024. Roughriders, the 91st MW's mascot, was a band of service members from many different cultures and backgrounds. The 91st MW continues that legacy by creating an environment of diversity empowering Airmen to share their experiences to create a more powerful force.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | SENIOR AIRMAN ALEXANDER NOTTINGHAM

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All About Pets

AF Life with Pets

Elmer Fudd, Dogs on Deployment Mascot 2019 with USAF Capt. Bryan Moore

As many Airmen and families already know, military life is not easy. Here are a few tips to help you make manage your busy Air Force life while also taking proper care of your pet!

- Get a low maintenance pet—snakes, certain varieties of fish, hamsters and other rodents, and turtles are just a few ideas of pets that are relatively low maintenance compared to your everyday dogs and cats. It's still important to provide adequate enrichment, environments, and food for them, but if you do all those things, these pets will be just fine during long work hours. Be sure to check with you housing authority first to make sure these pets are allowed.
- Find a "lazy" pet—high energy and working dog breeds are not recommended for owners who are away from home a lot and do not have the time, energy, and resources to keep their dogs fully enriched. You could consider bringing home a characteristically "lazy" breed instead. Basset Hounds, Boston Terriers, Bull Mastiffs, and Maltese are a few dog breeds that pop up often in the conversation around low-energy breeds. However, it's still important to note that all dogs are different. You may find a dog that is a couch-potato by nature, or you may find a "low-energy" dog that wants to go 24/7. Make sure you consider the needs of certain breeds and individual dogs (or cats) before adopting, and even if you have a low-energy dog, you still need to meet their basic requirements. Which is why working people should consider...
- Outside help—for shorter periods (a week in the field, a 12 hour day at work), it would be beneficial to hire a pet sitter, dog walker, or even a neighbor or family member who is willing to help out. While some pets won't go crazy at home all day, they still need to be provided with socialization and enrichment. See if you can find someone to pop in every few hours to play with, feed, and let your pet outside! Doggy daycare is a great option for many canine parents, and while cats and other small pets are usually alright left alone, it's never a bad idea for them to have someone to play with. Don't be afraid to reach out to the base community through Facebook or your friends/family for help if you're feeling overwhelmed with your pet-parental duties. Chances are there is someone out there who is willing to help you and your pet out.
- For bigger challenges, consider finding a temporary foster home for your pet. Family members, close friends, and even willing community members are always options for long-term pet care instead of rehoming. There are also "deployed pet" help sites that can connect you with temporary fosters, such as Dogs on Deployment and Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pets. If you're thinking about rehoming your pet due to the cost of PCSing with them, consider applying for SPCA International's Operation Military Pets grant.

Taking care of pets is a big responsibility, but when we bring them into our home, it's our duty to treat them with the care and love that they give us as well. Military life can make it more difficult, but there are so many resources out there to help.

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**A VIEW FROM
OUR SIDE**

ROD WILSON

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A young first term Airmen arrives home and shares hugs with family he, or she, hasn't seen for a while. "Yeah, I am stationed at Minot Air Force Base" the young Airmen explains to family members at Christmas dinner "and the local community raised money to give me a plane ticket to come home." Looking around the table there are several faces that shake their heads in approval, but the Airmen can see there are questions about the real story behind the ticket home.

"No really" the Airmen explains "there were almost 150 tickets given to first term Airmen, like me, to go home for the holidays...in fact, that's what they call it...Home for the Holidays."

It is my pleasure to spend time as a reporter for the Northern Sentry, and cover stories about the special bond that the community of Minot, and surrounding small communities, shares with Minot Air Force Base. But it certainly is not a one-way street. How's that? Look around and see the contributions that Minot Air Force Base makes to our community. Of course there is the economic impact, \$621.6 million dollars, that is infused into Minot through wages, projects and other contributions. But let's dig a little deeper and maybe turn over a few more rocks because underneath you will find a plethora of other contributions.

One of my recent stories was about Minot Air Force Base personnel, and dependents, contributing to local arts programs. Mouse River Players

is just one of the recipients of the volunteer hours that are contributed each and every year. "We just couldn't accomplish what we do without them (MAFB personnel & dependents). On stage, behind the scenes, in the box office, they are always there" says Lin Knickerbocker who recently directed the musical Cinderella for the Mouse River Players.

Other organizations have also tapped into the resources of Minot Air Force Base including Norsk Hostfest and the North Dakota State Fair. Again, not hundreds, but thousands of volunteer hours on the books from folks who are attached somehow to MAFB.

My honorary commander, Mark McDonald and his family are very active in their church, First Baptist. Mark serves on the council and his wife Cathy is active in youth education and other jobs. Again, just one of the many examples of the base and our community benefitting from the collaboration that takes place.

On several occasions I have

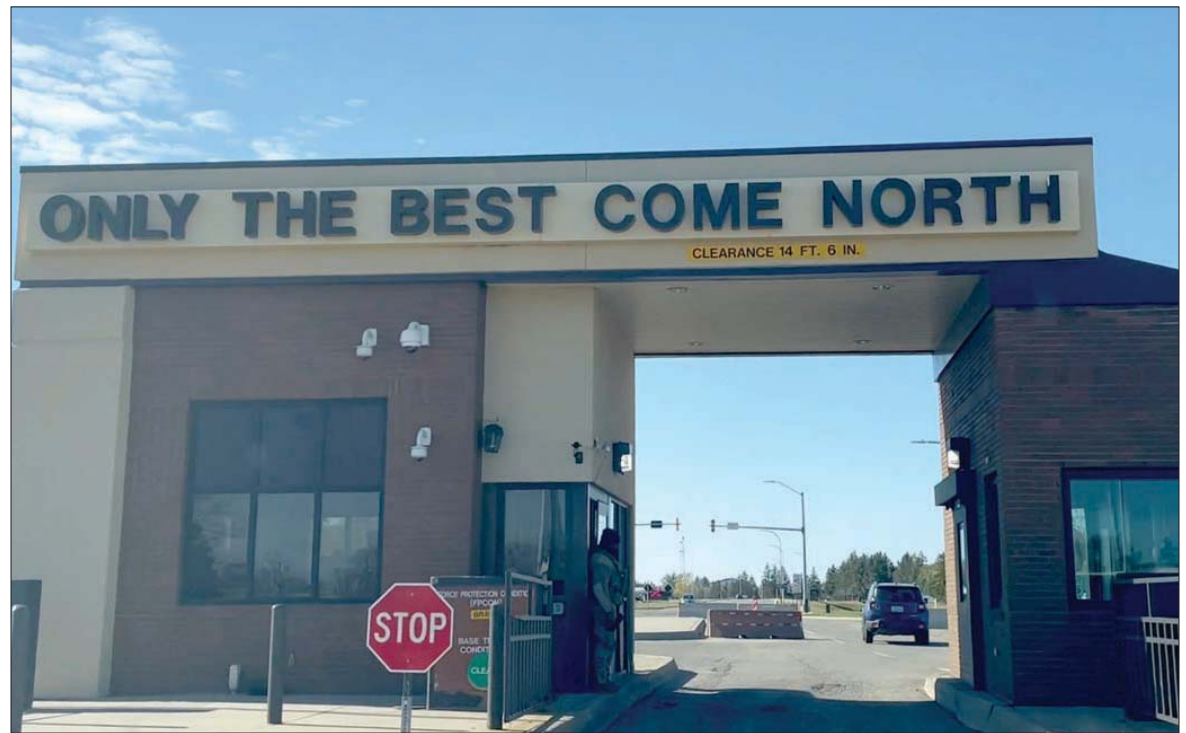
It's A Great Story

covered events where the Minot AFB Color Guard has been front and center. Whether it be leading a parade on the 4th of July, or at opening ceremonies of local sporting events. I am always amazed at the professionalism and expertise of this group.

As a journalist I cover a lot of stories that are what we call one-ups. The story about Minot and Minot Air Force Base is not one of those stories. It's not a one-up, and hopefully it never will be. At some point in many of my interviews the conversation will come around to "This is the absolute best relationship between a base and a community in the entire Air Force!" As I reflect back on 2024 I can remember a couple of very special events that need to be talked about once again. Of course, there is the Prairie Warrior Auction and the record \$111,000 that was raised for Team Minot and Home for the Holidays. What about the first homecoming, ever, for Minot North and the game ball being delivered by

a Huey helicopter carrying the Commander of the 91st Missile Wing, Col. Schlabach. And recently the way the base rolled out the red carpet for Joe Wiegand, aka-Teddy Roosevelt, providing him with tours and meet and greets with hundreds of Airmen. And maybe it isn't so much a community driven event, but during one of the largest exercises of 2024, Global Thunder, the 5th Bomb Wing was asked to assemble and deploy an entire squadron of B52's to the middle east to send a message to our adversaries, and of course our allies, that we are always ready to defend our freedom, no matter when and where.

No, the relationship between Minot and the Minot Air Force Base is not a one-up story. It will continue in the pages of the Northern Sentry as we proudly write about our base and the men and women who serve their country as part of the 24/7/365 mission of Minot Air Force Base. It's a GREAT story!



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | MINOT AFB PA

Remember the troops during the holidays...

**UPSIDE DOWN
UNDER**

MARVIN BAKER

As a former Army first sergeant, I know all too well what it's like to be away from home during the holidays and how it affected the morale of my troops.

Fortunately, it only happened to my unit once, but it didn't take long to realize that despite our stoic military bearing, we were all missing the festivities at home.

There are countless personnel in the U.S. military who are on deployments for several years, some in remote parts of the world, sometimes in nations that either don't celebrate Christmas at all or they celebrate in a way unfamiliar to Americans.

Our unit was unique in that we were in three places at one time. That, in and of itself affected our optimism, because cohesion is so important to a unit's efficiency. Some of us were at U.S. Central

Command on MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, some of us were at CENTCOM forward operating base at Camp Asayliyah in Qatar and some of us were in Atlanta working at a place called Crawford Communication.

Despite those obstacles, we did our best to have holiday cheer in some way in each of our locations; a small Christmas tree on a desk, singing carols with co-workers, taking photographs by the Christmas tree with elf hats and extra days off were all ways to bring a little cheer and/or humor.

Our unit was also unique in that we were in a joint service environment with the Coalition of Nations. And because those troops were in the United States instead of their home countries, together they put on a Christmas feast with traditional food from their homeland that many of us attended.

All those things were great, but didn't and no way could, replace Christmas and New Year's celebrations at home with family. I've been reading about some of the traditions on our air force bases here in North Dakota as well as some of the National Guard traditions around the state.

Stringing Christmas lights on aircraft, going out into the community to distribute wreaths or working in a soup kitchen on Christmas or New Year's Day, office

parties, special religious services and visiting shut-in veterans are all part of the holiday spirit on a military reservation and elsewhere.

Leadership tells us that doing these things helps morale at a time when it's often difficult for troops, especially those who may have young families too far away to be together. Leadership is correct, it does boost morale, but not as much as family would.

Most of us have heard the song "I'll Be Home for Christmas," by Perry Como. That song was written nearly a year after World War II was over, but it was about the war and what many GIs were dealing with during Christmas in 1942-'43 and '44.

The lyrics, "I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams," was the reality just about every Soldier on the Western Front faced.

Remember Gen. Tom Waverly in "White Christmas?" He was concerned about the morale of his troops at Christmas. OK, it's Hollywood, but it has some reality to it. Officers as high as generals feel that holiday void as well. They're human too. I observed this first hand with numerous high-level officers during the Christmas/New Year's season of 2006.

So how can we fix these holiday blues?

A little good will goes a long way and can help those of us who may be in a place or situation we don't

want to be in on Christmas and New Year's Day. Somehow, some way, recognize the holidays, even if it's something so subtle as to say Merry Christmas to yourself under your breath.

Recognize it, because years later when you are home in front of a warm fireplace beside a huge, well-decorated Christmas tree sipping hot chocolate, you'll remember that tiny, little gesture that helped you reconcile being away.

It's easier said than done, but try it. We had a new grandchild in 2006 and I was 2,000 miles away. But it was that small, straggly Christmas tree a co-worker gave me years earlier that eased the despair. That artificial tree was my link to home for the 2006 holiday season.

If you've never been in the military, you may not understand some of this. In that case, just know that we were once those little kids walking down the street with our baseball gloves, or spinning around in circles on our figure skates or baking cookies with our grandmother.

Remember the troops, remember the veterans, remember those who didn't come home from the Western Front. Knowing that keeps morale high enough when we're away from home during the holidays.

MARCH 2024



WELCOME HOME

Senior Airman Alexander Clark, 5th Operations Support Squadron intel systems technician (left), poses for a photo with his family upon returning from a Bomber Task Force (BTF) mission at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, March 6, 2024. BTF missions offer opportunities for U.S. integration with allies and regional partners, as well as theater familiarization for Airmen.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KYLE WILSON



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Female Airmen from the 791st Missile Security Forces Squadron pose for a photo at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, March 8, 2024. In 1988, Congress and President Ronald Reagan designated the month of March as Women's History Month. This observance celebrates women and their contributions to society. For the women of the military, Women's History Month is a reminder of the strength and determination their predecessors held.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
SENIOR AIRMAN CALEB S. KIMMELL



TEAM MINOT'S NEWEST SENIOR MASTER SERGEANTS

Master Sergeants from the 5th Bomb Wing and 91st Missile Wing celebrate their promotion to Senior Master Sgt. with base leadership, wingmen, family and friends at the Jimmy Doolittle Event Center at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, March 15, 2024. Being the second highest enlisted rank in the U.S. Air Force, only 2.5% of the entire enlisted force could hold the rank at all times.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
MINOT AFB PA



MINOT AFB DENTAL CLINIC WINS AIR FORCE MEDICAL SERVICE MEDIUM DENTAL CLINIC OF THE YEAR

The 5th Medical Group Dental Flight poses for a group photo at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, March 28, 2024. The Dental Flight won the Air Force Medical Service Medium Dental Clinic of the Year award.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
SENIOR AIRMAN EVAN LICHTENHAN

YEAR IN REVIEW

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MINOT AIR FORCE BASE

AIRMAN JESSICA TAYLOR

Minot AFB is Amn Taylor's first duty station and has only been here 4 months. However, in her time here she has pushed ahead of her peers in training, job knowledge, and in leadership skills. She is already being a mentor to the other 32 Amn that have arrived at our shop in the last two months and has become a pivotal trainer for the Flight's largest section. Her positive attitude and work ethic is contagious. We would like to give this opportunity to her to show what the Minot community has to offer and as a reward for her hard work.

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APRIL 2024



MINOT AFB CELEBRATES MILITARY CHILDREN

North Dakota Lt. Gov. Tammy Miller speaks during a proclamation presentation for the Month of the Military Child at Memorial Middle School, Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, April 3, 2024. Miller praised the strength, resilience and adaptability displayed by military children in navigating the unique challenges they experience growing up in a military family.

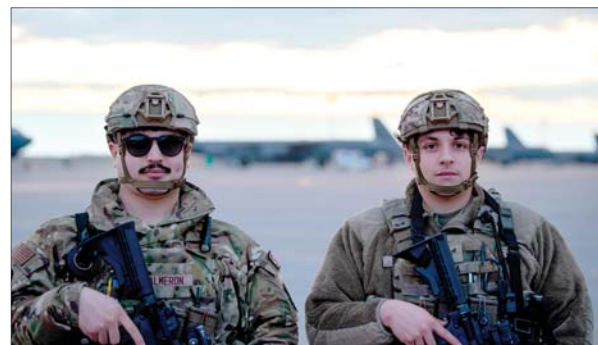
U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KYLE WILSON



COL. MCGHEE SERVES FINAL ALERT AS 91ST MISSILE WING COMMANDER

U.S. Air Force Col. Kenneth McGhee, 91st Missile Wing commander, speaks to members of the 91st Missile Wing upon his return from his final alert at Missile Alert Facility Golf-01 at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, April 10, 2024. McGhee has been the 91st Missile Wing commander since June 2022.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
SENIOR AIRMAN EVAN LICHTENHAN



VIGILANCE/ BAYOU VIGILANCE 24-3

Airman Jonathan Salmeron, 5th Security Forces Squadron defender, (left) and Senior Airman Jose Soiza, 5th Security Forces Squadron defender, pose on the flightline during Exercise Prairie Vigilance/Bayou Vigilance 24-3 at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, April 8, 2024.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS LUIS GOMEZ

MAY 2024



TEAM MINOT CHAPLAIN CORPS WIN AFGSC AWARD

U.S. Air Force Col. Daniel Hoadley, 5th Bomb Wing Commander, congratulates Team Minot Chaplain Corps on winning the Air Force Global Strike Command Charles I. Carpenter Outstanding Large Chaplain Corps Team Award at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, May 1, 2024.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TRUST TATE



MINOT AFB ATOMIC SPARK AWARDED FOR INNOVATION

Members of Minot Air Force Base Atomic Spark; recipients of the 2023 Gen. Larry O. Spencer Innovation Award are recognized during a ceremony at the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., May 8, 2024.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
CHAD TRUJILLO



THE VERY FIRST

Senior Airman Charles Dell, 5th Civil Engineering Squadron logistics manager, poses for a photo at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, May 14, 2024. Dell is the first enlisted person to ever be selected for the Naval Postgraduate School's Homeland Defense and Security Emergence Program.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS LUIS GOMEZ

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JUNE 2024



5TH BOMB WING COMMANDER EMBARKS ON FINAL FLIGHT

U.S. Air Force Col. Daniel Hoadley, 5th Bomb Wing commander, sits in the pilot seat of a B-52H Stratofortress at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, June 12, 2024. Hoadley flew one last time as Minot Air Force Base commander.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TRUST TATE



5TH CES EOD HOSTS HYDRA FURY

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Nikita Dosphehoff, 5th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technician, assesses a simulated threat using a radiation detector during Hydra Fury 24 at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, June 5, 2024. Hydra Fury 24 consisted of three scenarios that tested different aspects of the EOD mission.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TRUST TATE,



5 BW UNDER NEW COMMAND

U.S. Air Force Col. Jesse Lamarand, incoming 5th Bomb Wing (BW) commander (right), accepts the guidon from U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Jason Armagost, 8th Air Force commander (left), during the 5th BW change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, June 28, 2024. Armagost passed the guidon to Lamarand during the ceremony, symbolically giving him command of the 5th BW.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS LUIS GOMEZ



91 MW WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER

U.S. Air Force Col. James Schlabach, incoming 91st Missile Wing (MW) commander, accepts the guidon from U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Stacy Huser, 20th Air Force commander, during the 91 MW change of command ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, June 18, 2024. Huser passed the guidon to Schlabach during the ceremony, symbolically giving him command of the 91 MW.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ALYSSA BANKSTON



69TH EXPEDITIONARY BOMB SQUADRON

Airmen assigned to the 69th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron pose for a photo during Bomber Task Force (BTF) Europe 24-3 at RAF Fairford, England, June 17, 2024. BTF missions enable Airmen to maintain a high state of readiness proficiency, and validate our always-ready, global strike capability.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
SENIOR AIRMAN KYLE WILSON



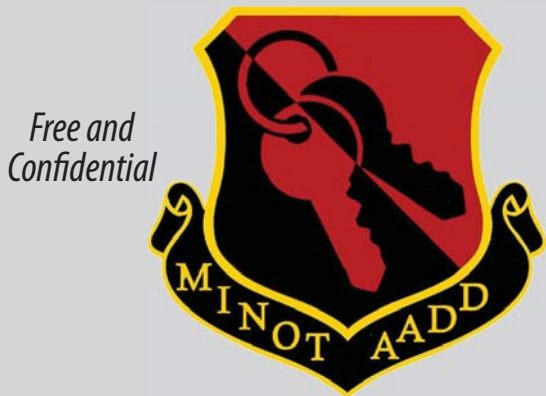
TEAM MINOT AIRMEN RETURN FROM ENGLAND

U.S. Airmen assigned to the 5th Bomb Wing return from Bomber Task Force 24-3 at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, June 26, 2024. The Airmen spent six weeks at Royal Air Force Fairford, England, as part of a routine deployment to the U.S. Air Forces Europe – Air Forces Africa area of responsibility.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS LUIS GOMEZ

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JULY 2024



MISSION GENERATION COMPETITION

Airmen assigned to the 5th Munitions Squadron compete in the 5th Maintenance Group's inaugural Mission Generation Competition at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, July 17, 2024. The competition tested their speed, safety, accuracy, and teamwork.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TRUST TATE



FLIGHTLINE FACELIFT

A plowman assigned to the 819th RED HORSE Squadron at Malmstrom Air Force Base (AFB), Montana, removes concrete from the flightline as a part of routine runway maintenance at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, July 16, 2024. Due to wear and tear associated with normal operations, portions of the flightline needed to be replaced.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TRUST TATE



AGILE WARBIRD

Airmen assigned to the 69th Bomb Squadron and the 5th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron pose for a photo on a B-52 Stratofortress at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, July 26, 2024. Four B-52s from Minot AFB traveled to Fairchild AFB for an Agile Combat Employment integration event, Agile Warbird.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MATTHEW ARACHIKAVITZ



A REPEAT PERFORMANCE

5th Bomb Wing's Inspector General office; Front Row (L to R): MSgt Craig McBean, Mr. Robert Ogurek, Lt Col Vincent Noel, CMSgt Joshua Sanders, TSgt Steven Blake, Mr. Steve Ekker. Back Row (L to R): Mr. Nick Hoff, Maj. Joshua Griffin, MSgt Jason Kopenhafer, Mr. Nate McIver, SMSgt Jessica Velasquez. The IG team recently won the 2023 Maj. Gen. Junius W. Jones IG Award.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
MINOT AFB PA

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 Shriner's - 2nd Wednesday at 6:00PM
 Scottish Rite - 1st Wednesday at 6:00PM
 Eastern Star - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00PM
 Prince Hall - 2nd Saturday at 9:00AM



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MAFB: What really happened in 2024?

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

We're all just now coming out of the holiday coma to realize that 2024 will be over in a matter of days. Yikes, 2025 is almost here... Where did the year go? What happened again?

As the year winds down, many find themselves reflecting on the past year and wondering what might change as the new year starts. But, before we get on the New Year's resolution bandwagon, let's take a minute to reflect on what happened in the MAFB Community this year.

HERE ARE SIX OF 2024'S UNIQUE COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS:

1. The "Fitness Dome" was revealed and we no longer had to speculate about the giant marshmallow on base. Wait, does it have an official name yet? <https://northern Sentry.com/2024/09/26/dome-sweet-dome/>

2. The new high school, Minot North, opened up and now serves many MAFB dependents and families. The school mascot was officially pinned as the Sentinels. And who can forget that iconic Homecoming game where two Huey helicopters from the 54th Helo Squadron did a flyover with one landing on the field to present the game ball? <https://northern Sentry.com/2024/10/03/sentinels-celebrate-first-homecoming/>

3. It was actually a MAFB couple who gave birth to the first baby of 2024 at Trinity Health!

<https://northern Sentry.com/2024/01/04/minot-afb-couple-gives-birth-to-new-years-baby/>

4. The softball team, the Minot Honeybees, changed their team

name and mascot as a special nod of thanks to MAFB. They became the Minot Bombshells for one game in their 2024 season.

<https://northern Sentry.com/2024/07/25/honeybees-become-the-bombshells/>

5. A section of the base was converted back into its natural habitat of North Dakota Grassland and tons of people went out to participate in the Pollinator Community Days.

<https://northern Sentry.com/2024/05/15/minot-afb-grassland-to-be-restored-pollinator-community-day/>

6. MAFB saw the emergence of new eateries and cafes on base. We said goodbye to Son of Brunch and welcomed Anatolia Grill, a Turkish restaurant. We also watched a new coffee shop, Central Brew, take over the Turf parking lot scene.

<https://northern Sentry.com/2024/07/18/central-brew-coming-soon/> <https://northern Sentry.com/2024/09/26/son-of-a-brunch-makes-exit/>

We know this list doesn't cover half of all the things that happened on base this year, but it does represent the way things change as years go by. As the days of 2024 are now numbered, take a minute to think back on the small, yet simple changes that happened in your 2024. Can you remember the small yet important details to your year?

Looking back on 2024 at Minot Air Force Base we have the chance to celebrate the hard work, innovation, and milestones that made this year unforgettable. It's a reminder of how far we've come and sets the tone for an even brighter future.



Special delivery game ball arrives to the Minot North Sentinels Homecoming game, courtesy of 54th Helo Squadron.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | TSGT RUSTY FRANK



The first prescribed fire to prepare of the Minot Pollinator Project took place on 20 April 2024. Fire is a great management tool because it removes dead plant material allowing the sun to reach the soil and seeds stored in the soil, promoting new growth.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | MINOT AFB



The "Fitness Dome" with the blue turf opened this past fall giving MAFB Airmen and families another place to stay active in the winter months.

NORTHERN SENTRY PHOTO

Fact File	
Life Span	10 - 14 years
Weight	300 - 600 pounds
Height to Shoulder	4 feet
Body Length	8 - 9 feet
Tail Length	26 - 39 inches
Top Speed	50 mph
Wild Diet	Omnivore (Carnivore) Herbivore Antelope, Giraffe, Zebra, Wildebeest, Impala

AFRICAN LION

CREATURE FEATURES

- Lions live in prides dominated by one male, including several females and cubs.
- Their long retractable claws help the lion grab and hold prey. Lions have massive shoulders and strong forelimbs, long, sharp claws, and short, powerful jaws to aid them while hunting.
- The female lioness does most of the hunting. They are mainly nocturnal and work in teams to stalk and ambush prey.
- They use their roar to communicate and declare territory. A lion's roar can be heard over several miles.
- Lions sleep or rest about 20 hours a day.

Find the missing piece

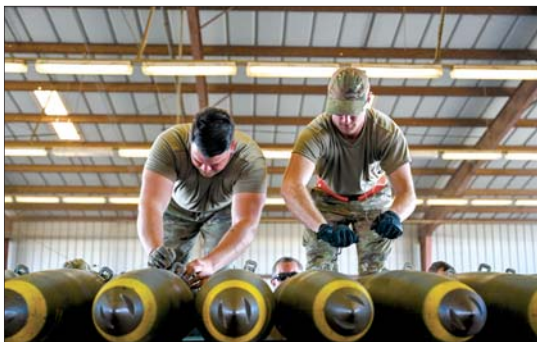
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AUGUST 2024



AFCOCOMP 2024

5th Munitions Squadron members from Minot Air Force Base, compete in the Air Force Combat Operations Competition (AFCOCOMP) on Beale AFB, California, Aug. 21, 2024. AFCOCOMP is an annual competition that tests ammunition Airmen on their speed, efficiency and accuracy for wartime operations.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
SENIOR AIRMAN ALEXIS PENTZER



SECOND ANNUAL ARROW EXERCISE

91st Missile Security Operations Squadron convoy response force members run to cover during the Advanced Recapture Recovery Operational Warfighter exercise at Camp Guernsey's South Range, Wyoming, Aug. 21, 2024. ARROW challenges CRF teams to demonstrate their readiness and ability to effectively provide convoy protection.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
SENIOR AIRMAN LANDON GUNSAULS



TAKING THE GAME TO NEW HEIGHTS

Where Air Force precision meets college football passion. 5th Bomb Wing commander Jesse Lamarand kicked off the Minot State University Beavers football game by being hoisted down by 54th Helicopter Squadron to deliver the game ball at Minot State University home opener on Thursday, August 29, 2024, at Minot, North Dakota.

COURTESY PHOTO



MINOT DEFENDER WINS FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN'S 2024 MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Christina Lee, recipient of the Federally Employed Women's (FEW) 2024 Meritorious Service Award, poses for a portrait at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, August 23, 2024.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN FIRST CLASS LUIS GOMEZ

A LOOK BACK
THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

SAC CHANGES MINUTEMAN & PEACEKEEPER ASSIGNMENTS TO INCLUDE MIXED GENDER CREWS
JANUARY 1, 1988



Linda Aldrich at a Minuteman console in the 1980s.
(Linda Aldrich, from nps.gov)

Up until the late 1970s, the United States Air Force restricted female service members to only noncombat positions. In 1978, women were finally given the chance to serve on Titan II missile crews, and their roles in the missile field only grew from there. However, for some time, missile crews were restricted to all-male or all-female assignments. It wasn't until January 1, 1988 that Strategic Air Command changed the policy for Minuteman and Peacekeeper crew assignments to permit mixed gender crews in launch facilities. This inclusive effort aimed to reduce scheduling issues and increase opportunities for female Airmen.

After the integration, SAC stressed the importance of guaranteeing equal career progression for men and women. This was one major step forward in the journey towards women's equality in the armed forces.

Information courtesy of: media.defense.gov / pacaf.af.mil / nps.gov

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Vehicle maintenance tasks drivers don't want to overlook

Savvy drivers recognize that maintenance is essential to keeping their vehicles running strong for years on end. Such maintenance ensures vehicles are safe to take out on the road, and basic upkeep also protects drivers' financial investments in their cars and trucks.

Drivers who are not mechanically inclined tend to put their vehicles in the hands of a trusted mechanic to perform routine maintenance like oil changes. But there's a host of simpler vehicle maintenance tasks that drivers don't want to overlook, some of which can be performed without visiting the auto body shop.

• **Brake inspections:** Brake inspections are best left to the professionals, who can check the thickness of brake pads and look for other indicators of excessive wear. The automotive resource Cars.com recommends having brakes inspected during routine tire rotations, which many automotive professionals suggest should be done every six months.

• **Car wash:** Car washes might not be the first task drivers associate with vehicle maintenance, but they can prevent long-term damage to cars and trucks. Damage from bird droppings and road salt and ice melt products in the winter can damage a vehicle's paint job and its undercarriage. Wash the car on

your own at home or visit a professional car wash to perform this simple yet vital maintenance at regular intervals and whenever you notice significant buildup of dirt and grime on the car's exterior.

• **Air filter:** The air filter on a car or truck prevents debris, dirt and other contaminants from getting into the engine. The auto insurance experts at Allstate® advise drivers to inspect their vehicle air filters once a year. Air filters in need of replacement may appear dirty, and reduced fuel economy, unusual engine sounds and reduced horsepower are some other potential indicators that an air filters needs to be replaced.

• **Windshield wipers:** Windshield wiper blades are easily overlooked, but various automotive experts recommend replacing wiper blades every six to 12 months. Old wiper blades won't perform at peak capacity, dramatically reducing visibility during heavy rain and snowstorms. Anyone can replace their own windshield wiper blades in a matter of minutes, and new blades won't break the bank.

Vehicle maintenance is not exclusive to tending to what's under the hood. Keeping a car running smoothly for years involves routine tasks that many drivers can perform without professional assistance.



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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution to last week's Crossword puzzle.

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

SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- "God's Little ___"
- Process a bite
- Not quite summa
- Starr-struck instrument?
- Jungle sound
- Spring forward time
- Belle of the ball
- Brightest star in Virgo
- Poem originally intended to be sung
- Juice drink suffix
- Rejected
- Alternative to "smoking"
- One thickness
- Tuning fork's output
- Where drives begin
- Shot target
- Variable star
- Hemmed but didn't haw
- Kind of school
- Deer's scut
- Merit
- Hibernation locales
- Gossipy tidbit
- Like diehard fans
- Swing and Christian
- Neutral middle vowel
- Distribute
- It can be for the course
- "Murder, ___ Wrote"
- React to an uppercut, perhaps
- Actor activator
- Gremlin's creator
- Whoop-de-do
- It may have a silver lining
- Victor at Fredericksburg
- Cookies with a white filling
- Newbie
- Apportion
- Comes to the rescue
- The "U" of BTU
- Sheds feathers
- Clueless
- Understands, as a joke

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						
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	

Down

- Build a new room
- Ideology
- "American Idol" winner
- Down Under bird
- Hold protectively
- Ingredient in mead
- Break bread
- Some combatants
- Street's boss
- Trainee
- It may be silly
- Pleasantly pleasing
- "When I Was ___" ("H.M.S. Pinafore" song)
- Repaired a paper tear, perhaps
- Brilliant feats
- Novice Boy Scout
- Tuck's title
- "I do," e.g.
- Panoramic sight
- Diva Gluck
- Coal stratum
- Roof overhang
- Order in the court
- Attorney's helper
- Ostracized person
- Glossiness
- Most indisputable
- Bridge positions
- Sorority sisters
- Peake novel "Titus ___"
- Promotion basis
- Word with 5, 10, 25 and 50
- Type of rubber
- Folk singer Guthrie
- Title role for Jodie Foster
- Maracana Stadium locale
- Bear greeting?



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Sunday, December 29
10AM, Congregational Prayer Service



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Minot, ND 58701
701-852-6404
www.oslcmint.com

Rev. Rick Jones

Sunday Worship
8:15am Traditional Service
9:30am Contemporary Service
9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
11:00am Contemporary Service (w/Livestream)

Wednesdays 6-7pm
Adult Choir
OSKids (age 4-5th grade)
Confirmation (grades 6-8)
Psalm23Teens (6-8pm)



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Sunday School & Fellowship 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

www.trinitychurchminot.org



Bible Fellowship Church

Worship Service
10:45am Sundays

Sunday School
9:45am



Vincent United Methodist Church

1024 2nd St. SE • 838-4425
Behind Town & Country Shopping Center
Come As You Are!

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship..... 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Mark Ehrmantraut
www.vincentumc.com



Faith United Methodist Church

5900 Highway 83 N, Minot
www.faithumcminot.com

Pastor Rick Craig
701-838-1540

Sunday School (All Ages): 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Coffee Fellowship: 10:30 a.m.
Worship Services: Sunday 11 a.m.

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

1000 NE 3rd Street 852-0315

Sunday Schedule
Contemporary Worship 9:00am
Sunday School (All Ages) 10:00am
Traditional Worship 11:00am

Wednesday Evening Schedule
Community Dinner 5:30-6:30pm
Contemporary Worship 6:30pm
Youth Group & Small Groups.. 7:15pm
All are Welcome!
www.cornerstoneminot.com



Grief Support Group
meets Mondays at 7:00pm

Contact Duane Deckert:
701-838-0916 or
biblefellowship@srt.com
www.griefshare.org

1720 4th Ave NW, Minot
838-0916
MinotBibleFellowship.org

Immanuel Baptist Church

1615 2nd St. SE
www.ibcminot.org
701-839-3694

SUNDAY 9:00am Coffee Fellowship
WEDNESDAY 11:30am Soup Kitchen
9:15am Sunday School 5:30pm Family Supper
10:30am Worship 6:30pm Adult Bible Study, IBCY, Kids' Club

Pastor Brian Keithline

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Daily Mass Schedule:
Tuesday 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday - Friday 7:00 a.m.
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Fr. David A. Richter, Pastor
Parish website: www.stjohnminot.com



First Lutheran Church - ELCA
120 5th Ave. NW
852-4853

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

www.firstlutheran.tv
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Sunday 9:30 am
www.flcminot.com

Pastor Brandy Gerjets • Pastor Ellery Dykeman

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11:00 am

Minot Baptist Church

Sending the Glorious Light of Jesus Christ to a Dark and Needy World

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 p.m.

Independent/Fundamental/KJV
500 46th Ave NE • 839-1351
Pastor David Miller



Cross Roads Baptist

Southern Baptist Convention

Sunday School (all ages) 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays (Prayer & Missions) ... 6:30 p.m.

www.minotcbbc.org
email: minotcbbc@gmail.com
Gabe McCormick- Pastor

415 28th Ave SE (Behind Menards)
838-1873



West Minot Church of God
Family Worship Center

1105 16th St. NW • 839-1407

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church & Nursery
Wednesday Family Training Hour
Meal..... 5:30p.m.
Classes for All Ages 6:30 p.m.
Youth Center, Friday..... 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.
ABC Child Care Center..... 852-6352

westminot.com
facebook.com/westminot

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Only \$9.00 a space / per week

First Baptist Church

200 3rd St. SW • 852-4533
www.fbcminot.org

Classic Worship Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School (All Ages) 9:45 a.m.
Contemporary Worship Service 9:50 a.m.
Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship Service 11:05 a.m.
Children's Church 11:05 a.m.
Wed, AWANA (Sept. to May) 6:30 p.m.
Fridays, Celebrate Recovery 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Kent Hinkel, Senior Pastor
Elaine Carlson, Children's Ministry Director

Apostolic Faith Church, UPCI

2929 19th Ave NW • Minot
Located off Hwy 83 Bypass West
(701) 838-0609

Saturday School 2:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Jesse Starr, Pastor



Grace Baptist Church of Minot
A Reformed Baptist Church

Sunday Service: 4:00 p.m.
at Living Word Lutheran bldg
710 46th Ave NE, Minot

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E-mail: gbcminot@gmail.com

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Missouri Synod

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Morning Bible Study and Sunday School 11:00 AM
Wednesdays
Kid Connection..... 6:00 PM

Reverend Philip Beyersdorf
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Email: jschultz@orcsknights.org
Website: www.orcsknights.org



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4 miles south of MAFB
James W. Henderson
Anna B. Henderson

Church: 701-838-4492
Home: 701-838-5759
KHRT 1320: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Adult/Children Worship.. 11 a.m.
Family Hour 6:30 p.m.
Evening Worship 7:30 p.m.
Bible Study/Child-Adult
Children Worship (Wed).... 7 p.m.
Prayer (Friday) 7 P.m.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

AUGUST 2024

PRAIRIE VIGILANCE/BAYOU VIGILANCE 24-4

Airman 1st Class Korby Smith, 5th Security Forces Squadron defender, poses for a photo in front of a B52-H Stratofortress during Prairie Vigilance/Bayou Vigilance 24-4 at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota on Sept. 6, 2024. The U.S. Air Force maintains a credible strategic capability to enhance deterrence of the most consequential threats to the United States, it's allies and partners.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TRUST TATE

SEPTEMBER 2024

SENTINELS CELEBRATE FIRST HOMECOMING

A UH-1 Iroquois assigned to the 54th Helicopter Squadron prepares to land at Sentinel Stadium after the National Anthem of a Minot North High School football game, Minot, North Dakota, Sept. 27, 2024. As a part of the pre-game ceremonies the 54th HS performed a fly-over and delivered 91st Missile Wing leadership to give the game ball to officials at the start of the game.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | TECH. SGT. RUSTY FRANK

OPERATION CERBERUS

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jacob Sheets, 54th Helicopter Squadron UH-1N Iroquois flight engineer, awaits instruction while wielding a M-240 during Operation Cerberus at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, Sept. 23, 2024. Airmen from the 891st Missile Security Forces Squadron and 54 HS traveled to Camp Ripley to increase military readiness and improve team cohesion.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TRUST TATE

BADLANDS RESTAURANT BAR

Upcoming Events

30 DEC NEW YEARS AT THE DISCOVERY CENTER
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Magic City Discovery Center
1545 1st St NW, Minot

Ring in the New Year at the Discovery Center - open to the public! Join us for a fun-filled celebration the whole family will love! Enjoy New Year-themed crafts, interactive STEM challenges, a groovy disco ball dance party, cookie decorating, and a festive photo booth to capture all the unforgettable moments. Don't miss out on kicking off 2025 with creativity, laughter, and memories!



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

30 DEC CRAFT NIGHT
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Blue Rider
118 1st Avenue SE, Minot

We're hosting a weekly bring-your-own Crafting Night! We invite you to bust out your needlepoint, sketchbook, journal, yarn, or any other hobby you've been itching to get done and come on down!



For more information:
Facebook / Blue Rider / Events

UNTIL 31 DEC SERTOMA CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN OAK PARK
5:30 PM OPENING
Minot Oak Park, 19th Ave SW, Minot

Take a drive through Oak Park this holiday season. \$5/car \$20/bus. Enjoy the lights while supporting our community. All proceeds from this event are invested back into our community.



For more information:
Facebook / Minot Sertoma Club / Events

07 JAN FUN ZONE
9:00 AM-NOON
Minot Auditorium-Old Armory (east side of the building) - 420 3rd Ave SW

The Minot Fun Zone is being provided free of charge to all area residents through the Minot Park District. The bouncy castles are provided in partnership with the Minot Area Community Foundation. Fun Zone is for children 10 & under. Children and adults will enter facility and play at their own risk. Children must be supervised at all times. They are not to be dropped off. There must be at least one adult present for every 4 children. YOU are responsible for the kids that you bring. You must maintain a close physical presence at all times. No outside equipment/toys will be allowed. Individuals will be responsible to clean up any mess made. All equipment will be shared equally among those present.



For more information:
Facebook / Minot Parks / Events

14 JAN MIDWEST MURDER LIVE
7:00 PM
Oak Park Theater
1500 4th Ave. NW Minot

The best way to experience Midwest Murder is to attend a live podcast taping. With only about 25 live shows a year, these events are rare, captivating, and unforgettable. Don't miss this chance to join co-hosts Jonah Lantto and Dawn Palumbo as they bring their riveting storytelling to the stage for one night only in Minot! For mature audiences only. Concessions and Atypical available for purchase at the event. All tickets are general admission and \$35 each. Proceeds will benefit your Minot Symphony Orchestra. TICKETS: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=mso>



For more information:
Facebook / Midwest Murder Podcast / Events



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YEAR IN REVIEW

OCTOBER 2024

LOAD CREW COMPETITION ENHANCES PREPAREDNESS

Airmen assigned to the 23rd Bomber Generation Squadron pose for a group photo with 5th Bomb Wing leadership after winning the third-quarter load competition at Minot Air Force Base, Oct. 4, 2024. For the competition, crews were given a written and practical test as well as a dress and appearance inspection.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
MINOT AFB PA



GLOBAL THUNDER 25

Airman 1st Class Gabriel Holmes, 5th Security Forces Squadron defender, provides overwatch security from a Humvee during Exercise Global Thunder 25 (GT25) at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Oct. 19, 2024.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ALYSSA BANKSTON

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OUTDOOR

REPORT



by Patricia Stockdill

Fishing:

•N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: No new reports but use caution getting onto and moving around on area lakes.

•Devils Lake, Ed's Bait Shop, Devils Lake: Continued activity on northern feeder lakes, access and weather permitting.

•Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Try shallow water in 12 feet and less jiggling with rattling presentations for walleye. Lots of walleye activity continues on northern feeder lakes, including Lake Irvine.

•Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: A few anglers out on Lake Darling by Grano but no reports on success.

•Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: A few bluegill starting to show up but they're schooled and anglers need to move around and drill a lot of holes. Try wax worms. Continued fair walleye success. Continued pike spearing activity and water clarity remains good. Use caution if moving around and avoid getting stuck at access areas or on the lake itself.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Check access conditions when trying to get onto area lakes after earlier wind and snow. Weather and snow conditions permitting, Lake Audubon producing a few walleye along the 9-Mile Bay or the south shore but ice depth varies even in the bays.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Increasing activity on Lake Audubon with best success in dark hours. Weather and access permitting try Velve Point, Car Body Island, 9-Mile Bay, or Nelson Bay. Use extreme caution when traveling on the ice, though, especially at night. A few anglers walking onto Centennial and Sportsmen's bays on the east end of Lake Sakakawea but test the ice along the way and check access conditions.

•Lake Sakakawea, New Town: No new reports.

•Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Weather permitting anglers are working from boats down river on the Missouri River tailrace for walleye using jigs and minnows and finding numbers of small fish. Also try casting crankbaits off the rocks at night from shore but use caution

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.

- Carry shovels and winter preparedness items when venturing out with the pre-Christmas snow potentially creating varying access conditions on area lakes – getting onto the ice as well as moving around on it.
 - Stump Lake near Devils Lake has extremely variable and dangerous ice conditions due to scattered open water patches. Beware of possible dangerously thin ice in places, especially with any snow cover.
 - Ice is never completely safe. Avoid areas with vegetation, moving water, pressure ridges, and springs. Check conditions as you go along on the ice and don't move around at night.
 - Registration now open for Wild Outdoor Women Winter workshop Feb. 7 – 9, 2025, Lake Metigoshe State Park, Bottineau. Go to (<https://bit.ly/LMSPShowClix>) for more information and to register.
 - Dec. 27: Missouri River Canada Goose Zone closes.
 - Dec. 27: Light goose and tundra swan seasons close.
 - Dec. 28 & 29: Free ice fishing weekend. Residents can ice fish without a license across North Dakota those two days. Go to the N.D. Game & Fish Dept. website, (gf.nd.gov), for fishing regulations.
 - Dec. 28: Holiday Mystery Star family puzzle search with hot chocolate, Lewis & Clark State Park east of Williston, 10 a.m.
 - Dec. 29: High Plains duck, merganser, and coot seasons close.
 - Dec. 29: Audubon Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge North Country Trail guided holiday hike. Meet at the log Educational Center building, 1:30 p.m. a mile east of Lake Audubon on the south shore. Sponsored by Central Flyway North Country Trail chapter. Free bear paw snow shoes to use, snow conditions permitting.
 - Dec. 30: Nerf Battle, ages kindergarten through 8th grade sponsored by Minot Parks & Recreation Dept. Municipal Auditorium. Participants must pre-register. Contact (701) 857-4136.
 - Dec. 31: Last Day Hike, Cross Ranch State Park, south of Hensler, 4 p.m. with winter campfire and hot chocolate to follow.
 - Jan. 1: First Day Hike, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison, 6 p.m.
 - Jan. 3: MAFB Extra Curl Curling League coaches meeting, McAdoo Fitness Center, MAFB.
 - Jan. 5: Pheasant, turkey, grouse, partridge, and archery deer seasons close.
 - Jan. 7: MAFB Extra Mural Curling League with learn to curl and exhibition match, Minot Curling Club, 2005 E. Burdick Expy.
 - Jan. 10: Open Curl & Learn to Curl, MAFB league.
- TOURNAMENTS:**
- Jan. 11: Lake Darling, West Landing No. 3; Lake Sakakawea, Lewis & Clark State Park.

with slippery conditions from water and ice on the rocks. Use caution at the ramp with potentially icy conditions. No reports from Lake Sakakawea or Lake Audubon.

•Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Access remains OK in many areas between White Earth Bay and Lewis & State Park State on the upper end of Lake Sakakawea, although weather conditions could change access conditions quickly. Try 15 to 20 feet for walleye with tip-ups and frozen smelt and herring for pike. Epping-Springbrook and Blacktail dams continue producing walleye. Look for continued crappie activity on Trenton Lake.

•North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: Limited reports but Buffalo Lodge Lake was producing pike prior to the pre-Christmas snow for both spearing and hook-and-line anglers.

Hunting:

•Pheasants: Access and opportunities could be limited in many areas after the pre-season Christmas snow. Work heavy cover if venturing out but use caution and watch dogs for hypothermia and ice and snow on their pads.

Downhill skiing. Trail conditions and open dates can vary due to weather. Contact the ski area for updates:

- Big Sky Ski Area, Big Sky, Mont.: Website, (www.bigskyresort.com).
- Bottineau Winter Park, Bottineau: Website, (www.skibwp.com).
- Frostfire Ski Area, Wallhalla: Website, (www.frostfirepark.org).
- Huff Hills Ski Area, Mandan: Website, (www.huffhills.com).
- Terry Peak Ski Area, Leads, S.D.: Website, (www.terrypeak.com).

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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YEAR IN REVIEW

NOVEMBER 2024



U.S. B-52 STRATOFORTRESS FLIES WITH ALLIES OVER CENTCOM

A U.S. Air Force 69th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron B-52H Stratofortress copilot performs preflight checks in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility Nov. 18, 2024. The B-52H can perform strategic attack, close-air support, air interdiction, offensive counter-air and maritime operations to support regional stability through a dynamic defense posture.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
SENIOR AIRMAN ZACHARY WILLIS

DECEMBER 2024



COMMANDERS KICK OFF HOLIDAYS

Minot leadership and dependents turn on the lights during the tree lighting ceremony at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Dec. 7, 2024. The tree lighting was a community event held at the Northern Lights Chapel and facilitated by the chaplain corps and Minot leadership.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS WESLEY DAVIES



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JOY-NICOLE SMITH
SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM MANAGER, GS-12
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM

The Department of the Air Force School Liaisons (SLs) are the central point of contact for commanders, military families, and school districts in all Kindergarten through 12th grade school matters. Speaking the dual language of military to educators and education to the military; they are considered the K-12 education office in the local community and state. They advocate for military-connected students at the local, state, and national level. Differences in local demographics, installation mission, community characteristics, and education policy significantly impact students and families as they move. SLs can help smooth transitions between schools. SLs serve DoD Total Force members, DoD civilians, retirees, Guard/Reserve, and eligible family members to

include NOAA, USPHS, foreign national employees and contractors assigned. Services of the SL office include: local school navigation, scholarship and grant resources, community and education partnerships, deployment support, transition support, college/career/military readiness, professional development, homeschool support, and parent workshops. If you are new to the Minot area or soon to PCS and need support with your child's education contact the MAFB-SL, Joy-Nicole Smith, at 701-723-1447 or mafb.school.liaison@us.af.mil. For further information on the DAF Child & Youth Education Services- School Liaison Program visit <https://www.dafchildandyouth.com/school-liaison-program>



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

HELLO BABY

BABY BOY BORN ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024 TO: TAYLOR-LEIGH HUGABOOM AND MATTHEW HUGABOOM MINOT, ND

BABY BOY BORN ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024 TO: ALEXANDRIA NORQUAY AND DAMIEN DANELSON MINOT, ND

BABY GIRL BORN ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2024 TO: ACACIA AND DEREION BOYER MAFB, ND

BABY BOY BORN ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024 TO: ANNA AND ANDREW MORRIS MINOT, ND

BABY BOY BORN ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2024 TO: ALEXIS AND BRAULIO HANANDEZ MINOT, ND

BABY GIRL BORN ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 121, 2024 TO: JACQUELINE NELSON AND KEITH BONMAN MINOT, ND



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

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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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Weddings for Warriors

Revel Hotel, a newly renovated hotel next to Dakota Mall, will be giving away use of the Pilot’s Bar and adjoining banquet space at its venue to Airmen.

The new giveaway, **Weddings for Warriors**, will honor the men and women who serve the United States by giving away use of the Pilot’s Bar and banquet space once every month.

At least one partner must be serving or must be an active member of the U.S. Air Force.

For further information, please send a message to the hotel at revelnd.com or contact Chelewa Springs or Ashley Cutler at 701-607-4557 or 701-306-3338.

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

TIMOTHY TIMM



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- **Career Development:** Permanent Change of Station (PCS), Outbound Assignment, Separation, Retirement, Retention, Promotion

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Celebrate New Year's at the Magic City Discovery Center

MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER

Celebrate the New Year with two days of family fun at the Magic City Discovery Center! Join us for one or both days of our New Year's Eve events, with exciting activities for all ages. Whether you're a member or a first-time visitor, it's a great chance to make memories and kick off the new year in a fun way! Join us as we create memories, explore fun-filled challenges, and celebrate the start of a bright new year.

December 30th from 9am – 4pm: Open to the Public

On Day 1, everyone is invited to join the celebration! Explore the Discovery Center and enjoy an exciting lineup of activities:

- New Year-Themed Crafts
- Hands-on STEM Challenges
- Groovy Disco Ball Dance Party
- Cookie Decorating
- A Festive Photo Booth to Capture Memories
- Hourly Countdown to the New Year, every hour, on the hour!

The third floor and community rooms will also feature delicious treats and additional activities for even more fun! Also, a great opportunity to visit our 3rd-floor rooftop lobby, which is not always open during regular business hours.

December 31st from 10am – 3pm: Exclusive Members/Guests Event

Day 2 is a special celebration exclusively for our valued members and their guests featuring the same activities as Day 1. Members can bring two guests FREE of charge, and any additional guests are welcome at regular admission prices. Family Plus and Military Plus members can bring up to four guests FREE of charge.

For more information on the event or on how to become a Magic City Discovery Center member, visit www.magiccitydiscoverycenter.com. We can't wait to celebrate with you!



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HOW TO ENTER

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NORTHERN CELEBRATIONS

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AN UNHAPPY MAGNUM

Patricia Stockdill

Magnum is mad at me. I can tell by the way she looks at me. And the way she pouts.

Just like a child anticipating Christmas or a birthday, Magnum anticipates cool fall weather, the joy of sniffing birds, running, pointing, and retrieving feathered things like grouse, partridge, pheasants, ducks, and even tackling a goose.

Magnum is the younger of the family's two four-legged Hunting Maniacs. Like her older compatriot, Garnet, this Brittany at the ripe old age of 2 ½ lives and breathes for hunting season.

And that, in a nutshell, is why she's mad at me.

She felt the warm September days; those short outings so she could avoid overheating and overworking that still brought tantalizing partridge and grouse aromas.

She felt the October chill and she's fully aware of when the focus switches from prairie, field edges, and grouse to those oh-so-aromatic pheasants.

Wow, do they smell wonderful.

And their feathers don't stick to the roof of one's mouth as much as the ones from doves or grouse are apt to do.

Plus they might run and hide, offering the game of search-and-retrieve.

And Magnum – like Garnet – is going to win.

She felt the crisp November air when a hint of winter arrived. She raced through the snow with the grace of an Olympic downhill skiing champion.

And, yes, she really noticed those aggravating snow and ice balls that have a tendency to locate themselves in the pads of one's furry feet, not to mention the feathery hair flowing from her legs.

That can be a bit annoying but it's all part of life as a North Dakota Four-Legged Hunting Maniac. Sometimes a little annoyance has to accompany all of the good.

But the snow and ice will melt – usually on a chair, the couch, the floor, or the bed – but it will melt.

Magnum is mad at me because Four-Legged Hunting Maniacs have a weird sense of the calendar. They know when it's grouse season.

They know when it's time to lounge alongside a wetland or field edge waiting with nearby decoys for ducks and geese.

They know when it's the crown jewel of bird hunting – pheasant season.

And she knows the calendar is about to turn to January and another year.

That means she knows – even at her tender young age – that she only has a few more days until the 2024 hunting season is over. One week – Jan. 5, 2025 – is the dreaded date. Both she and Garnet sense the end of another season is near.

But she doesn't know, nor does she understand, why she can't hunt every day. She just wears a quizzical look as she watches shotguns, shells, hunting vests, and other goodies associated with what is her world being placed behind doors and drawers.

And she's mad.

OK, actually it seems she's more sad than mad.

The other reason Magnum is mad (or sad) is that she didn't get to go afield as much as she wanted. Granted, that would be every day from the Sept. 1 dove season opener to the closing day of pheasant, grouse, and partridge season, the first Sunday of January each year.

Or every day, Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 but for some reason the N.D. Game and Fish Department doesn't agree with Magnum, nor Garnet.

This year, though, our Magnum (AKA Pistol for her "go get 'em" attitude and approach to hunting and life in general) had a small foot injury sidelining her for a few days. Nothing serious, thankfully, but just enough so it bled profusely whenever she was in the field.

She needed some time off and she didn't understand why. While she lost some hunting time, we're thankful it wasn't major.

But on the bright side, she had a good season. She's an amazing Four-Legged Hunting Maniac: fun to hunt with and she got birds.

Living in the country spoils them, though, because they still get to "hunt" – weather permitting – although it's just as companions to the humans on cross-country skis, snowshoes, or just walking down a lonely prairie trail (if there's not too much snow to warrant snowshoes).

It's better than nothing and gets them and us outside.

It makes Magnum happy, even if it's not really hunting... until next year.



Magnum, decked out in hunter orange, with one of her pheasants in the 2024 hunting season. North Dakota's upland game bird season closes Jan. 5, 2025, much to Magnum's dismay.

PATRICIA STOCKDILL PHOTO



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WHAT'S GOING ON MINOT AFB

FRIDAY 27

- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Family Zumba, 1000, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tabletop Gaming, 1600-2200, Rough Rider Lanes Bowling Center
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY 28

- Zumba, 0800, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Winter STEAM Challenges, 1000, Minot AFB Library Facebook Page
- Free Bowling, 1400-2100, Rough Rider Bowling Center
- Airman Free Bowling, 2100-2400, Rough Rider Bowling Center

SUNDAY 29

MONDAY 30

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Reintegration Briefing, 1000, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- National Bacon Day, 1030-1330, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- Cycle, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center

TUESDAY 31

- Registration Closes: BGCA National Arts Contest, Youth Center

WEDNESDAY 01

- New Year's Day
- For a full listing of New Year's Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com
- Registration Opens: Youth Indoor Floor Hockey, CYPBMS website at <https://parent.afcyp.com/>
- New Year's Day Brunch, 1030-1330, Dakota Inn Dining Facility

THURSDAY 02

- AFGSC Family Day
- For a full listing of New Year's Day holiday facility hours, visit 5thforcesupport.com

FRIDAY 03

- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Family Zumba, 1000, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tabletop Gaming, 1600-2200, Rough Rider Lanes Bowling Center
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY 04

- Zumba, 0800, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Winter STEAM Challenges, 1000, Minot AFB Library Facebook Page
- Free Bowling, 1400-2100, Rough Rider Bowling Center
- Airman Free Bowling, 2100-2400, Rough Rider Bowling Center

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Bomber Bistro Featured Item
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 Pesto-based pizza with tomatoes, onions, and black olives.

The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item
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