

# northern sentry

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**YOUNG CHEERLEADERS: MILITARY KIDS SHOWING TEAM SPIRIT**

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Over the holiday break, Melvina Murray received help from her family and 741st MS members to deliver Holiday themed Kindness in Dorms (K.I.D) Letters. Top from left to right Capt Avaris Murray (91 OG), LaNiyah Jones, and 1Lt Willie Jones (741st MS). Front: Avery and Michael Murray. See more on page B1

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# 2024 Bomber Task Force missions: A year of first-ever accomplishments

MASTER SGT. RACHEL WALLER, 8TH AIR FORCE AND JOINT-GLOBAL STRIKE OPERATIONS CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. --

Since 2018, U.S. strategic bomber task force missions have provided theater familiarization for aircrew and aircraft integration opportunities with Allies and partners across the globe.

As of 2024, 8th Air Force's B-1 Lancers, B-2 Spirits and B-52 Stratofortresses have integrated with 23 percent of the world's military as part of Bomber Task Force (BTF) missions and operations.

"On any given day, we're actively engaged through bomber task force missions," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Jason Armagost, 8th Air Force and Joint-Global Strike Operations Center commander. "In fact, about 60 percent of the year we are deployed to a theater or providing continental U.S. (CONUS) -to-CONUS flights in support of theaters or in support of U.S. Strategic Command and the Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff."

## BOMBER AIRCRAFT SUPPORT TO INDO-PACIFIC REGION

Over the course of 2024, the 8th Air Force has supported strategic deterrence missions aimed at reinforcing the rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific region from various locations including Andersen Air Force Base, Guam; Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory; Royal Australian Air Force Base Amberley, Australia.

"Our biggest objective is to continue demonstrating our commitment to the security of the Indo-Pacific region and to our allies there, showing our dedication to these global relationships," said Lt. Col. Vanessa Wilcox, BTF commander for the NSF Diego Garcia deployment.

In 2024, for the first time ever during a BTF mission out of

RAAF Amberley, Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-35 Lightning II's flew with the B-2.

"It's been great to see interoperability between our two great countries and our ability to integrate together has made this mission very successful," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Justin Meyer, 110th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron commander. "The operations we conducted have helped to enhance joint force lethality and demonstrated our ability to operate globally."

The Indo-Pacific BTF missions managed significant logistical challenges, including long-duration flights exceeding 30 hours, which tested and ultimately reinforced the crew's endurance and operational readiness.

"Flying for over 24 hours, pushing into the 30-hour range, was a challenge," said Wilcox. "It builds on our readiness, training to the capabilities we need to reach different parts of the globe, specifically across the Pacific."

## BOMBER AIRCRAFT SUPPORT TO EURO-ATLANTIC REGION

BTF missions continued the trend of achieving multiple first-ever missions in U.S. European Command's (USEUCOM) area of responsibility (AOR).

In February, B-1 aircraft, aircrew and maintainers from the 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, deployed to Luleå-Kallax Air Base, Sweden, as part of BTF 24-2.

While deployed, the B-1s participated in a unique mission named Vanguard Adler, which was designed to integrate the U.S. bombers with Swedish JAS 39 Gripen fighters and joint terminal attack controllers operating in the Arctic and Baltic regions.

"The U.S. is one of our most important partners and having them here at the base is very good logistic training for us to be able

to host," said Swedish air force Col. Peter Greberg, Norrbotten Wing commander. "Being a bomber escort is not something we do regularly, so that was very good training."

On March 6, a B-1 and a B-52 completed a flyover Stockholm, Sweden, as the country was in the final stages of becoming the newest member of the NATO Alliance.

"As Sweden prepares to join the NATO Alliance as its 32nd member, we eagerly anticipate deepening our collaboration with our Swedish Allies," stated U.S. Air Force Gen. James Hecker, commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa and NATO Allied Air Command at the time. "Initiatives like this joint flyover are just the beginning, as we work together to advance international stability and security."

In May, B-52s assigned to the 5th Bomb Wing, Minot AFB, North Dakota, arrived at Royal Air Force Fairford, England, kicking off BTF 24-3.

During the deployment, U.S. Airmen and aircraft integrated with NATO Allies and other international partners to synchronize capabilities and assure security commitments across the USEUCOM AOR. Most notably, the B-52s integrated with the British, Swedish, French, Lithuanian, Polish, German, and Spanish air forces.

"The NATO Alliance is as strong as ever," said Hecker. "Integrating with our Allies makes us a more lethal collective force, ready to counter aggression at a moment's notice."



A Royal Air Force Eurofighter Typhoon flies in formation with a U.S. Air Force B-52H Stratofortress, assigned to the 69th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, over the U.S. European Command area of responsibility, during Bomber Task Force Europe 24-3 June 4, 2024. Bomber Task Force operations reflect the United States' ongoing commitment to Alliance solidarity and regional security.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO | STAFF SGT. EMILY FARNSWORTH

In July, B-52s assigned to the 2nd Bomb Wing at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, arrived at Mihail Kogalniceanu AB, Romania, for BTF 24-4.

BTF 24-4 marked the first time U.S. strategic bomber aircraft have operated out of Romania.

"Our historic deployment underscores the strength and resilience of the U.S.-Romania alliance and our shared commitment to regional security and NATO's collective defense," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jared Patterson, 20th EBS commander.

The BTF highlighted the long-standing relationship between the U.S. and Romania, and their shared commitment to maintaining freedom of movement and freedom of navigation across the region.

"We are showing the proof of interoperability and that together, we are stronger," said Romanian air force commander Cosmin Maccsim, deputy commander of Mihail Kogalniceanu AB.

In November, B-52s from the 2nd BW deployed to RAF Fairford kicking off BTF 25-1. During their deployment, the strategic bombers conducted a simulated weapons drop training mission in Finland for the first time ever.

The mission showcased Finland's growing role within the NATO Alliance and marked another milestone in strengthening NATO's collective defense.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As 2025 begins, strategic bombers and Airmen from the Mighty Eight will continue to break boundaries and increase interoperability worldwide, demonstrating the U.S. commitment to strategic deterrence, global security and stability.

(Editor's Note: U.S. Air Forces in Europe -Air Forces Africa, Pacific Air Forces, the 2nd Bomb Wing and 509th BW Public Affairs contributed to this article.)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



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Court Kingz



**FEB 11, 13, 14, 15**  
District 5  
Girls Basketball



**MAR 8**  
Tom Sandoval  
& The Most Extras



**MAR 22**  
CeeLo Green



**APR 25**  
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# Minot Task Force 21 Welcomes Pete Hankla as Chair, Thanks Mark Jantzer for 25 Years of Service

MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC

Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC) Task Force 21 (TF21) is pleased to announce the appointment of Pete Hankla as the TF21 chair. Pete has been serving on TF21 for many years and is stepping in for Mark Jantzer who has been serving as the TF21 chair since 2000.

Pete Hankla is stepping into the chair position after having served as vice chair of TF21. In addition to chairing TF21, Hankla serves as an Air Force Global Strike Command Civic Leader, is a member of the Bomber Constituency Group, and is appointed to serve on the Governor's North Dakota Military Commission executive committee. He also serves on the MACEDC board of directors.

"Task Force 21 doesn't exist without the dedication of community leaders who volunteer countless hours to supporting military, leading advocacy and education efforts, and work tirelessly to protect and grow missions at Minot Air Force Base," shared Ryan Ackerman, MACEDC board chair. "MACEDC is thankful to have Mark Jantzer remaining on TF21 as he continues to provide crucial insight to the organization and is excited for Pete Hankla to usher in a new era of support for the military missions in North Dakota."

"As we reflect on the achievements of TF21 over the years, it's impossible not to recognize the extraordinary leadership of Mark Jantzer. For 25 years, Mark has been at the helm of TF21, guiding this vital initiative with steadfast dedication, strategic vision, and an unwavering commitment

to the Minot community and our nation's security," said Pete Hankla, TF21 chair.

TF21, an integral part of MACEDC, plays a critical role in educating the community, state officials, members of Congress, and the public on national security issues, particularly those impacting Minot Air Force Base, the U.S. Air Force, and the United States' nuclear deterrent. Under Mark's leadership, TF21 has become a nationally recognized advocate for Minot Air Force Base, ensuring its significance in our country's defense remains a top priority. His ability to bring people together, champion causes that matter most to Minot, and provide a steady hand in both challenging and triumphant times has left an indelible mark on the task force and our region.

TF21 has not only strengthened relationships at the local, state, and federal levels but has also brought a profound understanding of the importance of our Minot Air Force Base and the role of serving as the bedrock for nuclear deterrence as the only installation with two legs of the nuclear triad.

More information can be found at [TaskForce21.com](http://TaskForce21.com) or by contacting the Minot Area Chamber EDC at 701-852-6000 or [minot@minotchamberedc.com](mailto:minot@minotchamberedc.com).



Pete Hankla



Mark Jantzer



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If you're new to archery, equipment will be available for use, and instruction on safety and equipment will be provided. If you already enjoy the sport, feel free to bring your own bow of any kind (except crossbows). Take advantage of our full 20-yard range featuring 3D targets and 4x4 target butts (broadheads are not allowed).

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**Open Archery** 6:30-7:30 pm  
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**A VIEW FROM  
OUR SIDE**  
ROD WILSON

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It was a typical Monday afternoon when Mark Jantzer, outgoing chairman of Task Force 21 joined me at the Northern Sentry office. We shook hands and almost immediately began to talk about his role with Task Force 21, and his hand off of chairman duties to Peter Hankla, current vice-chairman of TF 21.

"I've been chairman for 25 years" Jantzer said "and now looking down the road it's time for a change before we start another crucial time for Minot Air Force Base" that being the modernization projects on the board that include the new Sentinel ICBM missiles, the re-reengining of the B-52's and the development of the new LRSO (long range standoff) cruise missiles that will be part of the arsenal of nuclear weapons.

What is good news for the community of Minot, and Minot

Air Force Base, is that although he won't serve as chairman of Task Force 21, Mark will remain an active member of this group that acts as a liaison between Minot and those deciding budgets and missions of the Air Force. The new Trump administration, although seemingly will be more aggressive in maintaining and modernizing the U.S. military force, "one just never knows" says Jantzer.

Time allowed us to discuss a lot of topics. Mark serves on several different committees that share information about the Air Force, and so it's always informative to visit with him about current events. In 25 years of serving as chairman of Task Force 21 things that affect the missions of the Minot Air Force Base have changed significantly, and it was that part of the conversation that brought us to a discussion about the quality of the men and women serving at Minot Air Force Base. It seems that the older you get, the younger these Airmen seem to be. The quality of these Airmen is always a topic that base commanders hit on when speaking to civic organization such as the Honorary Commanders gathering, or the monthly meetings of the Minot Chamber's Military Affairs Committee. Do they do things a bit differently today than when we were the ages of these Airmen? Of

**UPSIDE DOWN  
UNDER**  
MARVIN BAKER

Most of us who grew up in small towns in North Dakota didn't believe at the time that we had much of a chance to become famous. The routine was the routine and for all we knew, we would grow up just like our parents and do the same thing they did, live and work in a small farming community.

There were certainly exceptions to that like Lawrence Welk, growing up in Strasburg, Angie Dickinson growing up in Kulm, Peggy Lee, who lived part of her life in Wimbledon and Dave Osborn from Cando.

The larger cities have and still do have numerous famous people. They include Carson Wentz, Josh Duhamel, Roger Maris, Virgil Hill and Phil Jackson.

But this is about kids from small towns who grew up to become famous. Although most of them are in the sporting world, there are more than you

# The Torch Is Passed

course...but then again they have to keep up with our adversaries.

Task Force 21 is probably on the point of the spear when it comes to being informed about world events. The many nuclear symposiums that Task Force 21 has sponsored are very dynamic forums that talk about the new global order, and the importance of keeping a strong nuclear deterrent.

Another conversation I had was with Task Force 21 member Jason Zimmerman. In speaking about Mark Jantzer, he was quick to point out that it was under the watchful eye of Jantzer and Task Force 21 that Minot maintained the 2 nuclear missions that keep Minot Air Force Base relevant. "It's really pretty evident that his leadership has made a difference" says Zimmerman.

I can certainly attest that being a part of the community that supports Minot Air Force Base, and its' missions is certainly contagious. It is for that reason that I think that Mark Jantzer, by his own admission, will be around for quite a while as a member of Task Force 21 and the Military Affairs Committee. Mark is always willing to talk Minot Air Force Base, whether it be with a reporter for the Northern Sentry, or a with our North Dakota congressional delegation. To Mark Jantzer we say, "thank you". I can only imagine the number of hours

that he has dedicated to being chairman of Task Force 21. As my Dad used to say when he was trying to explain the good works of someone like Mark, "it's not an easy lift, but he managed to make it work and make it work well". We couldn't agree more.

Special Note: Catch my conversation with Mark Jantzer in this edition of The Northern Sentry.

**BEST KEPT SECRETS-**

Pretty common knowledge that Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park is a great summertime destination, right? But things are changing, folks. Take a look at the Medora website and see the many concerts they have coming up.

We spent a night in Medora on Friday, and toured Theodore Roosevelt National Park on Saturday. We (my wife & I) had a great time and enjoyed the now snow covered landscape and the many buffalo and wild horses we encountered.

Got and extra weekend? Try Medora....

**TODAY'S CHUCKLE-**

Too many people confuse being broad-minded with simply having a swelled head.

## North Dakota's hometown heroes...

might think.

Les Jepson, Bowbells population 285: He went from playing on a basketball team that is now a co-op to playing professional basketball with the Golden State Warriors and Sacramento Kings, following a stellar college career in Iowa.

Travis Hafner, Sykeston population 99: He attended a high school that didn't have a baseball program, but nearby Carrington did. And after playing baseball at Cowley County Community College in Kansas, he went on to play for the Texas Rangers, Cleveland Indians and New York Yankees.

Jim Buchli, New Rockford population 1,310: Starting out in the Eddy County community, Buchli graduated from Fargo Central High School before going on to the United States Naval Academy. After spending one tour of duty in Vietnam, he returned to the U.S., and throughout his career flew 4,200 hours including the Phantom F-4. But Buchli is most famous for being an astronaut, going into space four times from 1985 to 1991.

Jim Kleinsasser, Carrington, population 2,009: He was a three-sport standout at Carrington High School in basketball, football and track. He played college football at the University of North Dakota and was later drafted into the NFL and played 13 seasons with

the Minnesota Vikings.

Phil Hansen, Oakes, population 1,764: He was born in Ellendale and grew up in Oakes. Hansen played his college football at North Dakota State University and went on to a successful career with the Buffalo Bills. He later became a play-by-play announcer for NDSU football games and later entered politics, running for the Minnesota Senate in the Detroit Lakes District where he lives.

Cody Mauch, Hankinson population 918: If you are a Tampa Bay Buccaneers fan, you may have seen Mauch on Sunday afternoons. Mauch has now played guard for two seasons with the Buccaneers. He grew up in Hankinson, playing basketball, baseball and football there and later played college football at NDSU, winning three national championships.

Kendra and Krista Slaubaugh, Hazen population 2,281: The sisters formed a singing duo in 2014, rapidly gaining success on YouTube and Tik Tok. Their group, Tigerlily, morphed into a popular country music duo that later moved to Nashville and became known as Tigerlily Gold. In 2024, they won new Duo Group of the Year at the 59th Academy of Country Music Awards.

Bubbba Schweigert, Zeeland population 82: Having grown up in a baseball community, he went

on to a successful career coaching college football that spanned 20 years. He was head coach for the University of Minnesota-Duluth, became a defensive coordinator at Southern Illinois University and served as head coach for UND from 2014 to 2024. He also coached football at the University of Jamestown and was its head baseball coach.

Dale Lennon, Knox population 25: Like Schweigert, Lennon, who attended Rugby High School, went on to a successful football coaching career. Teams included the University of Mary, Southern Illinois University and UND where he led the team to the NCAA Division II championship in 2001. For a time he was an offensive coach with the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League and most recently was inducted into the UND Hall of Fame.

Gwen Sebastian, Hebron population 788: After high school, Sebastian attended nursing school but dropped out to start a singing career in Nashville. Her first single "Hard Rain" was released to country music radio stations in 2009. By 2010 she was singing the National Anthem for the New York Yankees spring training games in Tampa. She was also a contestant on The Voice and later toured with country star Blake Shelton.

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**SHE'S NOT FROM AROUND HERE**  
AMY ALLENDER

# The Bright Spot of Winter You're Probably Missing

Over Sunday dinner at my home, a friend asked what we had coming up this week. Normally, I've got an answer (or twenty) to that question. A dear neighbor once described me as "not the type to let the grass grow underfoot." That's pretty accurate. I like to stay busy, and I never tire of exploring and getting to know our town.

But this time, when asked what was coming up, I had no answer. I paused—a bit dumfounded and said, "I honestly have no idea. I can't think of a single thing."

"Yeah, it's that time of year. January and February always seem to have a nice lull," he replied.

I'd never thought of it that way before, but he's right. After the hustle of the holidays and the adrenaline rush of starting a new year, things seem to drastically slow down. There aren't major holidays to plan or decorate for. Spring break is far off, and summer vacation plans are just tiny blips on the horizon. While December is jam-packed with special events, January's calendar can feel stark naked in comparison.

My friend was right—there's a comforting lull to this time of year. It's nice to have a stretch when things hold steady. There's still plenty of winter ahead, and in many ways, these days can blur together—a revolving door of nearly identical days and weeks. And yet, these are some of my favorite winter days because my favorite change is quietly unfolding. We just have to be alert enough to notice it.

Although I find the good in just about every circumstance, there are things about living in Hotdish Land that are more challenging than others. For me, the hardest part isn't the cold or the wind—it's the dark. On Dec. 21, the shortest day of the year, sunrise is at 8:33 a.m., and sunset is at 4:53 p.m. That's just 8 hours and 20 minutes of daylight.

The very next day, Dec. 22, we gain a mere four seconds of light. The change is imperceptible. Ten days later, things start picking up. By New Year's Eve, we're gaining nearly a full minute of light each day.

By now, in this January-February lull, the light is coming back hand over fist. By the time you're reading this, sunrise will occur no later than 8:14 a.m., and sunset will fall after 5:43 p.m.—we've gained back more than an hour of light! What's more, we're reclaiming nearly three minutes of sunlight each day, a trend that holds steady through April. As your eyes read these words, we're enjoying a day with 9 hours and 29 minutes of light.

Take a look around. Sure, there's still snow on the ground, and the wind comes with a bite. You may wake at night to the rumble of trucks hauling piles of snow to the outskirts of town or find your car stuck in a drift if you're not careful. But now, these things are happening in the broad light of day.

Like clockwork, just as winter begins to smear the days together, the returning light jolts me awake and brings life into focus. Yes,

January and February can feel like a lull—but that's not a bad thing. Life is too good and too short not to embrace a lull when it's handed to you, especially one filled with a steady surge of sunlight paving the way to a Hotdish Land midsummer.

Remember, you've always got the right to be in control of your perspective. And two perspectives can both be true and honest. This is a hard part of the year when winter seems to drag on, but it's also a beautiful time—when daylight accumulates quickly, and a change of season is noticeably closer. No matter how you feel about winter, take heart—each day between now and spring comes with a gift: three precious minutes of extra light to use however you see fit.

For more stories from life in Hotdish Land, join me at amyallender.com, or on Instagram @HeyMinot or @amy\_allender.



While many people say January and February is the time that winter starts to drag on, I say this is my favorite part.

AMY ALLENDER PHOTO



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# A LOOK BACK

## THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

### LOOKING GLASS BEGINS AIRBORNE NUCLEAR COMMAND

FEBRUARY 3, 1961



Looking Glass battle staff (USAF Photo/Library of Congress)

The "Looking Glass" mission began on February 3, 1961, when Strategic Air Command recognized a potential need for airborne launch control systems in the event of ground-based command centers becoming inoperable. SAC initiated Looking Glass with the use of EC-135s, which would operate 24/7. The Boeing planes carried high-tech communication equipment operated by a battle staff who could remotely control Minuteman and Peacekeeper

ICBMs. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Air Launch Control System crews came from the 44th Strategic Missile Wing at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, and the 91st SMW at Minot AFB, North Dakota. Soon, ALCS capable units were available at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, as well. The EC-135 was taken off of continuous airborne alert in 1990, and while the mission has evolved with the times, the US Air Force and Navy continue operational airborne command to this day.

Information courtesy of: media.defense.gov / offutt.af.mil / fas.org

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# Jelly Roll to perform at the 2025 N.D. State Fair

NORTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR

Award-winning, GRAMMY®-nominated artist Jelly Roll is set to electrify the stage at the North Dakota State Fair on Sunday, July 20, 2025, headlining the Fair's highly anticipated concert lineup. Known for his raw storytelling, soulful voice, and deep connection with fans, Jelly Roll promises a powerful and unforgettable performance.

Fresh off the release of his 2024 album Beautifully Broken, which debuted at #1 on the Billboard 200 All Genre Chart, Jelly Roll continues to break boundaries in country music and beyond. Beautifully Broken earned the highest critical praise of his career from outlets like Rolling Stone, Billboard, and NPR and features the platinum-certified #1 hit, "I Am Not Okay." The album capped off Jelly Roll's most successful year yet, which included his sold-out Beautifully Broken Tour in arenas nationwide.

Just a year earlier, Jelly Roll made waves with his debut country album Whitsitt Chapel, which entered at #3 on the Billboard 200 All Genre Chart and earned the biggest country debut in Billboard Consumption Chart history. With six consecutive #1 singles at country radio and numerous accolades, including

Billboard's 2023 Breakthrough Award and the People's Choice Award for Male Country Artist of the Year, Jelly Roll is recognized as one of Nashville's most authentic and fastest-rising stars.

"Jelly Roll's music resonates with fans personally, and we're thrilled to welcome him back to the North Dakota State Fair," said Craig Rudland, NDSF General Manager. "His authenticity and energy will make for another unforgettable performance at the 2025 Fair."

About North Dakota State Fair The North Dakota State Fair, held annually in Minot, North Dakota, has been a cherished tradition and the state's premier event since its official recognition 60 years ago. With a diverse range of activities, exhibits, and entertainment, the Fair is the largest annual event in North Dakota, drawing over 300,000 visitors each year. For more information, visit [ndstatefair.com](http://ndstatefair.com).

Stay tuned for more exciting announcements about the 2025 North Dakota State Fair!

Follow North Dakota State Fair on social media

- Facebook: [facebook.com/ndstatefair](https://facebook.com/ndstatefair)
- X (Twitter): @ndstatefair
- Instagram: @ndstatefair



30-31 JAN

## SISU ICE LANTERN STROLL - SHOW YOUR SISU!

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Scandinavian Heritage Park  
1020 South Broadway, Minot

Celebrate Minot's resilience and Scandinavian heritage with an enchanting winter tradition. Join us in lighting up the night at the Sisu Ice Lantern Stroll in Scandinavian Heritage Park! Together, we aim to create a glowing pathway of 2,500 ice lanterns, symbolizing the collective spirit of Sisu—grit, determination, and an unwavering will to persevere. Be part of the magic. Show your Sisu. Event Details: Lantern Drop-Off: January 30th: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm, January 31st: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Sisu Ice Lantern Stroll: January 31st: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm February 1st: 8:00 am - 9:00 pm. Stroll through the park to enjoy this magical display. Admission is FREE. Pledge Your Lanterns. Sign up by January 29th by calling (701)-857-8206 or emailing [info@visitminot.org](mailto:info@visitminot.org).



For more information:  
[Facebook/ Visit Minot/ Events](https://facebook.com/visitminot/events)

11 FEB

## 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](https://facebook.com/minotparks/events)

14 FEB

## CRAFTING THROUGH THE COLD

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Magic City Discovery Center  
1545 1st St NW, Minot

"Embrace the holiday spirit with a splash of creativity and a glass of wine at our "Crafting Through the Cold Series."

Join us for this cozy, creative class perfect for beating the winter blues.

For February's craft, we will be making Valentine's Day themes Hot Mess Canvases. Perfect for singles, couples, or friends, you will experiment with the beauty in chaos and create a stunning, abstract masterpiece."

Ages: 21+, Class Size: Max of 30

Locations: 3rd Floor Lobby

Cost: \$50 for Non-Members, \$45 for MCDC Members, \$40 for Military Members

Sign up on our website: [magiccitydiscoverycenter.com](http://magiccitydiscoverycenter.com)

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For more information:  
[Facebook/ Magic City Discovery Center/ Events](https://facebook.com/magiccitydiscoverycenter/events)

14 FEB

## PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

YMCA  
3515 16th Street SW, Minot, ND

Want to enjoy a night away while your kids play?

Drop off your children (Ages 4-10) for an evening of fun at the Y!

From 5:30-8:30, the kids will play in our gyms, do arts & crafts, and have pizza all while being supervised by our amazing staff!



For more information:  
[Facebook/ Minot YMCA/ Events](https://facebook.com/minotyymca/events)

## NEW Community at the Northern Sentry

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



For more events visit our online Community Calendar at [www.northernsentry.com/calendar/](http://www.northernsentry.com/calendar/)

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# Re-Introducing the Community Calendar!

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

Even in this modern age of instant information, it can still feel surprisingly challenging to figure out what's going on both on and off base. Events and activities are often scattered across emails, various Facebook groups, and word of mouth—and let's be honest, relying on your spouse's memory to relay those details isn't exactly foolproof. (We've all been there.)

That's why the Northern Sentry is thrilled to re-announce the Community Calendar on our brand new website!

We've listened to the feedback and understand that what this community needs is a single, central hub for all events happening on Minot Air Force Base, in the city of Minot, and even in surrounding areas. Well, the wait is over! You can now find everything happening—all in one convenient spot—at <https://northernsentry.com/calendar/>.

Say goodbye to endless email searches and bouncing between social media pages just to find out when and where an event is happening. Our online Community Calendar is your one-stop destination for all local events, big or small, from base activities to city-wide celebrations.

## WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT:

~Comprehensive Listings – From seasonal festivities to everyday events, the calendar will be your go-to guide for what's happening now and in the future.

~Community Powered – This calendar is for YOU, and you can help make it even better! Have an event to share? Adding it is quick, easy, and completely free.

~It's completely FREE to use, whether you're checking out what's happening or adding your own event.

## WHAT CAN YOU ADD TO THE CALENDAR?

A Girl Scout troop setting up cookie sales at the BX? Add it!



Hosting a fundraising car wash? Post it!

Planning a family-friendly activity? Share it!

If it's open to a broad audience, it belongs on the Community Calendar.

### \*IMPORTANT NOTES:

The calendar is for public, community-wide events. Please avoid adding unit- or squadron-specific activities.

All submissions are subject to approval to ensure accuracy and alignment with community standards.

We're excited to bring this valuable resource back to the community and can't wait to see how it fosters stronger connections and engagement. So, start exploring THE Community Calendar today and discover just how much there is to do right here in Minot. Let's make this your best year yet for getting involved!



**USO COFFEE CONNECTIONS PAINT AND SIP**  
Minot AFB Jimmy Doolittle Center, 174 Summit Drive  
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**INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING**  
Nature's Nook Children's Toys & Books  
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**REGISTRATION CLOSES: YOUTH INDOOR FLOOR HOCKEY**  
Minot AFB Youth Center, 286 Peacekeeper Place  
VIEW DETAIL



**47TH ANNUAL KMOT AG EXPO**



**TODDLER JUMP TIME!! HIGH AIR GROUND**



**STORYTIME WITH MISS KRISTI @ MAIN STREET**



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### Ozzy

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

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|--|--|--|

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## All About Pets

**Enriching Your Dog**

Enrichment is essential for a happy dog and is a great idea in order to keep them mentally, physically and emotionally healthy. For some dog owners, it can be difficult to find the right enrichment activities to keep them interested. Here are a few great ideas to keep your dog entertained:

- Hide food around the house or yard and let your dog use their nose to search for it.
- Use a snuffle mat—you can make them homemade with fleece and a rubber mat or even use a fluffy, stringy rug—and spread food throughout it.
- Instead of using high calorie treats for training sessions, try hand-feeding your dog's meal to them for an everyday mind workout.
- Put their dinner in a muffin tin filled with tennis balls for a homemade puzzle feeder. If that's too easy, there are a variety of puzzles to buy that range from easy to expert.
- Use a hollow toy with holes, such as a Kong or bone, and fill it with treats and your dog's meal. Vegetables, fruits, yogurt, peanut butter, and bland meat are a few extra healthy fillings. To make it last even longer, try freezing it with some water.
- Walks are great for physical exercise but can be opportunities for mental enrichment as well. Letting your dog sniff around, exploring new parts of the neighborhood, or practicing basic etiquette will help make the most of your walks.
- A flirt pole encourages your dog's natural urge to chase. It's basically a stick with a lure on the end of an attached string and can help you train impulse control, build communication skills, and of course, enrich your dog.

- If you have an athletic or working breed on your hands, try involving them in a sport. Agility courses, canine freestyle, disc dog, dock diving, lure coursing, and scent work are a few popular sports that will give your dog lots of extra enrichment. If there are no dedicated courses near you, many of these sports can be learned (and practiced) right in your back yard or a local park.
- Try planting a garden just for your pup. Herbs like mint, chamomile, lavender, and rosemary give off pleasant smells and can even be eaten.
- You can also include other features such as a pool or sprinkler and a designated digging pit to give your dog the full enriching experience.
- You can find many different "doggy TV" shows on the internet. Put one on while you're busy and let your dog watch and listen for a variety of dog-favorite sights and sounds.
- Bring your dog along for a windows-down car ride to expose them to new sights, sounds, and smells.
- Instead of leaving Fido at home for that trip to Home Depot or the local lunch spot, try bringing him along for some valuable exposure to new people and a different environment. Before bringing your dog to any public setting, make sure they are pet-friendly.
- Doggy daycare and group training classes are awesome places to give your dog social enrichment under professional supervision. Keep in mind that different dogs and different age groups need varying amounts of stimulation. By giving your dog the proper enrichment, you can ensure that they live their life to the fullest!

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# Travel by Train Again

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

*This article and many more can be found in our 48 page 2024-2025 Winter Guide. The guides are available in racks all across Minot Air Force Base, or can be viewed online at [northern-sentry.com](http://northern-sentry.com)*

Traveling by railroad romanticizes history. We picture classic novels like *Murder on the Orient Express* or vintage movies like *White Christmas* where train passengers don their best outfits, enjoy fancy dinners, smoke long-necked cigarettes and doze in comfortable sleeping quarters. Is the glamorous travel of yesteryear realistic in today's world?

In the US, most of us have adopted the hustle of plane travel or superhighway road trips. But, believe it or not, you can reignite the ease and enjoyment of cross-country train travel staging right here out of Minot! It is here that the Amtrak line named the Empire Builder stops at the nearly-125-year-old historic railroad depot at 400 1st Ave SW.

The Empire Builder line runs from Seattle & Portland to Chicago. Normally, it takes about 28 hours from Minot to Seattle and about 18 hours eastbound to Chicago. While this seems so long, there are so many perks that make the time spent worthwhile.

Trains usually depart once a day in each direction from Minot station. Departure times depend on the direction of travel, but the preparations, unlike with air travel, could not be simpler. Free parking is located right at the depot and there is no need to arrive hours early. If you have luggage, you can check it (2 bags

are free) or you can store it in one of the baggage areas.

Inside the train there are a few different seat classes to choose from: sleeper cars, observation cars and even dining cars, where you can eat your meals in style while rolling down the tracks. Coach seats are the most affordable and the seats are huge and very comfortable with tons of leg room. However, a downside to coach class is all food is from the snack bar, or can be brought with you (which you are free to do). If you are traveling overnight, sleeping comfortably can be a little challenging. A major perk with the sleeper cars, like a roomette or bedroom suite, is that all the meals are served to you complimentary in the dining car. While not five star restaurant quality food, the meals are filling and the selections are more than adequate. Prices of rooms or seats vary significantly based on time of year and how far in advance you book travel. But, in the end, traveling in a coach seat is almost always cheaper than airfare to the same location.

While train travel is unique and adventurous, it does have its drawbacks. The Amtrak website can be cumbersome and difficult to deal with, so make sure you first know the train line on which you want to go before searching for fares. Another word of warning about train travel on Amtrak is that they are very susceptible to time delays due to prioritization of freight trains, which share the rails. Prior Amtrak rider, (C)MSgt Derek Geske, 91 MSFS, said that his family's ride on the Empire

Builder from Minot heading east was a "super awesome experience!" He mentioned that "Trains are horrible being on time, but it was super comfy and roomy. It was way less expensive than a plane ticket."

As a train traveler in Minot, you not only have the major destinations to choose from, but all the stops along the way too. Westbound, you don't want to miss Montana's Glacier National Park, although the East Glacier Park station is closed during the winter months. Or at the Empire Builder's final eastbound destination, Chicago's famous Union Station, you can catch any number of trains going all sorts of places.

Rail is the way to travel when you want to see the sights, relax and enjoy a slower pace to your journey. Is it faster than air travel? No, but it is usually cheaper and gives you the time to finish a few books, take naps and take in magnificent views along the way. Is it more convenient than car travel? You do have to plan timetables and get to places on time, and you can't make stops whenever you need to, but you can walk around and stretch your legs. You don't have to worry about falling asleep at the wheel and you don't have to stress about directions or driving in poor weather conditions.

All in all, railroads offer a beautiful way to enjoy travel, truly unwind en route and enjoy the journey, and it can be easily done right out of the Magic City! It's about the journey, not the destination. Embrace it!




The Empire Builder ends eastbound at Chicago's Union Station, but from here the journey can continue with many other Amtrak routes.



SMSgt Derek Geske, 91 MSFS, and spouse MSgt Savannah Geske, 5 MDG pose near the Empire Builder before a family trip.

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# Talking Task Force 21 Mark Jantzer Was Chairman For 25 Years

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

The recent announcement of Mark Jantzer stepping down as chairman of Task Force 21 gave me an opportunity to catch up with Mark and review his 25 years in that position. Mark explained that the actual start of Task Force 21 dates back to 1996 when the goal of then Task Force 96 was to have robust missions at Minot AFB after the previous 3 BRAC (Base Re-alignment and Closure) rounds in 1991, 1993 and 1995. "Out of that came Task Force 21, we want to be advocates for the base and the missions and we want to be here through the 21st century, so that is kind or how that all evolved" according to Jantzer.

At first the idea was that the current Minot Chamber of Commerce chair of the Chamber Board would continue on and be the chairman of TF 21. "We tried that for a couple of years and ended up with a system that didn't really work. I had the job, and my intention was to hand off the job to Pete Zimmerman, but he left the community. The powers that be came back to me and asked if I could do the job some more, and that happened to be 25 years ago" continues Jantzer.

At the time that TF 96 transitioned to TF 21, the B-52 bombers were in jeopardy relates Jantzer. There was a suggestion by the Air Force, mostly money driven, that after the B-2's and B-1's came on the scene that the B-52 force would be reduced to only 40 "and that would have been ugly for us because at that time we didn't have a second squadron here, and you could see where that was going. It would have been really easy to shut down one base and move all of the bombers to another" says Jantzer.

The chairman of the Armed Service Committee at the time was Senator Daniel Inouye from Hawaii and with encouragement from the North Dakota Senate delegation of Senators Conrad and Dorgan, Senator Inouye would not support the reduction in B 52s. According to Jantzer there was another similar incident "where the commander of Stratcom was playing with some number with a number in a table that was kind of buried in a bill with numbers that were not where we wanted them to be and a staff person from Senator Conrad's staff found them and we were able to thwart that effort". And continue Jantzer that there were several other incidences

where "had we not been doing our work and not been vigilant, something may have happened that would have been adverse, and we have been fortunate up until now."

Mark Jantzer thinks that what has made a difference is a couple of things; "One is consistency. Continuing to work whether you are talking about the Air Force or what goes on in Congress with the budget process, being consistent and continuing to work is really key. Second is relationships. You have to have the ability to talk to people, and you have to have a trust relationship where they will provide information that is important. The consistency of showing up and having relationships and maintaining them, not just when you are in trouble necessarily, but times when there isn't any big trouble and you need to have conversations, you know the people that you are talking to" relates Jantzer "and that has been the key to the successful efforts of Task Force 21."

And there is the relationships that TF 21 has had with leaders on the base. "Officers who have served here and have been part of our Honorary Commander program and have gotten to know the community and the people in Minot; as they go on in their careers and end up in leadership position in the Air Force or joint forces, are some of the best spokespeople and advocates that we have because they have been up here. The council that other leaders would get from people who have served here, whether in the officer corps or enlisted is that

it is probably going to be different than what you think...and it isn't going to be terrible" says Jantzer. "There's not mountains and beaches and we have real winter in Minot, but the community will embrace you, your service is valued and understood and it's a safe place with good schools and a great place to spend your tour. Many of the people serving in Global Strike command, and many others, have served here and that is really important to us."

And Task Force 21 has always been the catalyst behind a lot of the efforts of the Minot community embracing the base community. But there are other positives in the location of Minot AFB. "Most people with more infinite knowledge would say that Minot is a not a terrible place to fly a jet out of, with a pretty lightly used air space. You know a 10 degree below zero day when it's clear and sunny (like today when Mark was at my office) is a good day to fly."

In our conversation we also talked about how Task Force 21 benefits from time spent on base as they are able to see Airmen work the missions of the base and take pride in what they do. "There are a whole lot of stories about Airmen at Minot Air Force base who take a lot of pride in what they do, and pride in serving their country" says Jantzer "we should be appreciative, vocally, a little more that we are of the job that these Airmen do...not only here in Minot but across the Air Force. You know, not just the Air Force, but all of our military forces across our country."



Lt. Gen. Michael J. Lutton, Deputy Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) and Deputy Commander, Air Forces Strategic-Air, U.S. Strategic Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana with Task Force 21 Chair Mark Jantzer.

MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC PHOTO

And what has the past 25 years of the Chairman of Task Force 21 meant to Mark Jantzer? "For my part, it has been a privilege to serve the community in that way; to have achieved the goals over and over again that we set out to do. To make sure that we had a base north of town with robust missions. It grew from that

simple goal to being involved in a broader national issue, and that was to make sure that we maintain a strong nuclear deterrent."

The work of Task Force 21 is as important today as it was when Mark Jantzer first took the reigns as chairman back in 1999. His hard work in leading Task Force has certainly made a difference.



Task Force 21 leaders Bruce Christianson, Brekka Kramer, and Mark Jantzer attend the National Strategic Deterrent Coalition Board of Regents Workshop in Washington, D.C.

MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC PHOTO

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# Women Connect Minot Announces Upcoming Workshop - Dream It, Vision Board It, Lead It

MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC WOMEN CONNECT

On February 5 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Minot Area Chamber EDC Women Connect is pleased to present a new event to help everyone see their leadership vision through for the new year. Each person has goals and visions for their careers and lives in 2025. Hopes and dreams are great, but how will they be achieved? Creating a vision board, a tool used to help turn a dream into reality, is a strong start.

A vision board is a collage of images, pictures, and affirmations that represent visions and goals that are then put together in one place, i.e., a poster board, to depict the outline of a journey or result one is trying to achieve. This is a hands-on event where participants will organize ideas and goals by making their own vision board and leave with a custom-made visual created to help manifest desired outcomes and take on the new year.

CMSgt (Ret.) Melvina Smith will be attending virtually to lead the vision board designing session. A distinguished military career of 32 years in the Air Force saw Smith rise to the role of Command Chief of Air Force Global Strike Command. Displaying exceptional leadership in fast-paced environments, business operations, and management, she was a top leader and guided 33,000 personnel within the

nation's greatest mission of nuclear deterrence. Now headed into retirement, Smith is sharing her keys to success.

"We are incredibly excited to have Mel sharing her expertise for this session," said Brekka Kramer, Minot Area Chamber EDC President | CEO. "The community really resonated with her story when she was the keynote speaker at our Women Connect signature event in the fall, brought in thanks to our presenting sponsor Hess Corporation. She discussed vision boards and how setting achievable goals contributed to her success, and it just made sense to have her back to inspire and educate the Minot area community in the same way. She was a high-demand guest that really resonated with our attendees, and we're honored to have her kicking off our 2025 Women Connect events."

Facilitating the course in-person will be Michelle Wall, member of the Women Connect Committee and trainer for Dale Carnegie of ND & MN. Michelle has been a driving force behind countless success stories, impacting lives and empowering individuals to reach their full potential. Supplies will be provided; however, all attendees are encouraged to bring special pictures, graphics, or affirmations to include.

The event will be hosted at The Foundry's Makery space, on the



Melvina Smith

second floor of the Brick-and-Mortar District Building located at 400 East Central Avenue in Minot. There is elevator access for ease of accessibility.

All Women Connect events are open to everyone, not just women. Tickets are \$40.00 for Minot Area Chamber EDC member investors and \$50.00 for non-members. Sponsorship opportunities are available as well for those looking to bring a team to the event. Space is limited, so hurry and get registered on the Minot Area Chamber EDC website at: <https://www.chamberdata.net/webforms/EvtListing.aspx?dbid2=ndmin&evtid=528799&class=E>

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**Monthly Business Meeting Schedule • Meet-and-Greets**  
**Blue Lodge - 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:00PM**  
**Shriners - 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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Provider of the Month Feature  
FEBRUARY 2025



**ARIEL CHURBY**

What do you enjoy most about being an FCC Provider?

I find great pleasure in creating numerous memories with children and witnessing their growth. It brings me immense joy to contribute to the community by offering various childcare services. Above all, I cherish the opportunity to spend quality time at home with my own children while assisting other families.

What are your interests/hobbies?

I thoroughly enjoy shopping, crafting, and traveling. Reading a good book is one of my passions, and above all, I prioritize taking care of myself.

What advice do you have for new providers/those interested in being FCC Providers?

One piece of valuable advice I would offer is to practice patience and avoid overwhelming yourself. It can be quite daunting initially and you may feel the urge to cry, which is completely normal. Fortunately, we have a supportive team of FCC providers at Minot who are always ready to assist. I believe you cannot truly understand something until you give it a chance. I encourage you to take the opportunity, as I never thought I could succeed in this role, and yet I have been a successful provider for three years now.

For more information about FCC, please check out the following website: <https://5thforcesupport.com/fcc/>.



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**Jay Orne**

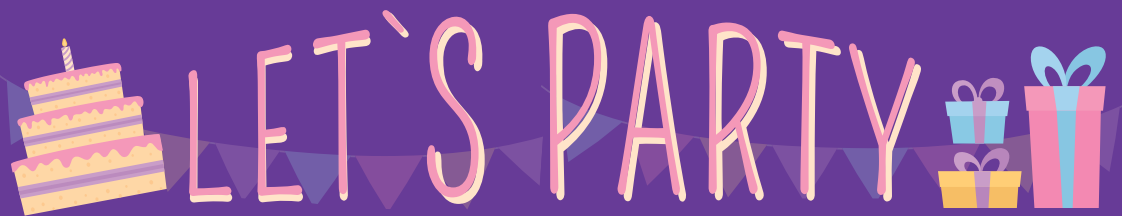
Jay found a Golden Ticket in the Northern Sentry he picked up where he works at LRS. Thanks Jay, keep reading your Community Newspaper!



**Ellen Prescott**

Ellen found a \$20 Golden Ticket in the Northern Sentry she picked up at the BX her first week on MAFB. Welcome to Minot Prescott Family, we're glad you're here!

Pick up a copy of the Northern Sentry for your chance to win!



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## BLACK AND WHITE RUFFED LEMUR

**CREATURE FEATURES**

- They quadrupedally (using all 4 limbs) move about in the trees and are often seen suspending themselves upside down by their hind feet to feed on fruit.
- Lemurs are one of the great pollinators of the world! These Lemurs have developed a fascinating relationship with the Traveler's Palm Tree. When they pull apart the bracts of the tree to forage, the pollen sticks to the Lemur's fur and is carried to the next tree.
- Black and White Ruffed Lemurs are one of the only primates to make nests and commonly give birth to twins or triplets.

**Fact File**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Life Span   | 14 - 16 Years   |
| Weight      | 7 - 10 pounds   |
| Height      | 17 - 22 inches  |
| Tail Length | 22 - 25 inches  |
| Body Length | 20 - 22 inches  |
| Wild Diet   | Omnivore Carnivore (Herbivore)<br>Fruit, Leaves, Seeds, Nectar, Flowers |

Photos by America Online

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# 4 FACTORS TO CONSIDER TO MAINTAIN WINTER SAFETY

Many changes are to be expected as fall gives way to winter. Temperatures drop for much of the country, and depending on where one lives, snow, wind and ice are to be expected.

As beautiful as snow-covered landscapes can be, winter presents unique hazards, notably slippery roads and surfaces. Chilly temperatures also can put people at risk if they spend prolonged periods outdoors unprotected.

According to the insurance company Carsurance, more than 156,000 crashes occur annually due to icy roads. Roughly 17 percent of all vehicle crashes happen in winter conditions. Winter hazards are not exclusive to driving, however. That means winter safety involves a consideration of a host of factors.

### 1. Changing visibility

While slippery surfaces may contribute to some accidents, visibility can quickly change with winter weather. Blowing snow can contribute to whiteout conditions. In addition, fog can be hazardous to drivers, aviators and mariners and contributes to thousands of travel accidents every year, advises the National Weather Service. It's important to slow down, leave plenty of distance, use your low-beam headlights, and recognize when it may be safest to pull over, such as when visibility is significantly compromised.

### 2. Snow removal

Shoveling snow or using a snowblower are common wintertime activities. Yet strenuous levels of activity in cold temperatures could put people at risk of heart attack, particularly if they are not acclimated to physical activity. Always warm up prior to shoveling

snow to prepare the body for exercise. Go slowly and take frequent breaks. Avoid twisting and tossing snow over your shoulder, which can contribute to back injuries.

### 3. Carbon monoxide poisoning

Winter weather means turning up the heat or doing more indoor cooking. Carbon monoxide is produced through the burning of fuel in various forms, including stoves, engines, gas ranges, portable generators, and grills. The National Safety Council says carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can go undetected as it builds up in enclosed spaces. Never warm up the car inside of a contained garage. Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors, and have furnaces, water heaters and other fuel-burning appliances checked and serviced by a qualified technician annually. Be sure that carbon monoxide alarms are on every floor of the home, and take it seriously if the alarm goes off.

### 4. Black ice

Black ice is a common winter foe. Black ice forms when temperatures rise above freezing during the day, melting any snow on the ground and causing surfaces to become wet. If the temperature drops once more while the ground is wet, a thin, transparent sheet of ice can form. Black ice also may occur if moisture in the air condenses and forms dew or fog, and then the temperature drops below freezing, says the National Weather Service. Black ice gets its name because it looks black on asphalt roads. However, it also can form on sidewalks and overpasses, or spots shaded by trees or other objects. Slowing down and exercising extreme caution are essential.



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# Kindness Letters Delivered in Dorms

HANNAH WATERS, NORTHERN SENTRY

Kindness can come in attitudes, courtesy, a smile, or even from a heartfelt letter. Over the past two years, dorm Airmen at Minot AFB have been receiving sweet letters from base kids offering encouragement and kindness. The program, known as Kindness in Dorms (K.I.D) is organized by Dakota Elementary teacher, Melvina Murray. Melvina said, "It's just meant to be something quick and a way for them to help motivate our Airmen." The K.I.D. Program at MAFB bridges the gap between Airmen and the local community by providing emotional support through letter exchanges, fostering a sense of belonging and connection, while empowering second-grade students to actively participate in a meaningful, base-wide initiative. Melvina started this program as a way to help ease the Airmen stressors that can be caused from being away from family. In years past, Melvina and her teaching

partner were able to manage the program, but they needed more help this year. Melvina expressed, "We talked to them [students] in the beginning right before we started and explained how when we get home from work or when they get home from school, their parents are there waiting.... we just let them know the reality that's not the case for our Airmen." As letters are written, Melvina, with the help of her children and her husband, Captain Avaris Murray, from the 91 Operations Group, distributes letters to dorms every Friday on an alternating schedule. They work on a rotation between all of the MAFB dorms, switching each week. Melvina said they just finished up with their rotation this past Friday and will start over this week. The Airmen appreciate the letters just as much as the second graders love writing them! One Airmen, A1C William Ritchie from 5FSS said, "I felt happy

when I got this letter and proud of who I'm going to be later in the future." Another Airmen shared a similar sentiment, A1C Ellen Kemper from 5LRS said, "I was having a rough time being away from home. Receiving this letter at Christmas made me feel less alone." Airmen don't get to just receive; they can also write back! On each letter's bag, a QR code is attached where Airmen can scan and make a response virtually. Melvina said, "We read it [the Airmen's response] to the students... they love it when their name gets shouted." The 741 Missile Squadron has also been a huge part of the K.I.D Program. Back over the holidays, there were too many letters to drop off and not enough hands to do it, so the 741 MS went with Melvina and her family, and they spent the frigid December morning delivering letters like Santa's little mailmen. The letters usually come with a little



A1C Ellen Kemper and A1C William Ritchie with their holiday dorm letters!

sweet treat, and all the candy is provided by donations from the MAFB community through Mrs. Murray's classroom. The 741 MS has also provided a candy drop-off location within their squadron building which is located in the 91 MW building. Melvina voiced, "It's definitely a base-wide effort... It's amazing!"

With the help of her family, the 741 MS, the base community, and even her second-grade helpers who helped pack the K.I.D bags, this program has become an impactful success for the MAFB dorm Airmen. We are hopeful the program will continue for a long time!



## How YOU can communicate with US!

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Do you need to <u>ACTIVATE</u> a new prescription?</b></p>  | <p><b>Do you need to <u>REFILL</u> an existing prescription?</b></p>   | <p><b>Do you need to <u>COMMUNICATE</u> with your pharmacy team?</b></p>   |
| <p>Here are three ways to <u>ACTIVATE</u> a prescription at Minot AFB Pharmacy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MHS GENESIS Patient Portal</b><br/><a href="https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil">https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the link or QR code</li> <li>Click on 'Message' tab</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Q-Anywhere</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Text "Get in line" to 1-833-274-5419</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>In Person</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Come pull a ticket at the pharmacy and wait for your number to be called</li> </ul> </li> </ol> | <p>Here are two ways to <u>REFILL</u> a prescription at Minot AFB Pharmacy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MHS GENESIS Patient Portal</b><br/><a href="https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil">https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the link or QR code</li> <li>Click on 'Rx Refills' tab</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Automatic <u>REFILL</u> Hotline</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call 1-701-937-4688</li> <li>Follow the prompts</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>*If you are out of refills, a new prescription will need to be activated. Please contact your provider to get started.</p> | <p>Here are three ways you can <u>COMMUNICATE</u> with pharmacy staff:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MHS GENESIS Patient Portal</b><br/><a href="https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil">https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the link or QR code</li> <li>Click on 'Message' tab</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Q-Anywhere</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Text "Get in line" to 1-833-274-5419</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>In Person</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Come pull a ticket at the pharmacy and wait for your number to be called</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |



MHS Genesis Patient Portal



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Sunday: CLOSED



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# North Plains Elementary January Star Students

**KINDERGARTEN**

Jalen V  
Sawyer S  
Cillian K  
Samuel M  
Livvy T  
Ovedia Z  
Elida K  
Adelyn M  
Margo K  
Emma E

**1ST GRADE**

Bryan R  
Jackson M  
Harrison K  
Dominic A  
Alyssa C  
Madison G  
Talion B  
Isabella S  
Ellie C  
Victoria L

**2ND GRADE**

Isaac P  
Alex P  
Locklyn H  
Ben G  
Lila C  
Alex M  
Elliot L  
Ben G  
Owen T  
Avery S  
Nicholas D  
Harrison M  
Isabella B  
Nathan K  
Riley B

**PE AWARD**

Mrs Meehan's 1st Grade

**MUSIC AWARD**

Miss Potts' 5th Grade

**3RD GRADE**

Mia H  
Delaney K  
Adelyn M  
Leo V  
Lennox L  
Romina H  
Janessa L  
Jacob P  
Avonlea D  
Reagan K  
Aiden C  
Chloe G  
Adelyn M  
Joseph D  
Camilla R

**4TH GRADE**

Riley S  
Porter S  
Addison C  
Laila S  
Aichanoor E  
Samerra S  
Bryndi H  
Ian A  
Jett K  
Ivanna H  
Aria B

**5TH GRADE**

Mila C  
Zachary D  
Cora J  
Shad J  
Sawyer T  
Harper H  
Melanie P  
Jude C  
Everly K  
Marcus R

**RECESS AWARD**

Mr Ogrodnick's 5th Grade



Congratulations Grade 3 North Plains Elementary Teacher Mrs Angela Peterson. She was recently awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year at District Level.

NORTHERN PLAINS CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER'S

# Champagne AND Ice Gala

Diamonds, Bubbles & Bidding

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15  
6 PM  
CLARION HOTEL

TICKETS \$50; MUST BE 21 AND OLDER  
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OR ON OUR FB PAGE



by Patricia Stockdill

**FISHING:**

Lake Sakakawea elevation, Jan. 27: 1,833.37 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 23,400 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Devils Lake elevation: 1,449.42 (MSL). Stump Lake elevation: 1,449.41 MSL.

•N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: Walleye bite slowed on the east end of Lake Sakakawea with no reports of pike spearing activity. No reports from Devils Lake or north-central area lakes.

•Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Anglers marking walleye but bite remains consistent throughout much of Devils Lake.

•Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: No new reports from Lake Darling or Lake Audubon.

•Lake Darling, Upper Souris Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Foxholm: Overall slow walleye success with fish taken generally running small. No pike spearing reports.

•Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Somewhat improving activity for bluegill and crappie. Occasional walleye in the evening but anglers need to be patient.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Lake Audubon producing a mix of perch and walleye. Try a variety of presentations and depths and move around but use caution. Steinke Bay producing walleye in the shallows on the east end of Lake Sakakawea. Some pike spearing activity but no reports of success. Try 20 to 35 feet for a few nice-sized walleye on Douglas Bay.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Not much activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea around Centennial or Steinke bays. Better walleye bite is west towards Douglas Bay in 25 to 35 feet. Pike activity slow but try tip-ups in 25 to 30 feet. Pike spearing slow, as well. Work closer towards the buoy line on Lake Audubon in 20 to 25 feet or try 10 to 25 feet after dark for walleye. Also try the refuge side work around islands with good structure at the same depth and get away from the crowds. Overall walleye bite still inconsistent, however.

•Lake Sakakawea, New Town: More anglers on the Van Hook Arm but

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](http://www.woodlandresort.com)), Facebook at ([facebook.com/woodlandresortDL](https://facebook.com/woodlandresortDL)), telephone (701) 662-5996, extension 1, or email ([woodlandresort@gondtc.com](mailto:woodlandresort@gondtc.com)). They're located at 1012 Woodland Drive, Devils Lake, N.D. 58301.

- Registration now open for April 4-6 Custom Fishing Rod Building Workshop, Lake Metigoshe State Park, Bottineau. Registration and information available at <https://bit.ly/LMSPShowClix>. Registration deadline March 16.
- 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. Carry shovels and winter preparedness items when venturing out.
- 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.
- Feb. 1: Little Missouri Badlands Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation banquet, Roughrider Center, Watford City, 5 p.m.
- Feb. 7: Rugby Ducks Unlimited Raffle Night, 3rd. Street Station, Rugby, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 7 & 8: Minot Curling Club Winter Bonspiel, 2005 E. Burdick Expy., Minot.
- Feb. 8: Souris River Basin Longbeards Nat'l. Wild Turkey Federation banquet, Grand Hotel, Minot, 5 p.m.
- Feb. 9: Registration deadline for Lake Metigoshe State Park Ojibway Snowshoe Making Workshop. Go to event listing on N.D. Parks & Recreation Dept. website, ([parkrec.nd.gov](http://parkrec.nd.gov)), for details.
- Feb. 12: Spring turkey applications due. Information and applications on N.D. Game & Fish Dept. website, ([gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov)).
- Feb. 15: Winter Fest, Cross Ranch State Park, Hensler, 9 a.m.
- Feb. 15: Evening Hike Series, Full Snow Moon Candlelight Hike, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 15: Great Backyard Bird Count & Birding Basics, Lewis & Clark State Park, east of Williston, 9:30 a.m.
- Feb. 21 & 22: Minot Air Force Base Curling Bonspiel.
- Feb. 22: Sakakawea Chapter Ducks Unlimited banquet, Memorial Hall, Washburn, 5p.m.

**TOURNAMENTS:**

- Feb. 1: Lake Sakakawea, Van Hook Arm.
- Feb. 8: Devils Lake, Spirit Lake Casino; Stump Lake, Tolna Landing.
- Feb. 15: Lake Audubon, Totten Trail.
- Feb. 22: Devils Lake, Woodland Resort.

**DOWNHILL SKI REPORTS (CONDITIONS CAN VARY DAILY):**

- Big Sky Ski Resort, Big Sky, Mont., ([www.bigskyskiresort.com](http://www.bigskyskiresort.com)): 42-inch packed powder, machine groomed base with 32 lifts and 301 runs open.
- Bottineau Winter Park, Bottineau, ([www.skibwp.com](http://www.skibwp.com)): 12- to 24-inch base with 6 runs, 2 carpets, 1 T-bar, 1 chair, and Terrain and Tubing parks open.
- Huff Hills Ski Area, Mandan, ([www.huffhills.com](http://www.huffhills.com)): 16- to 20-inch packed powder, machine groomed base with 10 runs, 4 lifts, and Terrain parks open with new features.
- Terry Peak, Leads, S.D., ([www.terrypeak.com](http://www.terrypeak.com)): 26- to 36-inch base. All runs, except Ricky's Run, all lifts, and carpet open.

**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.

walleye success remains slow. Look for potentially better success if weather and barometer becomes more consistent.

•Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace remains slow for walleye with limited angler numbers. East end of Lake Sakakawea generally slow for walleye. Try around Wolf Creek in the evening but overall success is light. Lake Audubon inconsistent for walleye.

•Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Somewhat improving walleye bite on the upper end of Lake Sakakawea with scattered success. Try east of Tobacco Garden or Phelps Bay. Yellowstone and Missouri rivers continue producing mix of walleye and sauger with increasing ling activity. Kota-Ray Dam fair for bluegill with a few trout mixed in. Trenton Lake slow cut few more crappie showing up.

•Lonetree WMA area lakes, Harvey: No new reports.

•North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: Not much activity on local lakes or the Souris River.

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**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

Solution to last weeks Crossword puzzle.

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

**SUDOKU**

Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

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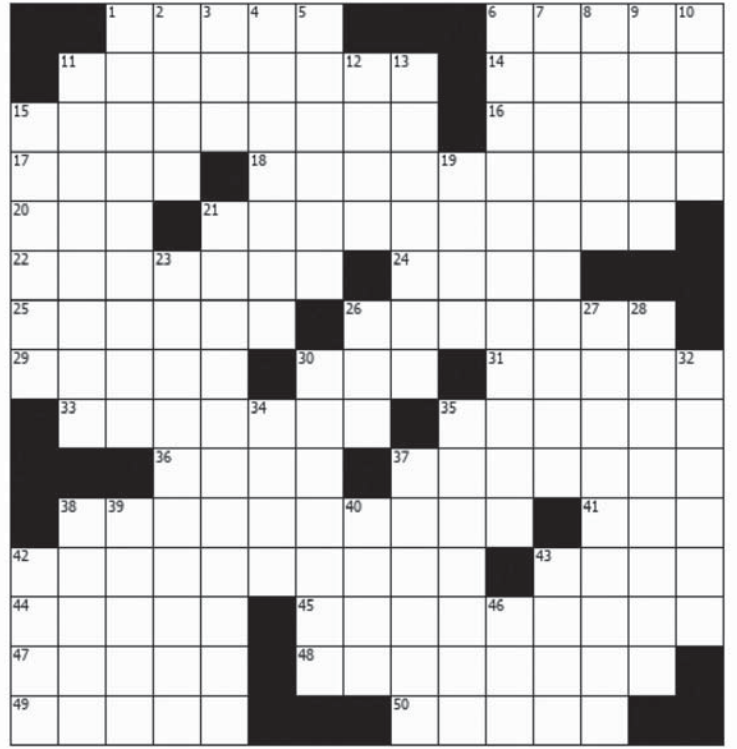


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 701-857-4166

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**Across**

- 1. "Ghostbusters" co-writer
- 6. Fell off
- 11. Pre-prom purchase
- 14. Tours Tuesday
- 15. Ruined
- 16. Win by \_\_
- 17. Giant star et al.
- 18. Rats
- 20. Tropical strangler
- 21. Electricity creator
- 22. Erasers
- 24. Actress Talbot
- 25. Keep away from food
- 26. Tries again
- 29. From head \_\_
- 30. Super finish
- 31. "I \_\_ Song (in My Heart)": 1974 hit
- 33. Pitcher Herb of the '20s-'30s Yankees
- 35. Song syllables
- 36. Cruel one
- 37. Bit of activism
- 38. Old social center
- 41. Historic Vietnamese town Dien Bien \_\_
- 42. Pens
- 43. "\_\_ it get to me"
- 44. NBC newsman Roger
- 45. Drinking aids
- 47. Totally
- 48. By unspecified means, informally
- 49. Exodus leader
- 50. Reporters



**Down**

- 1. Singles Web site name
- 2. Dazzles
- 3. Aug. hours in Denver
- 4. You can dig it
- 5. Calyx leaves
- 6. Come out of
- 7. Bike feature
- 8. Flat-bladed grass
- 9. Corsair or Pacer
- 10. Quiets (down)
- 11. How runners-up finish
- 12. Organic body
- 13. Less forgiving
- 15. Fail
- 19. Rod in a roast
- 21. Noted fictional structural design feature
- 23. Northeast college town
- 26. Asian soldier
- 27. Tube writings
- 28. Some horror films
- 30. Northern hazes
- 32. Keen
- 34. "Yes \_\_?"
- 35. One involved in a tie-up
- 37. Speaker booster
- 38. Totaled
- 39. Some yellow bars
- 40. Nobel Institute city
- 42. Macro ending
- 43. "\_\_ the One": Elvis hit
- 46. Gulf of Bothnia country: Abbr.



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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Chapel Services at MAFB

**North Plains Chapel**  
290 Peacekeeper Pl  
*(across from North Plains Elementary School)*

**Protestant Community Service Times:**  
Traditional Service 9:00am  
Breakfast Fellowship 10:00am  
Contemporary Service 11:00am  
(Holy Communion 1st Sunday)  
Children's Church available

**Northern Lights Chapel**  
230 Missile Ave  
*(across from Rockers)*

**Catholic Mass**  
Sunday 1000  
Daily Monday-Friday 1200

**Open Circle** (Wiccan/ Neo-Pagan)  
1000 on 1st & 3rd Saturdays

**Hof** (Norse Pagan)  
1700 on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

## St. Peter The Aleut Eastern Orthodox Church

**109 6th St. SE  
Minot • 838-3094**

**Saturday, February 1**  
5PM, No Vespers

**Sunday, February 2**  
10AM, Congregational Prayer Service



**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3705 11th St. SW  
Minot, ND 58701  
701-852-6404  
[www.oslcminot.com](http://www.oslcminot.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)



**An Evangelical Free Church**  
3500 4th St. SW • 839-5127  
(Just North of Super Wal-Mart)

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

[www.trinitychurchminot.org](http://www.trinitychurchminot.org)



**Worship Service**  
10:45am Sundays

**Sunday School**  
9:45am

1720 4th Ave NW, Minot  
838-0916  
[MinotBibleFellowship.org](http://MinotBibleFellowship.org)



**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](http://www.vincentumc.com)



**Faith United Methodist Church**  
**5900 Highway 83 N, Minot**  
[www.faithumcminot.com](http://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](http://www.cornerstoneminot.com)

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## Immanuel Baptist Church

**1615 2nd St. SE**  
[www.ibcminot.org](http://www.ibcminot.org)  
701-839-3694

**SUNDAY** 9:00am Coffee Fellowship  
9:15am Sunday School  
10:30am Worship

**WEDNESDAY** 11:30am Soup Kitchen  
5:30pm Family Supper  
6:30pm Adult Bible Study, IBCY, Kids' Club

**Pastor Brian Keithline**

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## St. John the Apostle Catholic Church

2600 West Central Ave • Minot, ND 58701  
**839-7076**

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](http://www.stjohnminot.com)



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

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

[www.firstlutheran.tv](http://www.firstlutheran.tv)  
(Live Stream & Recorded)  
Radio Broadcast KRRZ 1390AM  
Sunday 9:30 am  
[www.flcminot.com](http://www.flcminot.com)

Pastor Brandy Gerjets • Pastor Ellery Dykeman

**To Advertise your Church in this space.**

**Call 839-0946**

**Only \$9.00 a space / per week**



**1805 2nd St. SE**  
**838-1111**

**Sunday Services**  
8:00 am | 9:30 am  
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](http://www.minotcbbc.org)  
email: [minotcbbc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://westminot.com)  
[facebook.com/westminot](https://facebook.com/westminot)



**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
*Missouri Synod*

Sunday Divine Service..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Bible Study and Sunday School ..... 11:00 AM  
Wednesdays  
Kid Connection..... 6:00 PM

**Reverend Philip Beyersdorf**  
2209 4th Avenue NW, Minot, ND  
839-4663  
[www.minotstmarks.com](http://www.minotstmarks.com)  
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## First Baptist Church

200 3rd St. SW • 852-4533  
[www.fbcminot.org](http://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

**Web:** [gbcminot.com](http://gbcminot.com)  
**E-mail:** [gbcminot@gmail.com](mailto:gbcminot@gmail.com)

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[www.ourredeemers.org](http://www.ourredeemers.org)



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Email: [jschultz@orcsknights.org](mailto:jschultz@orcsknights.org)  
Website: [www.orcsknights.org](http://www.orcsknights.org)



**Gospel Tabernacle Community Church**  
9999 27th St NE  
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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# Young Cheerleaders: Military Kids Showing Team Spirit

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

At Minot Air Force Base, a group of young cheerleaders are proving that resilience, teamwork, and spirit aren't just for the field—they're qualities that help them navigate the unique challenges of military life. Sadie Sharp, Sawyer Sharp, Addi Bannon, Teagan Bannon and Xander Baron excelled in the Rebel Athletics of Minot cheerleading program while balancing school, family life, and the demands of growing up in a military community.

Recently, these cheerleaders had the opportunity to compete at the Best of the Midwest 2025 competition in Fargo, North Dakota, on January 18, 2025, where the Mini Team took 4th place. The Mini Team at Rebel Athletics of Minot ranges from ages six to nine years old as well as skill level ability. Despite the challenges that come with frequent relocations and long separations from deployed parents, their passion for cheerleading has become a powerful outlet for connection and personal growth.

## RISING STARS: SADIE AND SAWYER SHARP

Sisters Sadie and Sawyer Sharp, daughters of Technical Sergeant Jeffrey Sharp assigned to the 891st Missile Security Forces Squadron and Taylor Sharp, are shining examples of the dedication and spirit that define military families. Sadie, 9 years old, began cheerleading at the age of 6 while her family was stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. She trains twice a week for two hours, in addition to practicing at home. Despite being nervous about her first competition, Sadie found comfort when she saw that the crowd was not as large as she had expected. "I was a little nervous at first, but when I saw the size of the crowd, I felt more relaxed," she shared. Sadie hopes to continue cheering and dreams of joining her high school cheer team one day.

Her younger sister, Sawyer, 6 years old, is in her second year of cheerleading and has already advanced to the Mini Level, where she is one of the youngest members of the team. Unlike her sister, Sawyer was not nervous at all during her first competition at the Best of the Midwest. "I'm excited to keep training and perfect my nugget stunt," Sawyer said, eager to build on her skills.

Their mother, Taylor Sharp, reflected on the experience, sharing how the competition gave her daughters a boost in confidence. "The competition allowed them to see their hard work put into practice and see the results of all the training they have had to do," she said.

## ADDI AND TEAGAN BANNON: A NEWCOMER WITH BIG GOALS

Addi Bannon, 7, and Teagan Bannon, 4, daughters of Staff Sergeant Andrew Bannon assigned to the 891st Missile Security Forces Squadron and Skylar Bannon, are a newer addition to the cheerleading team at Rebel Athletics of Minot but have quickly become part of the Rebel Athletics of Minot family. After arriving at Minot AFB from Eglin AFB, Florida, just five months ago, the girls quickly embraced their new environment and are thriving in the sport.

Having cheered since she was 4 years old, Addi loves the excitement of competitions. "My favorite part of cheerleading is performing and having fun while doing it," she said. In addition to the four hours of cheerleading practice, Addi attends a tumbling class at Rebel Athletics of Minot to help improve her skills. Her mother, Skylar Bannon, is proud of how much Addi has grown over the past few years. "She's improved so much, and I'm excited to see her continue to develop her skills," Skylar said. Addi's goal for the upcoming season is to perfect her back handspring and to take first place in next year's competition. Teagan Bannon is in her first year of cheer and at her young age is part of the Tiny Team which ranges from ages three to six years old.

## XANDER BARON: A NEW CHEERLEADER WITH BIG AMBITIONS

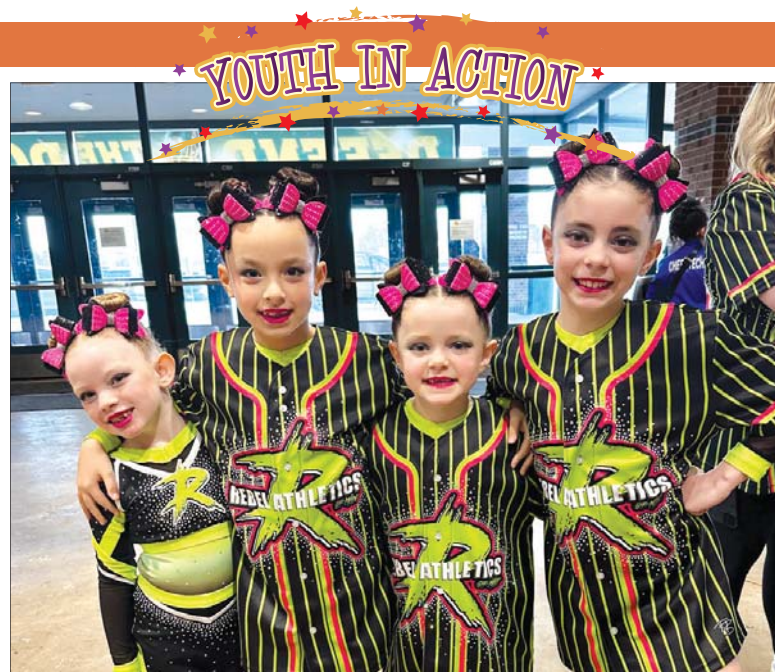
Xander Baron, 6, daughter of Master Sergeant Bryan Baron assigned to the 5th Maintenance Squadron and Jordan Baron, has been part of the Rebel Athletics of Minot cheer team for the past year. This competition marked her first as a cheerleader. "My favorite part of cheerleading is practicing and working hard to be able to perform—and of course, the

glitz!" Xander said. She loved the Best of the Midwest competition, particularly watching all the other teams and being proud to showcase the team's hard work.

Xander is also involved in other sports, including golf, and will soon be starting soccer. Her goal for the future is to continue working on her tumbling skills and help her team secure a first-place finish and a grand champion title at the next competition. Her mother, Jordan Baron, believes that putting military children into sports in the community opens up more opportunities for connections and travel.

These young cheerleaders exemplify the many military families who are embracing cheerleading as an outlet for growth, connection, and community in Minot, North Dakota. Their stories reflect the resilience, teamwork, and spirit that define military families, who must balance the demands of service with the importance of staying connected to one another and their communities.

As these young cheerleaders continue to grow and develop their skills, they will undoubtedly remain an inspiration to others in the military community, proving that no matter where life takes them, they always have a team to cheer them on.



Military children from Minot Air Force Base at the Best of the Midwest cheer competition in Fargo, North Dakota



The Mini Cheer Team from Rebel Athletics in Minot at the Best of the Midwest Competition in Fargo, North Dakota



Teagan Bannon (Tiny Team), Sawyer Sharp, Sadie Sharp, Addi Bannon, Xander Baron (Mini Team) all giving their best pose for their pictures as Rebel Athletics Cheerleaders.

**MINOT AIR FORCE BASE**

# Finest



**SSGT SHAMAR YOUNG**

Staff Sergeant Shamar Young has shown tremendous care and compassion to all our Airmen, patients that are AD or beneficiary. This past week he has come in early and stayed late each day to support both exercise and regular operations. Additionally, he oversaw all the lab augmentee staff and made sure all patients were taken care of and labs were drawn safely and appropriately for a time sensitive requirement. With his attention to detail, he caught mistakes by verifying identifiers on the handwritten labs and that prevented the patient from being re-drawn.



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



# Supporting Military Connected Students and Families: Military Family Life Counseling Program

We are thrilled to welcome our Child and Youth Behavioral (CYB) Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) supporting the Child and Development Center and Minot AFB Schools at Minot Air Force Base!

MFLCs are an incredible resource and provide confidential non-medical counseling services for children and youth to age 18 in groups or individually. They offer support to families, staff, and support personnel.

The above image includes information about the program. For more information about the program, please send an email to [mafb.school.liaison@us.af.mil](mailto:mafb.school.liaison@us.af.mil).

## SUPPORT FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

**The Military and Family Life Counseling Program helps military families and children navigate challenges with free face-to-face support.**

Child and youth behavioral military and family life counselors, or CYB-MFLCs, provide confidential non-medical counseling services to children and youth up to age 18 in groups and individually. They also offer support to families, staff and support personnel. Working with a counselor can help improve behavior, performance in school and relationships.

**CYB-MFLCs are master's or doctorate-level licensed counselors who may:**

- Provide consultation support to parents and caregivers, childcare providers, teachers and administrators on the healthy development of children and youth
- Model evidence-based intervention approaches
- Assist educators with strategies for cultivating a deeper understanding of the factors that shape social-emotional development
- Conduct classroom observations

Services are private and confidential except in situations that involve domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault or otherwise necessitate a duty to warn.

**CYB-MFLCs provide support on topics including, but not limited to:**

Feelings identification

- Bullying
- Self-esteem
- Separation from parents
- Problem solving
- Sibling and parent relationships
- Time management
- Deployment and reunification
- Divorce

Learn more by visiting or calling your installation's Military and Family Support Center.

Learn more about other helpful programs for military families: 800-342-9647 | [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil)

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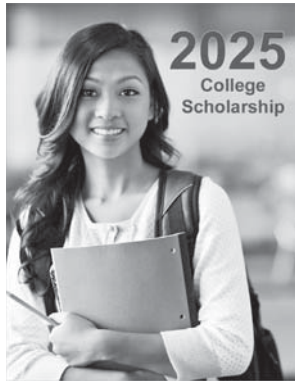
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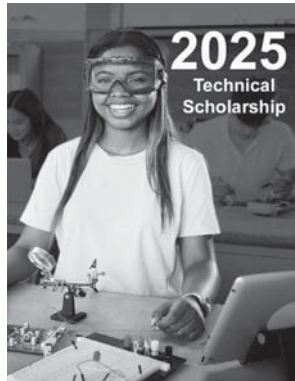
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The SRT College Scholarship Program awards **six \$2,000 scholarships** annually to high school seniors in the SRT service area based on community involvement, extra curricular activities, GPA, and an essay response.



The SRT Technical Scholarship awards **\$3,000 to one** high school senior or undergraduate student studying telecommunications or other technology-related fields.

Visit [srt.com/srtcares](http://srt.com/srtcares) to apply. All applications are due March 31, 2025. Scholarship winners will be announced in April.



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**UPCOMING WINTER STATE CHEER COMPETITION**

Minot North High School Cheer Squad members Jaylin Thomas-Joyner, Ava Bounds, Caoimhe Kinkade and Alina Kibler, students who are affiliated to Minot Air Force Base, will compete in the North Dakota Cheer Coaches Association Winter State Competition on February 15. Spectators are invited to attend and show support. Event details are below.

**YOUTH IN ACTION**

**THE MINOT NORTH BASKETBALL TEAMS INVITE YOU TO**

*Military Appreciation Night*

**JANUARY 31** GIRLS 6:00PM BOYS 7:45PM

MINOT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL  
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FREE ADMISSION FOR MILITARY MEMBERS

**FEBRUARY 15TH**  
NORTH DAKOTA CHEER COACHES ASSOCIATION

**CHEER**  
WINTER STATE COMPETITION

DOORS OPEN 8:15AM  
EVENT STARTS 9:00AM

CASH ADMISSION  
ADULTS / \$15  
STUDENTS / \$10

**MINOT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL**  
2100 21ST AVE NW MINOT, ND 58703

2024-2025 SEMESTER 1  
MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Honor Roll**

**HIGHEST HONORS**

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**Grade 7**

- Blake Baloga • Liesl Chapman • Aeden Mark Detubio • Aniya Diggins • Layvee Fortin • Savannah Kingsley • Ayla Lane • Easton Minter • Noah Myers • Leonardo Portillo • Brooke Ruediger • Logan Scirica • Laurel-Elaine Smith • Lucas Smith • Gracie Suzuki • Sophie Thomas • Lajjla Tilstra • Hannah Wolfe

**Grade 6**

- Yoleiny Bracero Rivera • Colby Brown • Rowan Brown • Jada Camp • Adalynn DeRyke • Olivia Downing • Ivory Hopkins • Baylee Irvin • Jaxon James • Katarie Kennedy • Steven Kennedy • Nathaniel Langan • James Lipscomb • Kellen O'Connor • Semaj Patterson • Harrison Smith • Josephine Snively

**HIGH HONORS**

**Grade 8**

- Iverrie Brim • Macy Bryant • Tamryn Dunn • Lauryn Schwartz • Colton Terral

**Grade 7**

- Allison Alexander • Ethan Arnholtz • Noah Black • Ethan Constante • Kameron Knobbe • Eli Lewis

**Grade 6**

- Ryan Amen • Jose Armenta IV • Judah Arnold • Mitchell Cangealose • Seamus Holmgren • Harper Salzman • Elena Whitworth

**HONORS**

**Grade 8**

- Teagan Boggess • Alexander Gandadal • Vaeh Geske • Paycen Irvin • Isaiah Johnson • Eva Lamarand • Kellum Marshall • Cooper Mathewson • Keegan Roth

**Grade 7**

- Nayla Baez Otero • Neamiah Braddy • Meauta Donaldson • Opetai Donaldson • Harlow Flavin • Adrian Raymh Hinal • Elijah Lewis • Karina Lovett • Lilah Macias • Sophia Otremba • Aurora Reese • Emily Seymore

**Grade 6**

- Janaya Bonilla • Kevin Cutchin • Alison Hart • Euriah Karst • Aidan Lawless • Kayden Lovett • Makayla McCoy • Liam Allen Snell • Isaac Yoshimoto



**2024-2025 MPS CALENDAR**

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

**February 17**  
P/T Comp Day –  
No School for Students

| February 2025 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 19 days |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------|
| S             | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |         |
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| 2             | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |         |
| 9             | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |         |
| 16            | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |         |
| 23            | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |    |         |

- PD Days - contracted days
- Vacation Days - not contracted day
- Early Release Days - 1:15pm
- Holidays
- Parent/Teacher Comp Days



# Minot State Fall 2024 President's List, VPAA and Engagement Honor Rolls

MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY

Minot State University announced a total of 510 students were named to the Fall 2024 President's List, 252 students were named to the Vice President for Academic Affairs' Honor Roll, and six students earned a spot on the Engagement Honor Roll.

Students who earned a term grade point average of 3.8 or higher while enrolled for 12 or more credits during the Fall 2024

semester were named to the list. Students who earned a term grade point average of 3.5-3.79 while enrolled for 12 or more credits during the Fall 2024 semester were named to the VPAA list. The honor will show on the student's transcript for the semester it was earned.

The Engagement Honor Roll is an opportunity for Minot State University undergraduate

students to receive recognition for the engagement activities they participate in while a student at MSU through the inclusion of this distinction on their transcripts. Students must complete a minimum of 50 hours, verified by supervisors, in any combination of engagement activities in order to be recognized during any given term.

## MINOT STATE FALL 2024 PRESIDENT'S LIST MINOT AFB

Josilynn Barney, Krista Basto, Jerry Ottinger

## MINOT STATE FALL 2024 VPAA HONOR ROLL MINOT AFB

Emma Muhlenkamp, Sydney Ottinger, Collin Roth, Glori Sifuentes, Emma Vance

For a full list of honorees visit [minotstateu.edu](http://minotstateu.edu)

# SRT Offers More Scholarship Opportunities Awarding \$15,000 in 2025

SRT COMMUNICATIONS

The 2025 SRT College Scholarship Program applications are now available. SRT is excited to announce an increase in scholarship awards and dollar amounts: Seven local scholarships totaling \$15,000 will be awarded to students in 2025. National scholarships are also available through SRT's partnership with the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS).

The SRT College Scholarship program now awards six \$2,000

scholarships. The program evaluates community involvement, school activities, an essay response, and grade point average.

The SRT Technical Scholarship will award \$3,000 to one student. This scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors or undergraduate students studying telecommunications or other computer-technology-related fields.

SRT is also proud to be a member of FRS to participate in

a national scholarship program. Local students submitting an FRS application are eligible for multiple national scholarship opportunities.

Applications are available online at [srt.com/srtcares](http://srt.com/srtcares). FRS Scholarship applications are due February 14 and SRT Scholarship applications are due by 5:00 pm on March 31. Scholarship recipients will be announced in April and an awards luncheon will be held for the winners.

## NOTES ON BEING SAFE

# PROTECT YOUR CHILD WITH CHILD SAFETY SEAT BASICS



SSGT JOE VERGARA  
5TH BOMB WING  
NCOIC OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY



Did you know that nearly 90% of child safety seats are used incorrectly! The two minutes you take each time you buckle up your child correctly can save their life.

**Infants:** An infant may be restrained in an infant seat or a convertible seat. An infant seat is designed for children birth to one year and about 20 pounds. A convertible seat is designed for children birth to about 40 pounds.

Children less than one year and up to 20 pounds (check your seat's manufacturer's instructions for exact weight limits) must be restrained rear facing in the car.

Some infants will reach 20 pounds before one year of age - outgrowing their infant seat, but are still not ready to face forward in the vehicle. In this situation, the child should be restrained rear facing in a convertible seat designed to hold children up to 28-30 pounds rear facing. More and more convertible seats are being made to hold heavier infants rear facing. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Adjust the seat so that the child is reclining at about a 45 degree angle.

Harness straps should be in the slots at or below the infant's shoulders and should be snug against baby.

Place the retainer clip at armpit level to keep the harness strap on baby's shoulders.

Never place an infant in a front seat with a passenger-side airbag.

Harness baby in snugly and then cover the baby with a blanket.

Make sure the seat is installed as tight as possible. Get in a kneel on the seat while tightening the belt. A child safety seat should not move more than one inch in any direction.

Always use a federally approved child safety seat and not a regular household carrier.

**Toddlers:** Child faces forward in car and in an upright position after 12 months and over 20 pounds.

Most convertible seats are for children up to 40 pounds (about 4 years old). Read manufacturer's instructions to check your seat's guidelines.

A forward facing seat must have the harness straps in the upper most harness slots.

Built-in safety seats are federally approved and safe for children over 20 pounds and 12 months.

Always make sure the seat is installed as tightly as possible.

**Older Children:** Children from 40 to 80 pounds or 4'9" tall should use a federally approved booster seat.

A booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt combination is the safest. This can be done with a booster without a shield and one that has a removable shield. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for this.

Once children are over 4'9", and have outgrown their booster seat, they should use a safety belt in all seating positions.

Older children are ready to use vehicle safety belts when the lap belt stays low and snug across the hips, and the shoulder belt does not cross the face or in front of the neck.

The safest place for a child to sit is in the middle of the back seat. If the vehicle has a passenger side airbag, all children 12 and under should be restrained in the back seat. Airbags save lives when used with safety belts.

*Article originally written by: SSGT Kelleen Kosch*



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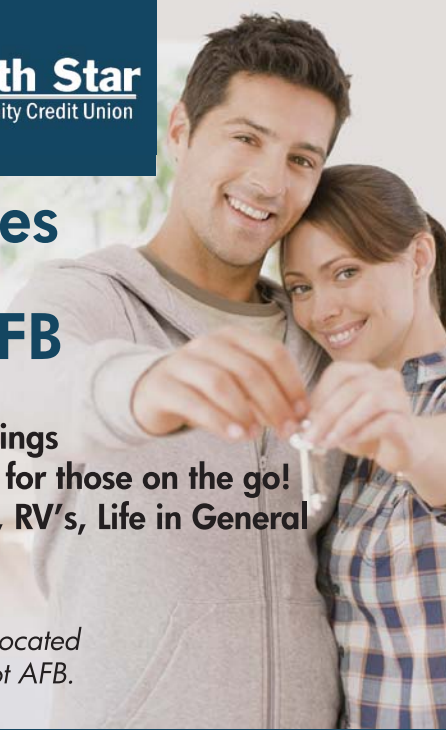
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PUZZLE ON PAGE B2

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

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have openings available in a variety of career fields across the state and in Minot. Continue your military career on a part-time basis. For more information call 420-5903 or 420-5904 in Minot.

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## MINOT AFB ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY** – Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is the world’s pre-eminent university for aviation and aerospace education. However, our dynamic, hands-on programs will prepare you for careers well beyond the limits of the sky. Our Worldwide Campus has been working with U.S. military service members since 1970, helping them to earn a degree while on active duty or as veterans. And we do it at more than 90 military installations around the globe. The Embry-Riddle Minot Campus — located at Minot Air Force Base — offers associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees, as well as undergraduate and graduate certifications, that will help you whether you are an active-duty military service member, a veteran, or a civilian working at or around Minot Air Force Base, Embry-Riddle Worldwide is here to help you earn your college degree. A degree from Embry-Riddle Worldwide will help service members to become commissioned officers, will make veterans more desirable job candidates as they enter the civilian workforce, and will assist civilians with job advancement or career changes. Our modes of instruction are: Online, Eaglevision Home and Eaglevision Classroom. For more information, please visit us in Room 223 located in the Base Education Center Building (2nd floor), email: [minot@erau.edu](mailto:minot@erau.edu) or call office phone: 701-727-9007.

**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](mailto:Brigitte.mikula@minotstateu.edu)

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## SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

### UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

#### MINOT AIR FORCE BASE SCHOOL DISTRICT #160 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 21, 2025

The School Board of Minot Air Force Base Public School District No. 160 held a regular meeting on January 21, 2025. The meeting was conducted at the Library of Memorial Middle School.

**Board Members Present:** Eric Fileccia, Anthony Foerster, Wesley Hoffman, Chris Tilstra

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Call to Order:** President Fileccia called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Preview of the Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed. No changes were recommended.

**District Facility Assessment:** The Board reviewed the recent district wide facility assessment prepared by JLG.

**Military Installation Construction Funding:** The Board was informed that recent National Defense Authorization Act mandates an updated facility assessment to revise the priority list for the Military Installation School Construction funding program.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Motion by Foerster, seconded by Tilstra to approve the Consent Agenda to include the October 29, 2024 MAFB PSD #160 annual school board meeting minutes and the October, November & December 2024 financial reports as presented including the accounts payable in the amount of \$802,015.97. Roll call vote carried 4-0.

**Impact Aid:** The historical and projected Impact Aid data was reviewed. The most recent survey count for the application reflects 71 fewer students than the previous submission, which is anticipated to result in a \$1.5 million revenue decrease over the next three years.

**Announcements:**  
1. MAFB School Board Meeting – April 15, 2025

**Adjournment:**  
The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

President Business Manager

**MAFB School Liaison Officer Report:** MAFB School Liaison Officer, Joy-Nicole Smith, reported to the Board on recent and upcoming events, which included the Impact Aid application, the ND Legislative Session, a Starbase review, the Month of the Military Child, the School Liaison Conference, and the NAFIS Spring Conference.

## 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.

TIMOTHY TIMM



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## ★ Hotel ★ REVEL 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](http://revelnd.com) or contact Chelewa Springs or Ashley Cutler at 701-607-4557 or 701-306-3338.



## MINOT MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT

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Appointment hours: Mon-Fri 0800-1600, Wed 0800-1130  
\*Closed for training every Wed from 1200-1630

## MINOT MPF OFFICE

# WINTERY PHOTO CONTEST



Country snowy day on the way to Lake Darling. These silos are on the side of the road across from North Gate.

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTIAN HILL



When the upper 28's feels warm.

SUBMITTED BY RUSTY COOPER

## HOW TO ENTER

Submit your photo and a description of who/what/when/where on the Northern Sentry website



# Neighborhood HERO

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# NORTHERN CELEBRATIONS

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## THE EARTH DAY PATCH CONTEST – NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK EARTH DAY

Patricia Stockdill

Folks across the United States have recognized April 22 as Earth Day for the last 55 years, a day to elevate environmental awareness.

It went international in 1990 with events in 141 countries in 1990.

For the past several years the N.D. Game and Fish Department has encouraged children to think about the environment and Earth Day by sponsoring the North Dakota Earth Day Patch Contest.

It's kind of a cool contest with some neat offerings for the grand prize winner: The overall top design is featured on the 2025 Earth Day recognition patch, highlighted in the agency's official magazine, North Dakota OUTDOORS, and on its website.

Oh, and there are prizes for winners from four age groups, each claiming an outdoors kit, which includes a set of binoculars and field guides for wildlife identification.

The grand prize patch will be made into a physical patch and will be available to people involved with school organizations, Girls and Boy Scout troops, 4-H and outdoor clubs, and community organizations participating in Earth Day clean-up project across North Dakota.

The best part is that organizations and groups don't have to conduct Earth Day projects exclusively on April 22 to receive their Earth Day patch.

No, instead an Earth Day-themed project can be held anytime throughout the year.

And, really, why limit it to just one day?

But here's the skinny on the Earth Day Patch contest: It's open to North Dakota resident children. The four age groups are kindergarten through third grade, fourth through sixth grade, seventh through ninth grade, and sophomore through senior in high school.

Kids can create their 3-inch diameter, round patch using markers, crayons, colored pencils, oil pastels, ink, or paint.

The caveat is they can only use five colors – of their choice – but still only five colors.

And all entries must be original drawings – no copies or duplicates. There can't be any lettering or words – no dates, slogans, or words.

No digital artwork is accepted with only one entry per child allowed.

Contest coordinators suggest the design include aspects relating to Earth Day – things like respect for the earth, water quality and wildlife, or habitat conservation in North Dakota, for example.

While Earth Day is nearly three months away, the March 1 deadline gives everyone a little time to get those creative

visions flowing.

All entries must be mailed to Attn.: Earth Day Patch Contest Coordinator, N.D. Game and Fish Department, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, N.D. 58501.

All kinds of information and those little details that are good to know are available on the Game and Fish Department website, including a downloadable entry form. Go to ([gf.nd.gov/education/earth-day-patch](http://gf.nd.gov/education/earth-day-patch)), telephone (701) 328-6015, or email via the link, ([gf.nd.gov/education/contact-us](http://gf.nd.gov/education/contact-us)).

There's even a template on the website's information page to help ensure even the youngest budding artist's creation fits the criteria.

Folks conducting Earth Day projects can order the 2025 grand prize patch, ([gf.nd.gov/gnf/education/docs/earth-day-reporting-form.pdf](http://gf.nd.gov/gnf/education/docs/earth-day-reporting-form.pdf)) when their event, or events, are complete.

The Game and Fish Department also encourages people and contestants to involve other community members on Earth Day projects on public lands.

The Earth Day patch contest is one example of the agency's efforts to actively engage people in the outdoors and increase habitat and fish and wildlife conservation awareness.

Several additional programs encourage young and old alike to learn how and where to fish North Dakota waters, hunting resources for beginning and young hunters, the Keep North Dakota Clean poster contest, and hands-on learning areas such as the North Dakota State Fair Conservation and Outdoor Skills Park.

Links to the vast resources are available on their home page, ([gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov)).



**EARTH DAY**  
APRIL 22

Earth Day is April 22 each year but the N.D. Game and Fish Department is sponsoring a contest encouraging school children to design a logo for its annual Earth Day participation patch contest.



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# WHAT'S GOING ON MINOT AFB

## FRIDAY 31

- Registration Closes: Youth Indoor Floor Hockey, CYPBMS website at <https://parent.afcyp.com/>
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP (DOL) Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Bootcamp, 0900, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill

## TUESDAY 04

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP VA Services and Benefits Briefing, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Minot AFB Library
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center – Room 211
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Zumba, 1630, McAdoo Fitness Center

## FRIDAY 07

- Harry Potter Escape Room Game Begins, Minot AFB Library
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP (DOL) Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Bootcamp, 0900, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Fun Fri-yay, 1600-2100, Jimmy Doolittle Center
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Teen Movie Night, 1800-2000, Youth Center

## SATURDAY 01

- Registration Opens: Youth Basketball Registration, CYPBMS website at <https://parent.afcyp.com/>
- Registration Opens: Youth Indoor Cheer Sports Registration, CYPBMS website at <https://parent.afcyp.com/>
- Zumba, 0800, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Winter STEAM Challenges, 1000, Minot AFB Library Facebook Page

## WEDNESDAY 05

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP (DOL) Overview, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Bootcamp, 0900, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Pre-Deployment/Remote Readiness Training, 1000, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- SkillBridge Brief, 1000, Education Center – Room 211
- Storytime, 1030, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Zumba, 1800, McAdoo Fitness Center

## SATURDAY 08

- Zumba, 0800, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Winter STEAM Challenges, 1000, Minot AFB Library Facebook Page
- Mad Science Party, 1300, Minot AFB Library

## SUNDAY 02

## MONDAY 03

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP Overview, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Bootcamp, 0900, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Cycle, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Zumba, 1800, McAdoo Fitness Center

## THURSDAY 06

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Informed Decision Seminar, 0800-1200, Professional Development Center
- TAP (DOL) Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Pre-Separation Counseling, 0830-1130, M&FRC
- Reintegration Briefing, 1000-1100, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center – Room 211
- Flapjacks and Flannel in February, 1500-1700, Youth Center
- Zumba, 1630, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Harry Potter Night, 1800, Minot AFB Library

## SPECIALS

Bomber Bistro Featured Item  
**Shrimp Scampi Pizza**  
 Alfredo-based pizza with shrimp, spinach, and onions.  
 Only available for the month of February!

The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item  
**Waffles**  
 Waffles served with Nutella, bananas, and syrup. ESM approved!

Rockers Bar & Grill Featured Item  
**Build-Your-Own Burger**  
 Choose your bun, cheese, plus bacon, pickles, grilled onions, and more to make your perfect burger. Served with fries and a drink.

**THE BIG GAME BUFFET**  
 ROCKERS BAR & GRILL  
 9 FEBRUARY 2025  
 CAJUN INSPIRED BUFFET  
 \$10 PP FOR CLUB MEMBERS • \$15 FOR NON-MEMBERS  
 FREE FOR AGES 5 & UNDER  
 CHECK OUT THE MENU, GAMES, & MORE INFO HERE!  
 SPONSORED BY USAA, FIRST COMMAND, WORLD, FORCE SUPPORT RELIEF, 5THFORCESUPPORT.COM

**COUPLES 9 PIN NO TAP TOURNAMENT**  
 ROUGH RIDER LANE  
 15 FEBRUARY 2025  
 6PM - 9PM  
 COST \$50 PER TEAM • REG BY 12 FEB  
 - 9 PINS ON YOUR 1ST BOWL IS A STRIKE  
 - BOWL 3 GAMES TOTAL  
 - HIGH GAME POT FOR EACH GAME  
 - PAY OUT FOR WINNERS (100+ ENTRIES)  
 FORCE SUPPORT RELIEF, 5THFORCESUPPORT.COM

**COMEDY TOUR**  
**CARLOS MENCIA**  
 Adult Comedy 18+ only  
 Sat, 5 April • 7PM  
 Jimmy Doolittle Center, Bldg 174  
 (174 Summit Drive)  
 Dinner Service 4:30-6PM  
 Taco Bar \$13pp  
 Register & pay for Taco Bar by 31 Mar  
 featuring Dennis Gaxiola  
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**northern sentry**  
**community calendar**  
 Events from Minot & Minot AFB in ONE PLACE!