

northern sentry

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A team from the Naval Academy in Annapolis took home the Northern Sentry traveling trophy as winners of the Guardian of the Ice Bonspiel held on February 21st & 22nd. Members of the team, L to R, Quinn Gonzalez (Skip), Eric Tingle, Sarah Moore, Loren Steinberg. Presenting the trophy was Northern Sentry Publisher, Ted Bolton. See page A2 & A3 for more on the inaugural event.

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Right: Bagpiper John Young performed during the opening ceremonies of the Guardians of the Ice Bonspiel.

COURTESY PHOTOS



**1ST PLACE
SCREAMIN' GOATS:
NAVY CADET TEAM**

Players: Quinn Gonzalez, Eric Tingle, Sarah Moore, Loren Steinberg

**2ND PLACE,
MISSILE MONKEYS:
MINOT AF TEAM**

Players: Kyle Hostetler (retired), Levi Janssen, Jacob Romig, Jason Keen (retired)

**3RD PLACE:
ICE STRIKERS:
MINOT AF TEAM**

Players: Steven Lawless, Erick Duran, Ashley Reers, Eموke Tothe

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BABY GIRL BORN ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 06, 2025 TO: MAKAYLA AND TRAPPER SHORE MAFB, ND

BABY GIRL BORN ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 07, 2025 TO: SIERRA AND JOSHUA ENGEL SURREY, ND

BABY GIRL BORN ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025 TO: BRADI AND BRANDON KITTLESON MINOT, ND

BABY BOY BORN ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025 TO: BREANNA AND ERIC JOHNSON MINOT, ND

BABY GIRL BORN ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025 TO: STEPHANIE AND ZASEAN FOWLER MINOT, ND

BABY BOY BORN ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025 TO: RICHI AND RICHARD WALTMAN MINOT, ND

BABY GIRL BORN ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025 TO: KATIE AND JACOB OGI DEERING, ND

BABY BOY BORN ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025 TO: MELODY AND ZACHARY BASS MAFB, ND

BABY BOY BORN ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025 TO: TIA AND VITO AMALFITANO MAFB, ND

BABY BOY BORN ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025 TO: BRITTANY AND SETH HANENBERG BURLINGTON, ND

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

Pool Play Results w/ scores:

Team	Skip	Location	Assigned Team #	Wins
Protectors Pool				
The Ice Strikers	Steven Lawless	Minot	1A	3
Shooters	Kevin Brown	Minot	2A	0
Missile Monkeys	Levi Janssen	Minot	3A	2
CFB Shilo	Andrew Cowper	Brandon Manitoba	4A	1
Defenders Pool				
Motley Curl	Ian Lamb	Minot	1B	1
FIGMO	Steven Varnadore	Vegas	2B	3
Silverbacks	Joshua Norris	Minot	3B	0
Banana Bandits	Jaylon perry	Minot	4B	2
Guardians Pool				
Sweep Dreams	Graysen Trandem	Minot	1C	0
69th Stratocurils	Chris Simmons	Minot	2C	1
Screaming Goats	Quinn Gonzalez	Annapolis	3C	3
21Mafia	Ivan Cruz	Minot	4C	2

Pool	Total PTs	Games	H SC	A SC	Winner	H SC	A SC	Winner	
Pool A	69	3A v 4A	14	0	3A	1A v 2A	11	3	1A
Pool B	62	3B v 4B	2	8	4B	1B v 2B	4	6	2B
Pool C	68	3C v 4C	9	4	3C	1C v 2C	5	6	2C



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Guardians of Ice-Forged In Flames, Honed On Ice

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

It was the afternoon of February 21st, and we were just hours away from the start of the first, of what we hope will be many, Guardians of the Ice Bonsel (GOTIB) at the Minot Curling Club (MCC). Arriving first was the skip (team captain) for the Missile Monkeys curling team, Kyle Hostetler. Hostetler flew in from Albuquerque New Mexico where he was stationed after PCS'ing from Minot Air Force Base (MAFB) and still resides with his wife and 3 children after retiring from the Air Force this year. Fitting that Hostetler should be the first to arrive at the event as he was to be honored during the opening ceremony of the GOTIB for his dedicated efforts founding and supporting the military curling partnership between the MCC and MAFB. Hostetler joined the MCC in 2018 with a couple of his colleagues in the maintenance group on base, they competed in the MCC regular city leagues until the 2021 season. During the slow days of 2020 Hostetler got the idea that there should be a Military Curling league and maybe even a Military Curling Championship, he approached the MCC and pitched the idea and found support. Hostetler's dedicated efforts bared fruits and the MAFB Extra Mural Curling was founded starting in Jan 2021, and continues to this day with 17 teams competing this year on Tuesday nights. Now with the GOTIB even his dream of an international and inter-branch military curling event has become a reality. Hostetler was presented with a plaque commemorating his contributions and vision fostering camaraderie and competition among our service members through curling during the opening ceremony of the GOTIB.

Next to arrive was a team from Las Vegas who found the information on reddit's /r/curling and decided they were in. "One of the local curling clubs had an open military night, a learn to curl event. A lot of us wanted to try curling for fun" according to team member Chris Debroy

"right now it's just 4 of us" and the team is competing in one of the curling club's regular leagues. Where are the team members from? "Ohio, Florida, Florida and upstate New York" and none of them had curled before. "That first learn to curl event was the first time we all curled. We had only seen it on TV before that" according to Debroy. One of the members was from Bowling Green in Ohio where there were regular curling leagues. "Next year there is a team of veterans that will plan on being here." A member of the Minot Curling Club, Dan Ringrose broke into our conversation briefly to welcome the team to Minot. The group had participated in a spiel (short for Bonsel) before their trip to Minot, having curled 5 games in that competition.

And what happens next year when the entire team PCS's out of Las Vegas. This group flies the MQ-9 Reaper "which is remotely piloted aircraft" out of Creech Air Force Base "we're with the 11th Attack Squadron".

Their shared story of trying to get a curling league started at a base located in the middle of the desert gave a bit of insight into their determination. Today was Friday, and the team had flown into Minot on Thursday. Winning games would be a great option, but the fellowship and comradery were most important. The goal of this group is to build a foundation for future Airmen to come and try curling and get the continuity of a curling presence at the local curling club.

Out on the ice, volunteers were doing the last minute prep work before the 2-day bonsel would begin. There were 3 main sponsors for this first-ever event: The Northern Sentry, Ackerman-Estvold and Verendrye Electric.

Word was that there would be a team from The Naval Academy in Annapolis, and sure enough the group of 4 arrived mid-afternoon. "Yep, we're The Screamin' Goats" says skip Quinn Gonzalez. "Wes (Wesley Mason) reached out to us via our Instagram page and once

we heard about it we all said whatever it takes to make this happen. We have to do it. It would be the coolest experience ever" says Gonzalez. The group left the east coast on Friday morning and were raring to go for the spiel on Friday afternoon. Unlike the team from Vegas "this team, well this is year 3 for us, but I have been curling for around 9 years." Being from Wilmington, North Carolina, it was easier to find dedicated curling ice and organized leagues "I started curling once a week, and pretty soon it turned into twice a week, so I started doing that." There is a group of 20 people on a rostered team in Annapolis and different team members may find themselves together according to schedules and availability. The entire team are seniors this year and will be graduating from the academy "with 3 of us going to flight school right after graduation and one of us is going to do to school for subs" says Gonzalez. The submariner of the team, Loren Steinberg, is from Fargo, North Dakota. She earned her nomination to the Naval Academy in 2020.

Wes Mason took a few minutes from his busy schedule to talk about the Military Curling League "which started with just 7 teams during covid. That was a huge challenge" according to Wes. Still the league continued

on Tuesday nights. "And this year we have 17 teams, and there's still room for growth. Of course, the challenge is that a team forms and then a couple of years later two, three or four of them PCS out and need to be replaced."

The bonsel opening ceremony kicked off at 1730 with a local bagpiper playing martial marching tunes as the competing teams marched around the ice double file behind the flag bearers, who had the colors affixed to curling brooms slung over their shoulders. Standing at attention on the ice while O' Canada and the Star Banged Banner were performed gave the event that mix of formality and fun that most would agree is a hallmark of the sport of curling.

12 teams total competed over the weekend, along with the 2 out of town teams mentioned previously there was also a Canadian Armed Forces Army team from the CFB Shilo base across the border by Brandon Manitoba. The teams competed in 4 team pools playing a round robin, with the top 2 teams in each pool moving onto a single elimination bracket to crown the champion.

Smiles and laughs could be heard and seen all weekend, the curling itself was secondary to the camaraderie, but the teams still left it all out on the ice.

The event championship came down to the very last stone, the Screamin' Goats had a 1 point lead on the Missile Monkeys with the Missile Monkeys needing to throw the last stone around a pile of guards and sit right by the button (center of the target) to force a tie and move to a skips draw (curling shoot out). In a heart breaking turn for some players, the Missile Monkeys came in an inch too narrow and wrecked on the guards, giving the Goats the honor of being the GOTIB's first champions.

8 PM Saturday night the Northern Sentry Trophy was presented by publisher Ted Bolton to the winning team, the Screamin' Goats who were led by skip Quinn Gonzalez with Eric Tingle, Sarah Moore, Loren Steinberg rounding out the roster. The dates for next year's Guardians of the Ice Bonsel were tentatively set for February 20th - 22nd of 2026.

Others placing were:

2nd Place, Missile Monkeys: Minot AF Team

Players: Kyle Hostetler (retired), Levi Janssen, Jacob Romig, Jason Keen (retired)

3rd Place: Ice Strikers: Minot AF Team

Players: Steven Lawless, Erick Duran, Ashley Reers, Eموke Tothe

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The Gathering Power of Coffee



**A VIEW FROM
 OUR SIDE**
 ROD WILSON

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You don't have to live in Minot very long to have someone share information with you that was gathered at one of many coffee groups. There was a time when I presumed that these meetings were purely social...and that the information shared was more small town gossip than valuable news about local issues. Boy was I wrong!

I regularly attend a coffee group that meets on Tuesday mornings, at approximately (more approximate for some than others) at 9:00 AM. First things first, start the coffee machine, turn on the TV and quickly scroll through the news sources on your cell phone. At first a lot of attention is paid to the stock markets as the Dow Jones and NASDAQ have just opened. I have to say once again that there

is more interest by some in the small rolling numbers at the bottom of the screen than others. For me there is interest in the stock market totals, but I am far from a financial analyst.

Depending on whether the City Council has met the evening before our coffee group meets, discussion can quickly turn into sharp focus on city, and now during the legislative session, state business. The old saying about keeping your friends by not discussing politics or religion is quickly tossed out the window. I have attended several other local coffee groups and have quickly learned to get the lay of the land first before opening one's mouth and giving an opinion. But once you are a bonified member, and you become a bonified member when someone notices you are gone and mentions your absence to the entire group, you already know which members will react to an opinion with "the look". Yep, "the look". Doesn't take but a few seconds to let the table know with pointed glances that what was just said was accurate and pertinent news, or just gossip.

As with any social group there are those that prefer to carry the conversation, and those who sit back and listen and after garnering all opinions, will voice one of their own. Some abuse this right and carry on for uncounted minutes. Others, and

I wish I had this gift, can gather, digest and summarize a vast amount of factual and not so factual information and quickly give an opinion that stops all other conversations. The correct answer when this happens is "I guess you are right" said in a meaningful and respectful tone of voice.

The rules of coffee groups, well at least the ones I have attended, are that no one gets too far out in the weeds. And if their opinion is such that they totally disagree with what was just said, they understand that an opinion kept to oneself is often times better than tearing off the band aid and ripping off the scab, just to make a point. Again, we are talking coffee friendly coffee group protocol. Democrat or Republican, conservative or liberal, time is always left for an opposing opinion.

And finally, there is always that one person who when everything seems to be said about a topic, will emphatically and sternly give their opinion, garnering sighs and glares from other members. The nonverbal communication can sometimes be much stronger than anyone saying anything. There is almost a "wait for it" pause before this person speaks, because their response is expected. And oh, by the way, it will seldom agree with what has already been said.

Looking for a coffee group.

Let me give you a bit of fair warning. The invitation to attend may not necessarily be the invitation to join. My suggestion is that you accept the invitation, listen to the discussion and you will know in your heart whether this is truly the coffee group for you. Good luck...

BEST KEPT SECRETS

A shout out to the Minot Curling Club for hosting the Guardians of the Ice Bonspiel this last weekend. The Northern Sentry worked most closely with Wesley Mason, but I am sure there were a number of behind the scenes volunteers who put in countless hours to make the event a success. Also, thanks to Jamaican Vybz Kitchen and Ryan Ackerman of Ackerman Estvold for sponsoring the evening meals. Bagpiper John Young opened the 2 day event with both the American and Canadian National Anthems. Looking at the Minot Curling Club schedule, there are plenty of opportunities for young and old to experience curling. It's one of those best kept secrets that makes winter more enjoyable.

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

The best evidence for life after death is the behavior of employees at 5 p.m. on Friday afternoon.



**UPSIDE DOWN
 UNDER**
 MARVIN BAKER

This recent extended cold streak we had is nothing new to us and although people have been talking about cold it's been, we've seen this before.

Zeeland, in McIntosh County, dropped to 40 below zero first. Then it was Crosby, then Carson and Elgin. And finally, New Hradec, in Dunn County recorded a 47 below zero. Here in the gooseneck of Ward County, our coldest morning was -40, only the second time we've seen that in 23 years. Numerous other locations were well within the 30 below range.... without wind chill.

How many of you have witnessed 40 below zero without the wind chill? In some parts of the nation, that's pretty normal in

the depth of winter. I'm talking about the Lake of the Woods region of northern Minnesota, some of the higher elevations, almost all of Alaska and let's not forget Mount Washington in New Hampshire.

Here in North Dakota, I'd venture to guess that few of the cold temperatures we witnessed were records. In fact, if you think about it the history of North Dakota, some of the coldest temperatures in the state's history were in the 1880s and 1890s.

The most mild winters in North Dakota have been since 2000, with the exception of 1936. The record cold winter of 1936, most notably Parshall at 60 below zero, was an anomaly. That was 94 years ago and we haven't seen a winter like that since.

Thank goodness there normally isn't any wind when the temperatures drop into the 40-below-zero range.

It's always interesting to point out that strange things begin to happen in nature when it gets that cold. Headlights on your car don't want to light, tires become "square" from sitting in one position too long, oil becomes solid, trees will begin

to randomly split open, the steel rail is so contracted it causes derailments and exposed skin will freeze in a matter of minutes.

It's also strange how wildlife is seemingly unaffected by extreme cold. If you go out into the bush on a bitter cold day, you're going to see animals moving about, birds soaring in the air and livestock munching on their rations.

Could there be any benefit from extreme cold? Sometimes we'll see photographers taking pictures at 40 below or others looking through telescopes. Those people aren't crazy. There is a rationale for it.

The colder it gets, the less diffusion of light, meaning little or no reflection giving photographers the opportunity to get stunning wildlife shots. It also provides incredible views of the night sky. Why do you think the Aurora Borealis is so striking during the winter?

Of course, one has to have a lot of patience to be out in the cold for that reason. You have to be prepared, you have to be dressed for it; you have to respect nature.

It won't be long and all the snow on the northern tier is going to be gone and we'll be walking through the mud, rivers

will flood and we'll get on with our spring planting.

In the meantime, it's a reminder that we live in what can be a harsh environment, one that can strip us of limbs or life if we aren't careful.

A recent documentary on TV about a city in Russia was stunning because it typically drops to -70 in the winter. We can't hardly imagine that but apparently a couple of hundred thousand people live in this city and go about their lives as if they didn't know any different.

In fact, in that documentary, the film crew visited an open-air fish market, yes, at -70 and as you can imagine, you could hammer a nail with the frozen fish.

I've always been fascinated by extreme cold more than I've been afraid of it. But, I can't even imagine experiencing 70 below. Or, maybe it doesn't even matter when it gets to a certain point. Maybe it's just a number for statistical purposes.

Our winters have generally been pretty mild lately. This is just a reminder, however, there's no guarantee we'll experience a mild winter.

It's all relative...

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North Dakota Isn't the Best



SHE'S NOT FROM AROUND HERE
AMY ALLENDER

I want to set something straight.

About a year and a half ago, I opened an Instagram/Facebook account called @HeyMinot. My family has been stationed in Minot twice, and we genuinely enjoy living here. In fact, we requested to come back for our second tour. Even after my husband separated from active duty and attached to a guard unit in Michigan, we chose to stay.

Over the years, I realized I had a knack for helping others settle in—finding local fun, uncovering hidden gems, and answering questions about relocating to Minot. I became a walking Rolodex of tips, tricks, and recommendations.

Eventually, I found myself answering the same questions over and over. I thought, Why not create a central place for these answers? I wanted a fun, practical resource that would show what life in Minot really looks like. For those relocating on military orders—without much say in the matter—I hoped it would provide answers, ease the transition, and maybe even spark some excitement about a place long considered one to avoid.

And just like that, HeyMinot was born.

Over the last 18 months, the response has blown me away. I've shared practical tips, ways to save money, recipes, silly takes on Upper Midwest life, and endless ideas for having fun. I've learned so much from others who have taken the time

to message me. Real friendships have grown from what started as a simple social media account. If it's about North Dakota, Minot, or learning to enjoy life where you are—it belongs on HeyMinot.

But along with the good, there's been plenty of negativity. Every day, I read comments like:

- North Dakota sucks.
- Fargo is way better than Minot.
- We moved to Wisconsin, and it's so much nicer.
- North Dakota is garbage—move to Minneapolis.

And here's what I want people to understand: One thing being great doesn't mean another thing is terrible.

Yes, sometimes I say, North Dakota is the best! But I mean it in the same way you might say, Butter pecan ice cream is the best! Do I know there are other flavors? Of course. Do I think other things in life matter more than ice cream? Absolutely. What I really mean is, I love this place, and I want people to know it's awesome!

The misconception is that in order for one place to be good, another must be bad. The truth is, there is room for lots of things, and lots of places to be good. The truth is North Dakota isn't really the best, because no one place ever is. The Best doesn't exist because it is subject to opinion, preference, and a myriad of other personal factors.

I spent years wishing my life looked different, longing for a different situation. Looking back, those are times I regret the most. By choosing to dislike where I was and what I had, I robbed myself of the joy and contentment I could have been experiencing. I let circumstances dictate my happiness instead of picking up the proverbial pen to write my own story.

I don't want to do that again. And I don't want it for you either. Other places might have bigger populations, warmer weather, or airports that fly



Lately I've heard a lot of arguments that North Dakota isn't really 'the best,' and honestly, they're right.

AMY ALLENDER PHOTO

direct to more destinations. But that doesn't mean we don't have something special here.

Life is sweeter when you are at peace with where you are. Joy, peace, and contentment aren't about location—but mindset.

Your exact preferences may not be an option every day. But every day you have options. Sometimes, enjoying where you are is a choice you have to make, an investment in your own happiness. The good news? Doing so gets easier with practice.

Yes, I love living in North Dakota. I love helping others see the good here. But if life takes us somewhere else, I'll work just as hard to find the good there, too. I'll be that town's biggest cheerleader.

Maybe North Dakota wasn't at the top of your dream sheet—that's okay. The place you dream of moving to is amazing, and I hope you get there someday.

But until then, I hope you'll see that life here can be great, too.

Don't make the mistake I

did—wishing away your present so hard that you miss the potential for incredible moments happening right now.

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**5TH BOMB WING
4TH QUARTER
AWARDS**

5th Bomb Wing fourth quarter award winners receive recognition for their accomplishments at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, February 13, 2025.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS
SENIOR AIRMAN
ALEXANDER NOTTINGHAM



Ski the Jewel above the Prairie!

- Snow conditions are excellent for skiing, snowboarding, and tubing
- The rental shop, cafeteria and terrain park are all open and ready to go.

EXTENDED HOURS THIS WEEKEND:

Friday, February 28, noon to 9 PM
Saturday, March 1, 10 AM to 8 PM
Sunday, March 2, 10 AM to 5 PM

Before travel, please visit our Facebook page for possible schedule changes due to inclement weather.

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SSgt Dylan Garrett



**5TH OPERATIONAL MEDICAL
READINESS SQUADRON
HOMETOWN: VANCELEAVE,
MISSISSIPPI**

Utilizing his provider skills, Staff Sergeant Garrett augmented WOMC to diagnose & treat 30 patients, slashing AD acute care wait time from 15 to 6 days within 1 month. He mastered 7 workflows across 3 elements to support the processing of 423 medical clearances, 16 waivers & 1.4K profiles. Dylan aided 3 providers in executing 2K appointments, generating \$69.6K in services supporting two-thirds of the nuclear triad & securing a 96.6% mission ready rate for Minot AFB flyers, highest in MAJCOM for 4 months.

GAME SALUTE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

1st Lt Joseph Derks



**23RD BOMB SQUADRON
HOMETOWN: DENVER, COLORADO**

1st Lieutenant Joseph Derks is a pilot in the 23rd Bomb Squadron at Minot Air Force Base. He was born and raised in Denver, Colorado to an avid hockey family. Lieutenant Derks has logged over 400 hours piloting high performance military aircraft and has dropped nearly 12,000 pounds of high explosive ordnance. In addition to his flying duties, Lieutenant Derks is one of the 23rd Bomb Squadron's Resource Advisors, managing funds to ensure the squadron maintains combat readiness. Lieutenant Derks was recognized as Group Volunteer of the Quarter for his exceptional commitment to volunteering, demonstrated through his engagement with key stakeholders, emphasizing the critical need for advocacy and support for essential system advancements. During his free time, he enjoys a little stick and puck in his down time.

GAME SALUTE: SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Recipients of the Northern Sentry Salute will be honored at the respective Minot Minotauros home game. In recognition, each recipient and three guests will receive V.I.P. seating to the noted home game, a \$25.00 Gift Certificate good for concessions at the game, and during the game they will be recognized by the Minotauros public address announcer as well as having their photo and nomination published in the Minotauros Magazine.



FCC provides valuable in-home child care services to support the families of Minot AFB
Provider of the Month Feature
MARCH 2025



KRISTY VELAHOS

What do you enjoy most about being an FCC Provider?

I love doing arts and crafts with the kids, but also watching them develop their skills and interests throughout their time with me.

What are your interests/hobbies?

Favorite hobbies and interests include reading, pottery, painting, herbalism, cooking and soap making.

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

It may take a few months to find a routine and program you are comfortable with but after that stage it becomes so fun and rewarding to work with the children in your program.

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

2024 INTRAMURAL SOCCER



The 2024 Intramural Soccer season has wrapped up! 1st Place: 5th Operations Support Squadron. 2nd Place 791st Missile Security Forces. Next up: Intramural Basketball!

NOTES ON BEING SAFE

IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU

It was like a dream or even make believe, I peered again at my rear-view mirror to see if what I was seeing was real. The fog seemed to illuminate the rotating lights, which were summoning my vehicle to stop. No! Not me, I thought as my mind raced for answers. What did I do? Was I going too fast? Didn't I stop for that stop sign? I began to pull to the right and stopped my vehicle upon the right side of the road. What was taking so long? Where was the Security Forces member? A sudden thump! And big bright light from a metallic flashlight startled my thoughts. He identified himself, and said "Your vehicle was left of center Sir, may I see your identification and drivers license?" I hurried to react to the officer's request. I began to fumble through my wallet attempting to locate the items. I recalled the party I had attended. Joe was a good host, he wanted me to stay the night, but I was the tough guy, besides all I had was a couple. "Could you please step out of the vehicle" broke my thought pattern. Can he smell the alcohol on my breath I wondered, does he know? I asked to light a cigarette to mask the odor. Maybe I could hide it. Again the officer repeated his previous request. As I stepped out of the vehicle, I held my composure (So I thought). Next came the sobriety test to determine my ability to drive. Impaired, I've driven many times before, maybe in worse shape than this. As I completed the tests, even I decided I shouldn't have driven. My reflection became reality as the officer



SSGT JOE VERGARA
 5TH BOMB WING
 NCOIC, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY



applied the handcuffs and placed me in the rear of his car. I began to contemplate my actions, what about my career, my family and my future. The pending results greatly outweighed the small reason I had to drive. The impending punishment would undoubtedly cost well into the thousands of dollars, as well as my families respect. Was it worth it?

This is a fictional account but the statistics of drinking and driving are not. Don't be among the statistics dead or alive! The next time you want to drive when you drink alcohol - DON'T! Take along a designated driver, call a taxi, or call a friend. Don't allow this fictional tale to become true for you. Don't Drink and Drive!

Come learn about our organization and our affiliated organizations by stopping by before one of our meetings!

MINOT MASONIC CENTER



Come learn about Freemasonry and its community of appendant organizations by attending a meet-and-greet session with our members before one of our regularly scheduled business meetings!

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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The "Best of Minot AFB" is BACK – and it's all up to YOU! Nominations NOW OPEN!

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY



What makes a place truly THE BEST? Is it the top-notch service, unbeatable vibes, or just the fact that it feels like home? Whatever it is, YOU get to decide! The Northern Sentry is kicking off the 3rd Annual Best of Minot AFB Awards, and we need your help! We're celebrating the best food, best fun, and best hangouts both on base and in town—but we can't do it without your nominations! Unlike the usual Air Force awards (we see you, paperwork), this is all about popular vote and community favorites! So go ahead—brag a little about your favorite restaurant, activity, or hotspot and get them the recognition they deserve!

Key Dates:

- Nominate now through March 2, 2025
 - General Voting: March 7–March 20
 - Winners Announced: End of March!
- Head to the Northern Sentry website NOW and nominate your favorites! Let's show off the best of Minot AFB together! <https://northernsentry.com/best-of-awards-nomination/>



<p>EVERYDAY HAPPY HOUR • 3PM – 6PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2 off All Apps \$3 House Wine & Domestic Pints Bavarian Pretzels with Beer Cheese Sauce \$4 Rail Drinks, ND Brewery Pints & 22oz Domestic Taps, 4 Lettuce Cups \$5 Moscow Mule \$6 Specialty Cocktails, Martinis & 22oz ND Breweries Taps ½ Flat Bread Pizza 	<p>DAILY SPECIALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday \$5 Moscow Mules (all day) Tuesday \$4 ND breweries (all day) Wednesday ½ Price Wine by the glass/bottle (all day) Thursday \$1 up for all Tall Taps (all day) BRUNCH (11am-2pm) Sunday \$7 TSR Bloody Mary & Caesars \$12 Bottomless Mimosas \$6 Breakfast Shots 	<p>FAMILY PACKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday Pizza Pack Combo Tuesday Sandwich Pack Wednesday Chef Creation* Thursday Pasta Pack <p><small>*Changes Weekly – Check our Facebook Page</small></p>
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Upcoming Events

06 MAR **DINOSAUR DISCOVERY LAB**
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Magic City Discovery Center
1545 1st St NW, Minot

Calling all paleontologists-in-the-making! Join us for a thrilling journey back in time to explore the world of dinosaurs in our Dinosaur Discovery Lab class. Kids will learn about different types of dinosaurs, their habitats, and how they lived millions of years ago. Through hands-on activities, including fossil digs, craft projects, and interactive games, young explorers will uncover the mysteries of the prehistoric world. This fun and educational class is perfect for any dinosaur fan eager to learn more about these incredible creatures! THIS IS A 2 DAY CLASS!! Ages: 5-12, Class Size: 20 children, Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Location: Both Community Rooms, Cost: \$43.20 for MCDC Members, \$48 for Non-Members, \$38.40 for Military Members



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

14-15 MAR **HOME AND GARDEN SHOW**
12:00 PM - 7:00 PM
North Dakota State Fair Center
2005 E Burdick Expy Minot

BIG 50th Annual Home & Garden Show – March 14th & 15th, 2025. The Minot Home and Garden Show is the ultimate resource when planning your next home project in Western North Dakota. Whether you are building a new home, considering a kitchen remodel, or installing your dream outdoor living space, the Home and Garden Show is the ideal venue for inspiration. With over a hundred exhibits featuring landscape design, lawn and garden equipment, interior design, windows and window treatments, flooring, decking, outdoor living, home entertainment, and automation, and much more.



For more information:
Facebook/ Minot Association of Builders/ Events

12 MAR **TRIVIA NIGHT**
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Blue Rider
118 1st Avenue SE, Minot

Bring your quarters and leave your ego at the door! Come enjoy good times with good people. Live questions - free popcorn - win free drinks! Bring your friends so your team can also go for the coveted; "Not Last Place" award!

For more information:
Facebook/ Blue Rider/ Events

13 MAR **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.

For more information:
Facebook/ Minot Parks/ Events

17 MAR **SENSORY FRIENDLY NIGHT**
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Magic City Discovery Center,
1545 1st Street NW

Sensory Nights are designed for children and their families who may have special needs, differently-abled individuals, and those who have sensory sensitivities. We understand that the museum can be a bustling place. During Sensory Friendly Night, we provide adjusted sound levels and limit attendance to create a calmer environment. Sensory bags will also be available at the front desk. Families can explore the museum at their own pace. Sensory Night is held on the third Tuesday of each month from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Sponsored Sensory Nights are Free; non-sponsored months are \$5. We hope to make this a free event in the future through sponsorships.



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

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Furever Part of the Military Family: How Minot AFB Cares for Pets

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

For military families stationed at Minot Air Force Base, the base veterinary clinic has long been an essential resource for their pets' health care needs. As military families transition from base to base, many bring their pets along for the ride, making veterinary care a necessity that needs to be reestablished at each new base. For those on Minot AFB, there is a Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) on the installation, operated by the United States Army and overseen by the 5th Medical Group but establishing care might look little different as Veterinary services are limited on and off the installation.

Even though the Veterinary clinic is right on base, their main mission is for the Military Working Dogs (MWDs) who are part of the Security Forces mission on Minot AFB and Grand Forks AFB. According to 5th Security Forces Squadron Operation Superintendent, Senior Master Sergeant Shoemaker, the VTF provides treatment and care for eight MWDs assigned to the squadron. Additionally, the VTF provides care to MWDs from the 319th Security Forces Squadron at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, caring for a total of 14 MWDs. Military working dogs (MWDs) play a critical role in supporting military operations, assisting in tasks such as detecting explosives, drugs, and even locating missing persons. These highly trained dogs are vital to the safety and effectiveness of military missions, which is why the clinic prioritizes their health and well-being.

However, that doesn't mean that they can't help out your little kitty or adorable puppy some of the time. While their focus is on military working dogs and ensuring that they are in top health for their duties, the clinic will still provide limited services for personal pets when resources allow. It's always best to check with them first to see if they can accommodate your pet's needs, but they do their best to balance their responsibilities with helping out the community's furry friends when possible.

The Minot AFB VTF provides preventative and routine care but does not handle sick calls or offer same-day appointments. Any available time slots after MWD care at the VTF are open to military families with pets, but delays may occur due to staffing limitations. Currently, the VTF only has one veterinarian, which limits the number of pets that can be seen. Recently, a new family arrived at Minot AFB and was informed that the VTF is taking new clients for preventive and routine care, but appointments were booked out for a few weeks. While this is a common occurrence at the VTF pets are still being seen sooner on base than they would off the



Minot AFB Veterinary Treatment Facility taking new clients and providing preventative care for pets.

installation.

Due to the limited availability of appointments, the VTF recommends that families establish care with an off-base veterinarian in case their pets need same-day or emergency care. Most off-base providers require pets to be established in their clinic to receive immediate attention. Stephanie Schultz, a recent visitor to Minot AFB VTF, shared that she found the staff "extremely helpful" during her visit.

Military families living on base are still encouraged to register their pets with the Minot AFB VTF, even if they haven't established care. This ensures that pets are properly registered within the installation's system. The VTF encourages pet owners to call ahead for registration, although walk-ins are welcome. Mrs. Kaitlin Reyna, who updated her pet's records with the VTF, emphasized the importance of keeping the records updated, noting that the VTF's database shares information with other installation VTFs. Mrs. Reyna

added, "The person on the phone was very transparent and helpful."

The Minot AFB Veterinary Treatment Facility, located at 300 Missile Avenue, Minot AFB, ND 58704, is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The clinic is closed on Thursdays, weekends, and all federal holidays and installation family days. For more information or to make an appointment, pet owners can call the VTF at 701-723-6449.

While the VTF provides valuable care for military families' pets, its limited schedule and staffing constraints often leave pet owners in need of urgent care to seek alternatives off-base, such as Pinkerton Animal Hospital or Rugby Veterinary Services.

The Minot AFB VTF continues to serve the needs of military families and their pets, but with a limited scope of services, pet owners should plan ahead and ensure they have backup veterinary care options available off the installation.



Minot AFB Veterinary Treatment Facility providing care for military member's loving pets.

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- ▶ State the amount of people that need a ride
- ▶ Give a description on an easily identifiable article of clothing
- ▶ Verify member's military/dependent status by showing identification

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MRP's "Aesop's, Oh So Slightly, Updated Fables" Game of the Century!

MOUSE RIVER PLAYERS

Stop! Look! Listen! Take in the GAME of the Century! Mz. Tortoise and Mz. Hare are facing off once again in Mouse River Player's production of "Aesop's ,Oh So Slightly, Updated Fables," by Kim Esop-Wylie and directed by Holly Eidsness. Performances will be nightly at 7:30 on March 7, 8, 14, and 15 with 2:00 pm matinees on March 9 and 16. Think to yourself, "are the end results the same as I remember?"

Aesop, the noted Greek slave of 600 BC, created stories with 'life lessons' using animals in many human guises. Our show features the determined Mz. Tortoise vs. the agile Mz. Hare running the game of life. In addition to the familiar running duo are featured The Dog and the Bone, The Lion and the Mouse, The Fox and the Grapes, The Miller, his Son, and the Donkey, and The Country Maid. You may recognize many a familiar adage from the author's wise morals.

Our production includes thirty-five actors aged from 2nd grade through adult. Several cast members were asked, "why try out for a play?" Their replies were both varied and similar. Noah, a regular face at MRP for several years replied, "It looked like FUN! I want to be in a play." "I wanted to venture out of just musicals, and on a side note, I really like Aesop's Fables," stated Evey, who had been in our holiday presentation of Cinderella. "I wanted to expand my horizons and be part of the community more," offered newcomer Emily. "I love theatre, and it is fun to do plays," declared Harper. "I've always wanted to

be in a play," expressed Graham. Fun was the key word.

The (oh, so slightly updated) script includes clever and updated jokes constructed to appeal to kids and adults alike. For example, love abounds when Narrator Number 1 can't decide whether his special love interest is Mz. Hare for her speed or Mz. Tortoise for her slower pace. He says, "They are the two most opposite and perfect creatures I'd ever met." Who will win his heart?

One of the director's personal fable favorites is based on The Fox and the Grapes. This vignette features ten grapes in a clump pitted against the wily Fox. The grapes say they are called the most Scrumptious, Delicious, and Intensely Perfect Grapes that ever grew on the planet to tease the hungry fox. Note: Olympic high jump antics are involved in this face-off.

The location for this multi scene game playoff is Mouse River Player's Arlene Theatre at 115 1st St. SE (1 block north of Central Middle School Campus). Ticket Prices are Adults \$15, Seniors/ Students/ Military \$13, and Children twelve and under \$10. Tickets may be purchased through our online reservation service at www.mouseriverplayers.com or at the box office during performance dates.

Aesop's Oh, so Slightly Updated Fables is being sponsored by the Minot Elks USA Lodge 1089. You can find additional information about Mouse River Players, future performances, and volunteer opportunities on our website or by following us on Facebook.



How YOU can communicate with US!

Do you need to ACTIVATE a new prescription?

Here are three ways to ACTIVATE a prescription at Minot AFB Pharmacy:

- MHS GENESIS Patient Portal**
<https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil>
 - Using the link or QR code
 - Click on 'Message' tab
- Q-Anywhere**
 - Text "Get in line" to 1-833-274-5419
- In Person**
 - Come pull a ticket at the pharmacy and wait for your number to be called

Do you need to REFILL an existing prescription?

Here are two ways to REFILL a prescription at Minot AFB Pharmacy:

- MHS GENESIS Patient Portal**
<https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil>
 - Use the link or QR code
 - Click on 'Rx Refills' tab
- Automatic REFILL Hotline**
 - Call 1-701-937-4688
 - Follow the prompts

*If you are out of refills, a new prescription will need to be activated. Please contact your provider to get started.

Do you need to COMMUNICATE with your pharmacy team?

Here are three ways you can COMMUNICATE with pharmacy staff:

- MHS GENESIS Patient Portal**
<https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil>
 - Using the link or QR code
 - Click on 'Message' tab
- Q-Anywhere**
 - Text "Get in line" to 1-833-274-5419
- In Person**
 - Come pull a ticket at the pharmacy and wait for your number to be called



MHS Genesis Patient Portal



Q-Anywhere

Duty Hours

Monday - Friday:
0730-1215 & 1315-1630

Saturday: CLOSED
Sunday: CLOSED



For the latest information on MDG closures and news, please visit our Facebook page at:
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For **emergent** needs, visit us in person. You can also call the appointment line at 1-701-723-5633 and a request will be sent for a member of our team to call you back within 48-72 hours!

Should You Drive an EV Here?

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

Electric vehicles are becoming increasingly popular, with many car buyers considering these gas-free options to reduce emissions and save money on fuel costs. While the balance between environmental benefits and financial considerations is a personal decision, one question remains: Does owning an EV make sense for those living in cold climates and navigating the demands of a military lifestyle?

One of the first questions prospective EV owners ask is, "Where can I charge it?" Fortunately, there are several charging options around Minot. The most popular station appears to be at Ryan Nissan (3915 South Broadway), with additional chargers scattered throughout the area. While Tesla SuperChargers are highly sought after, none are currently available in Minot, though several can be found along the I-29 and I-94 corridors.

EV owner Emily Medeiros shared her experience with local charging, noting that Minot AFB Homes may soon install charging stations, as other bases across the U.S. have already begun doing so. "It costs around \$5-\$10 per charge," she explained. "You can also plug into any standard 110V outlet, but it will take significantly longer. How long a charge lasts depends on your vehicle's range and usage."

It's no secret that military members are often on the move, and no one is immune to those last-minute overseas PCS orders. But what happens to your EV when it needs to be shipped thousands of miles across the ocean? Different countries have varying regulations on EVs and charging infrastructure, so you may need to swap out your charging connectors if stationed in Europe. However, the shipping



Emily Medeiros charging her EV at Tesla Supercharger in Fargo

process itself is no different from transporting a traditional vehicle.

Military spouse Marsha Painter, who recently shipped her Tesla from Honolulu to San Diego on orders, described the process as simple. "We just had to make sure our car was charged, but I guess that's similar to needing a certain amount of gas." She confirmed that her vehicle arrived at the port in perfect working condition, with no damage to the battery or car itself. Keep in mind that the military covers the cost of shipping only one vehicle to an overseas location—if you need to ship a second, the out-of-pocket expense can run several thousand dollars, depending on the destination.

Minot's frigid winters raise another important question: How do EV batteries perform in extreme cold? According to Car and Driver's article Does an EV Work as Well in Cold Weather?, battery range decreases in lower temperatures. The article likens an EV battery to a person who feels sluggish in the cold and needs time to warm up. "When temperatures fall, the battery's

performance degrades, and the additional climate control usage also burns extra energy. It's not a massive decline, but some owners report a 10 to 20 percent lower range at temperatures below freezing. Generally, the colder it gets, the more your EV's range will be reduced."

EV owner Emily Medeiros shared her personal experience, explaining, "I originally had a rear-wheel drive when we arrived in November but traded it for an all-wheel drive with a longer range. However, if you put snow tires on a rear-wheel drive and have a Level 2 home charger, you'd be just fine. The battery does drain faster and charges slower in the cold, but I haven't found it to be too inconvenient. And it drives great on snow and ice." Another EV owner, Jürgen Bold, echoed this sentiment, saying, "My Tesla Model Y works fine here."

At the end of the day, the decision to invest in an EV comes down to what works best for you and your family within the unique demands of military life.

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MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NEWSPAPER | WWW.NORTHERNSENTRY.COM

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EVENTS THIS WEEK

\$6 HAMM'S & GRILLED CHEESE

Tuesday, March 4 at 4:00pm

TRIVIA NIGHT

Wednesday, March 5 at 9:00pm

FREE NACHOS

Thursday, March 6, 4:00pm-Close

HOURS

Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu	Fri/Sat
4:00pm - 1:00am	4:00pm - 2:00am

118 1st Avenue SE, Minot, ND

A LOOK BACK THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

FIRST BLACK AVIATORS GRADUATE FROM ARMY AIR SCHOOL AT TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA
MARCH 6, 1942



First 5 African American pilots (USAF Photo)

In the early 1940s, the United States War Department began training black pilots at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Tuskegee, Alabama. While the center was treated with hostility from many people at the time, it marked an important milestone for African Americans in the military. The first class at the school included

13 cadets of various experience. In the end, only five of those cadets would go on to graduate on March 6, 1942, making history as the first black Army Air Corps pilots. Those five pilots were:

- Capt. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., who would go on to become the Air Force's first black general and played a key role in the desegregation of the USAF
- 2nd Lt. Lemuel R. Custis, who became Hartford, Connecticut's first African American police officer in 1939
- 2nd Lt. Charles H. DeBow Jr., who commanded the 301st Fighter Squadron in Italy and flew 52 combat missions in the European Theater
- 2nd Lt. George S. Roberts, who became the first black officer to command a racially mixed unit at Langley AFB, VA
- 2nd Lt. Mac Ross, who became Group Operations Officer for the 100th Squadron

The desegregation of the Air Force didn't come about until 1949, but even in the face of hardships, these five pilots set an important precedent for future generations of African American pilots.

Information courtesy of: afhistory.org / cafiseabove.org / pioneersofflight.si.edu / media.defense.gov

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Cooling System Tips

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

Just like human beings, the car needs to dissipate heat in order to avoid overheating and exhaustion. During combustion, the engine produces large amount of heat - about 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit. This is too much for the engine to bear so a cooling system is needed to keep it at a normal temperature. Cars usually overheat due to a damaged part in the cooling system, especially the radiator, the heart of the cooling system. It is therefore necessary that all its auto parts must be in proper working condition to ensure that the whole system works efficiently. Aside from the radiator, the cooling system is composed water pump, freeze plugs, head gasket, thermostat, hoses, heater core, fan clutch and radiator fan. All these auto parts have special roles to perform thus the absence of one could significantly affect the whole cooling process and of course, the engine's performance. Take for example the hose, this may seem to be just an ordinary part but once broken, the coolant can escape and so it's no longer possible for the system to cool the engine. Even just the cap of the radiator is important. It holds the pressure in the cooling system; thereby, affects its stability.

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



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- Their hair is called fleece or fiber rather than fur or wool. Alpaca fiber is softer than cashmere or angora and is warmer and lighter weight than wool.
- As a herd animal, they prefer companionship (safety in numbers).
- The main difference between a llama and an alpaca is their size and hair fiber.

Fact File

Life Span	18 - 20 years
Weight	150 - 185 pounds
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Height to Shoulder	4 1/2 feet
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GETTIN' AROUND DOWNTOWN MINOT

Putting the Magic in the Magic City



HOPE ANDERSON

One of my favorite things about writing articles about Downtown Minot is that I get to find out about businesses that I maybe wouldn't have known about otherwise. Take for example last Friday morning when I stepped foot into Chaos Games for the first time. I was truly wowed by the experience.

To say that Joseph Hurt is passionate about what he does is an understatement and the path that he has taken to get to where he is today with his business had my interest peaked from the get go. As a business owner myself, I find the details of business start up and the process very intriguing.

While in college studying business and mathematics, Hurt found a job working at a gaming business known as Gorilla Games, in the mall. He quickly realized that he had a passion for Magic the Gathering and was really excelling in it when it came to running a business centered around it. As his skills progressed, he became the expert in Magic at the business and they started hosting events. While the position was not a forever path for him, the knowledge and expertise he gained helped propel him into his own business venture.

In 2017, Chaos Games officially opened and specialized in everything from Magic the Gathering to Pokémon and Dungeons and

Dragons to selling used video games. Because he had a background in business and mathematics, he was able to make a calculated plan to roll profits back into the business with the goal of expanding in the future.

Hurt is a player first when it comes to Magic the Gathering, which gives him the advantage of knowing exactly what he wants out of a gaming experience. He spent a great deal of time researching what others wanted from gaming experiences and combined that knowledge to create the business he has today. Located at 121 Main St S. in Downtown Minot, the newly remodeled building is spacious and welcoming. The store is lined with everything a gaming enthusiast could want and then some.

Chaos Games prides itself in creating community. As of now, it is the only tabletop store in Minot. They don't charge people to come in to use the table space and you can often find people opening packs of cards and finding valuable individual cards that they use as currency in the store through the vehicle of trading. One unique aspect of this trading system is a person can acquire a card from a different source, such as WalMart, but then bring that valuable card to Chaos and use it as currency via the trade process. They can trade that card(s) for either cash or store credit that can be used to purchase anything in store. This makes it possible to collect all the cards a person may want for their personal collection.

This community atmosphere makes a great environment for meeting new people especially for those who have just moved to the area. According to Hurt, Magic, Warhammer 40k, D&D, etc. travel well and people can even play some of these games when there is a language barrier because the way they're played is the same across languages. They receive many sales from former Minot residents who still want to purchase items and add to their collections. He

loves this aspect of the business because people can stay connected even with thousands of miles between them through the use of technology to connect with each other to play these various tabletop games.

Included in this business concept is an entire downstairs space that offers arcades, consoles, and other games for people to play. They have birthday party packages where there can be up to 20 active gamers. This is an interactive party experience and is great for a variety of ages. The space is more face to face gaming experiences rather than sitting at a computer/gaming console by yourself for hours. A party can be booked through social media, over the phone, or by stopping into the store.

Chaos Games is open weekly Monday-Saturday from 12-7 and Sundays from 12-6. They have active social media pages including Facebook at Chaos Games LLC and Instagram chaos_gamesnd. They are great about answering social media messages and they can also be reached at 701-240-6021.

When I walked into Chaos Games, I will be honest, I had the most limited understanding of gaming, but Hurt has a knowledge that he is willing to share. It is a store for all ages and skill levels with a staff willing to introduce the most novice player or support the most skilled alike. Check out Chaos Games in Downtown Minot and take part in one of the many events they offer. It's a little piece of magic in the Magic City.



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All About Pets

The scoop on dog grooming



Whether you go to the groomer or do it yourself at home, grooming your dog is essential. Every dog's needs are different, but here are a few pointers to get you started at home or in between visits to a professional!

- **Bath time:** the ASPCA recommends bathing your dog at least once every three months. If your dog has skin problems or spends a lot of time outdoors, you may need to bathe more often. However, bathing too often can lead to more skin irritation and dryness, so use your best judgement and be sure to keep an eye on your dog's condition. If you're bathing at home, be sure to do your research on the best bathing method for your dog's coat. Keep the water warm but not hot, and use a shampoo and conditioner that is best for them (medicated, puppy formula, detangling, etc.). Make sure to keep water out of your dog's ears and use a wash cloth or towel to gently wipe their face clean.
- **Brushing:** Regular fur brushing will help spread natural oils throughout your dog's coat, remove dirt, and prevent tangles and matting. Slicker brushes will help remove loose fur and detangle all coat types, but are best for medium-long haired dogs. Don't use too much pressure with a slicker, as this can cause discomfort. Pin brushes are like slickers, but they have pins tipped with plastic or rubber. These are great for longer, silkier, or curly coats. A bristle brush is a great option for a dog with a short or wiry coat and will remove excess fur and give your dog's coat a beautiful shine. Rakes are designed to penetrate a thick undercoat and remove tangles and debris in long-haired dogs. Make sure you pick the best brush for your dog's coat and brush them at least every few days. Brushing is also a great time to check out your dog's skin for signs of irritation, skin conditions, or bugs.
- **Dental care:** Dogs need their teeth brushed too! You can use a toothbrush/finger brush and dog safe toothpaste and you can also keep your dog's teeth healthy by providing a healthy diet, plenty of chew toys/bones, and treats that are specially formulated for their dental needs. It is best to brush their teeth every day, but even three times a week is better than none. Just like brushing fur, it gives you a chance to check out your dog's condition and find any signs of illness or irritation.
- **Ear care:** Regularly checking your dog's ears is important, especially for those who produce excessive earwax! If your dog's ears are dirty,

you can gently clean them with a cotton ball dampened in a liquid ear cleaner. You may want to contact your vet before doing this to make sure that you are using the proper technique/products and not accidentally causing harm to your pooch.

- **Nail trimming:** Many dogs are uncomfortable having their nails trimmed, but trimming your dog's nails is one of the most important things you can do to keep them happy and healthy! Nails should be cut when they almost touch the ground when your dog walks. This could be every week or every few weeks, depending on the dog and its activity level/type. You can use scissor or guillotine type clippers, a nail grinder, and some owners even opt to train their dog to use a scratch board for light nail maintenance. Be careful not to cut your dog's quick, as this can cause bleeding and lots of pain. If your dog is really struggling with feeling comfortable during nail clipping, be sure not to force them to continue or you can risk putting your dog off from it completely. Some owners are able to clip all their dog's nails in one sitting, some can only do one nail a day. Either way, with the proper training, plenty of patience, and rewards, you can teach your dog to tolerate nail maintenance. If you are unable to train your dog to tolerate it, contact a professional groomer or event a veterinarian immediately. If your dog's nails get too long, it can cause discomfort, pain, or injury.
- **To shave or not to shave:** There are many reasons why a dog may need to be shaved, especially in severe cases of matting, but you should try to avoid this if possible. A dog's coat serves a purpose to insulate them in hot or cold temperatures and protect from sunburn, among many other things. If you have a double-coated dog, it is especially important not to shave as it can cause more damage than good! A light trim is acceptable to make their coat more manageable or presentable. If you think your dog might need to be shaved, be sure to ask a professional for their input. There may be other ways to resolve the problem before resorting to that.

With the right tools and research, you can successfully groom your dog at home. However, be sure to consult your vet or a professional with any questions you may have! And if you don't have the time or knowledge to groom at home, make sure you keep up by taking your dog to the groomer regularly.

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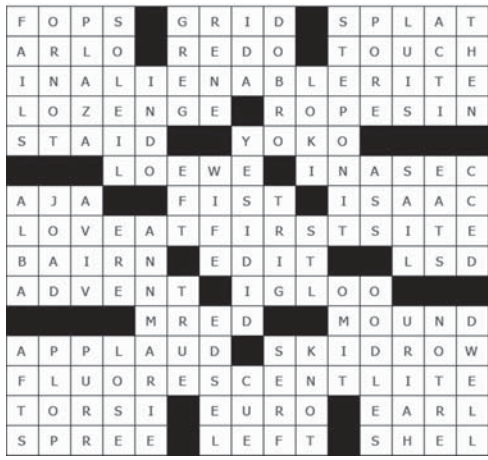
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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution to last week's Crossword puzzle.



SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

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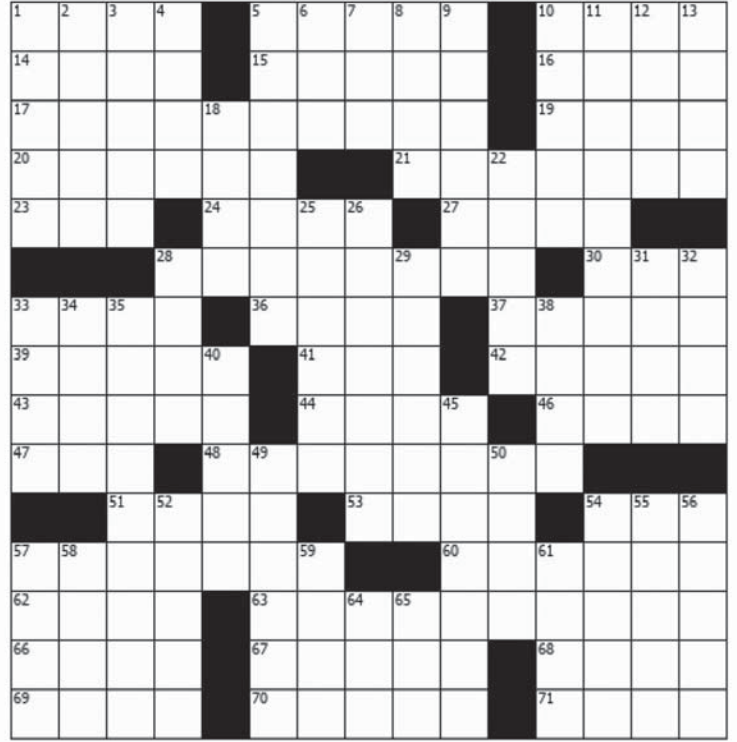
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. Calgary's prov.
5. Eighth Greek letter
10. XXXV x X
14. Dime or quarter
15. Place of refuge
16. Sailor's hail
17. Retire for the night
19. Fictional sub captain
20. Pencil end
21. Participatory
23. Animal home
24. Thin tuft
27. Urban disturbance
28. Locked up, as a victory
30. Diarist Anaïs
33. Short form, for short
36. Two before 5 Across
37. Circumvent
39. Singer Judd
41. Rural rest stop
42. Helicopter part
43. Molly Ivins, for one
44. Terra firma
46. Nobel Peace Prize locale
47. April addressee
48. Whodunit plot elements
51. Whodunit plot element
53. Inventor Rubik
54. Run slowly
57. Coffee-filter filler
60. Room adjunct
62. Contemptible one
63. Social-agency employee
66. Blunted sword
67. Saint Theresa's home
68. Semester
69. Home in a tree
70. Chipper
71. Onetime JFK landers



Down

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Yearned | 18. Felled, as a fir | 45. Joan Crawford |
| 2. Longest French river | 22. Country east of Mali | trayner |
| 3. Moon of Saturn | 25. Australian girl | 49. Baggage handler |
| 4. Small hill builders | 26. "Snookums" or "Cupcake" | 50. Italian explorer |
| 5. Classy Paris hotel | 28. Film role for Shirley | 52. "Network" director |
| 6. Is in possession of | 29. Headline | 54. Comic's stock-in-trade |
| 7. Spacewalk, to NASA | 31. Object of adoration | 55. Not disguised |
| 8. Part of MIT | 32. Claudius' stepson | 56. Bacteria fear |
| 9. Capital of Turkey | 33. One who's against | 57. Singer/dancer Verdon |
| 10. "That won't be a problem!" | 34. Pugilist Max | 58. Lariat |
| 11. "__ roasting on an open fire" | 35. Sports-page listings | 59. Keep around |
| 12. Crooner Perry | 38. Lorelei Lee creator | 61. Computer screens, initially |
| 13. French silk city | 40. Jocularly | 64. Knight's title |
| | | 65. Large deer |

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852-0315

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She didn't realize how much work it is to go down tubing and bring that tube back.... Now she knows lol
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YOUTH IN ACTION

Kindergarten Enrollment 2025/2026

Credit: Minot Public Schools, Alexis Perez, Enrollment Specialist

Minot Public Schools is excited to welcome students to the Kindergarten class for the 2025-26 school year! The approximate first day of school August 20, 2025.

Your child must be age 5 by July 31, 2025 to attend school in the fall.

NOTE: Please complete the enrollment process by July 31, 2025 to insure a higher probability of the student attending their boundary school. Due to capacity limitations, those who wait too long may be placed in a different school and required to wait until the following year to be enrolled in their boundary school.

Parents are able to complete enrollment online. The registration process should take approximately 20-30 minutes per student. We recommend collecting the following **REQUIRED** documents prior to beginning the online registration process. We request that you complete the registration process within two weeks.

- Parent/Guardian photo ID
- Proof of Age - - State Birth Certificate, Passport, School Record with proof of Age, Hospital Record, Baptismal record or other official document with proof of Age
- Copy of Immunization Record - Current Immunization records
- The Doctor's office/clinic can fax them to the district office
- If immunizations are not up to date we can enroll with the current immunization records, once shots are updated you can turn in to the school/ district office.

• If you need an exemption form we have those available, please contact me at alexis.perez@minot.k12.nd.us or call at 701-857-4444

- Custody / guardianship paperwork (if applicable)
- Proof of Residence A utility bill (from within 60 days), lease agreement, mortgage statement, rental/homeowners insurance, or Ward County Tax Document in YOUR NAME.
- If you do not have one of those in your name please reach out to me for a Residency Affidavit.
- If you live on MAFB we can use your military ID or Orders as a Proof of Residency

Now you are ready to begin! Please follow these steps using a computer NOT A SMARTPHONE

Verify the school your child will attend with your current physical address at Map My School: <http://minot.k12.nd.mapmyschools.com/Locator>

1. Complete the Kindergarten Pre-Registration: <https://minot.ps.state.nd.us/public/formbuilder/form.html?formid=3937360>

2. Once your pre-registration is approved, you will receive an email with instructions on how to create your PowerSchool Parent account (if you already have an account - it will provide instructions on how to add the new student to your existing PowerSchool Parent Account) -This email will arrive within 1 business day after submitting the Pre Register Form. If you do not see it in your inbox, make sure to check your junk/spam folder. If you have not received an email within 48 hours please contact Alexis Perez at 701-857-4444 or email at alexis.perez@minot.k12.nd.us

3. Log into your PowerSchool Parent account and click on **FORMS**. Complete and submit each form, and upload your **REQUIRED** documents.

4. After submitting all forms and uploads, remember to check out the Kindergarten Orientation document located on the 2025-26 Kindergarten Enrollment page for more information.

SUGGESTIONS for uploading documents:

- when uploading do not condense the document, upload as normal size
- when naming a document DO NOT use special characters like apostrophe, commas or quotation marks. Periods and dashes are acceptable
- If you cannot upload the documents either email to enrollment@minot.k12.nd.us or bring them to the district office located at 215 2nd St SE - Hours Mon-Fri 8a to 4:30p during the school year 7:30a to 4:30p Mon-Thurs 7:30 to 1:30 Fri during the summer break.

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

Parents are able to complete enrollment online. The registration process should take approximately 20-30 minutes per student. We recommend collecting the following **REQUIRED** documents prior to beginning the online registration process. We request that you complete the registration process within two weeks.

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- Custody / guardianship paperwork (if applicable)
- Proof of Residence A utility bill (from within 60 days), lease agreement, mortgage statement, rental/homeowners insurance, or Ward County Tax Document in YOUR NAME.
- If you do not have one of those in your name please reach out to me for a Residency Affidavit.
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2024-2025 MPS CALENDAR

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

March 5
P/T Comp Day -
No School for Students

March 6 & 7
Spring Break -
No School for Students

March 2025							18 days
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

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

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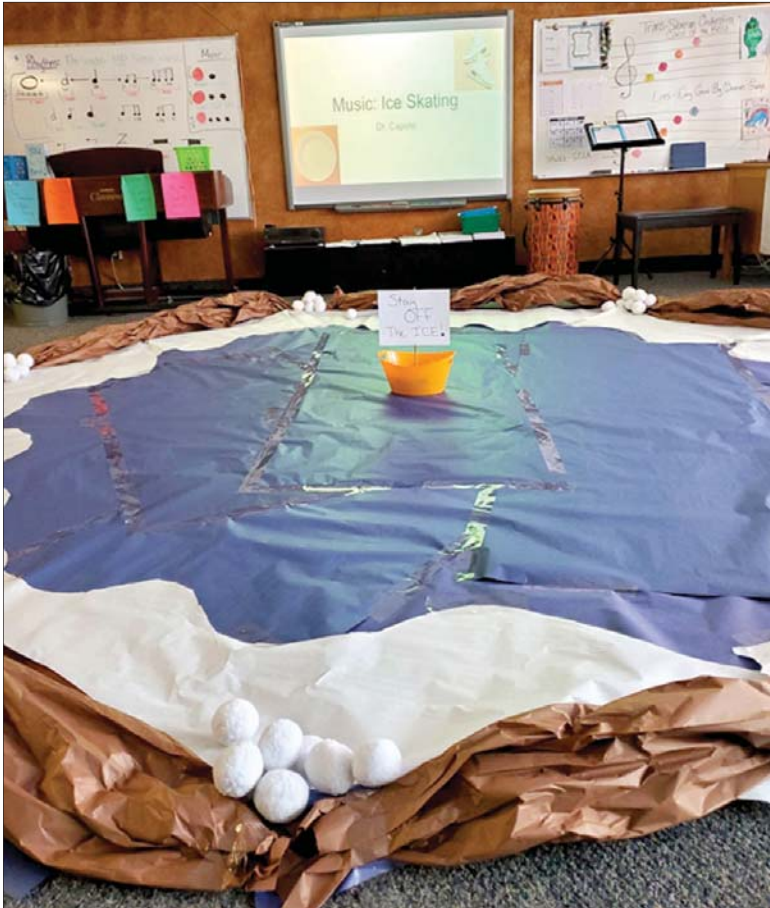
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unique, supportive, inspiring, and enhancing music knowledge through creativity and curiosity. We talk about musicians of the past and their impact on the world around us through our musician of the month and talk about music around the world. Music is all around us and the 3rd graders are putting that to the test by exploring “found” sounds over the next few weeks.

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DR. AMANDA CAPOTE PHOTOS

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YOUTH IN ACTION



Trinity Health had the privilege of hosting Brilliant Minds Home School Group students from Minot Air Force Base for an exciting day of hands-on learning! The students engaged with First Response Ground and Air, exploring both the ambulance and helicopter. They also toured Trinity Health's inpatient lab and concluded the day with an informative presentation on bones by Dawn Mattern, MD, FAMSSM, Orthopedics and Sports Medicine.

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OUR REDEEMER'S CHURCH

Archery at Our Redeemer's Church begins on January 17th! The events are open to the community and free to participate in. Both adults and children are encouraged to attend, and anyone who can draw a bow is welcome to join!

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).

We look forward to a fun season together!

Open Archery Adult Archery
 6:30-7:30 pm 7:45-9:00 pm

SCHEDULE:
 January 17 & 31 • February 7 & 21 • March 7 & 21
 Season Finale • April 4

700 16th Ave SE Minot, ND 58701
 For more information, contact Esther Zearley at 701.509.9552



by Patricia Stockdill

FISHING:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, Feb. 25: 1,830.55 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 23,700 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases. Devils Lake elevation: 1,449.37 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Stump Lake elevation: 1,447.36 MSL.

- N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: Devils Lake and the east end of Lake Sakakawea remain slow for walleye with scattered success. Limited reports from north-central lakes.
- Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Walleye bite remains finicky. Anglers finding occasional fish but nothing consistent. Move around to locate perch.
- Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: Anglers marking walleye on Lake Audubon but fish not biting with any consistency. No Lake Darling reports.
- Lake Darling, Upper Souris Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, Foxholm: No new reports.
- Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Lots of activity with warming weather. Good bluegill success but sort through for the keepers with anglers finding lots of small fish. Improving crappie success. Walleye are finicky with limited activity but pike success remains fair.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Spotty walleye success around Douglas Bay on the east end of Lake Sakakawea. Lots of anglers going out farther east around Garrison and Steinke bays and 7 Sisters, as well, with warmer weather. Try 30 to 40 feet. Scattered small walleye success on Lake Audubon.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Slower walleye bite on the east end of Lake Sakakawea and Douglas Bay. Try working main lake humps in 30 to 40 feet. Pike spearing

Thanks to Woodland Resort, our Outdoors Report sponsor, for helping keep readers up-to-date on happenings throughout the region. For complete details about fishing Devils Lake and its array of recreational opportunities visit their website, (www.woodlandresort.com), Facebook at (facebook.com/woodlandresortDL), telephone (701) 662-5996, extension 1, or email (woodlandresort@gondtc.com). They're located at 1012 Woodland Drive, Devils Lake, N.D. 58301.

- Light goose season now open. Go to the N.D. Game & Fish Dept. website, (gf.nd.gov) for regulations and season information.
- Registration available for April 4 -6 Custom Fishing Rod Building Workshop, Lake Metigoshe State Park, Bottineau, closing March 16. Registration and information available at <https://bit.ly/LMSPShowClix>.
- 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.
- March 1: Fat & Furious Fat Tire Bike Race, Cross Ranch State Park south of Hensler, noon.
- March 8: Turtle Mtn. Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation banquet and fundraising event, Cobblestone Inn, Bottineau, 4 p.m.
- March 15: All unoccupied icehouses must be removed daily from all waters.
- March 15: Darkhouse spearing and bow-fishing seasons close.
- March 15: Leprechaun Leap Hike, Lewis & Clark State Park east of Williston, 10 a.m.
- March 15: Lonetree Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation banquet and fundraising event, Harvey Eagles Club, 5 p.m.

TOURNAMENTS:

- Feb. 28: Devils Lake, Woodland Resort.
- March 1: Devils Lake, Minnewaukan.

slow, also, although visibility is good. Slow walleye bite on Lake Audubon but some decent pike taken in shallow bays working 12 feet and less.

- Lake Sakakawea, New Town: Warm weather brought anglers onto the Van Hook Arm but walleye success is inconsistent. Look for better activity towards evening.
- Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace hit-and-miss for walleye. Some success off the wing walls, however. East end of Lake Sakakawea spotty for walleye and pike along the south shore.
- Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Cold weather limited activity on the upper end of Lake Sakakawea but look for more anglers out with warm weather. Check slumping ice conditions along the shoreline and water will be on top of the ice in places. Missouri and Yellowstone rivers muddying up with early spring runoff coming in from Montana. Upper end of Sakakawea also likely to have muddy water beneath the ice. Better success will likely be farther east around White Earth Bay.

•North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: Most anglers continue going to Devils Lake with area lakes still generally quiet. Warm weather will bring water on top of the ice.

DOWNHILL SKI REPORTS:

- Big Sky Ski Resort, Big Sky, Mont., website, (www.bigskyski.com): 54-inch base with 35 lifts and 287 runs open.
- Bottineau Winter Park, Bottineau, website, (www.skibwp.com): 12- to 24-inch base with 6 runs, 2 carpets, chair, tow, and tubing and terrain parks open.
- Huff Hills Ski Area, Mandan, website, (www.huffhills.com): 26- to 30-inch machine groomed, packed powder base with 11 runs, 2 lifts, tow and Terrain Park open.
- Terry Peak, Leads, S.D., website, (www.terrypeak.com): 26- to 32-inch base with all lifts, carpet, and runs 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.

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

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MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY – Minot State University is excited to again offer face-to-face classes at the Minot Air Force Base. There is no application fee for active-duty military personnel. Military personnel can complete their Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) degree and earn a bachelor’s degree from Minot State. For more information, contact Brigitte Mikula at 701-727-9044 or by email at Brigitte.mikula@minotstateu.edu

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REVEL *Weddings for Warriors*

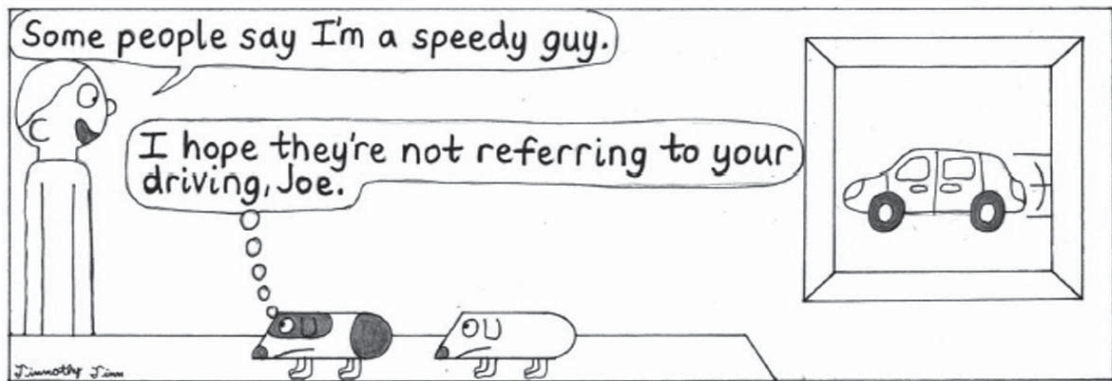
Revel Hotel, a newly renovated hotel next to Dakota Mall, will be giving away use of the Pilot’s Bar and adjoining banquet space at its venue to Airmen.

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 or contact Chelewa Springs or Ashley Cutler at 701-607-4557 or 701-306-3338.

TITUS & PHILEMON *Everyday adventures of Titus and Philemon and their owner Joe.*



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

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- **DEERS:** Common Access Card (CAC), Dependent Update, CAC Unlock or Reset, Awards and Decorations
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- **Force Management:** Evaluations, Duty Information, G-Series Orders, Unfavorable Information File (UIF), Special Duty Assignment Pay (SDAP)
- **Career Development:** Permanent Change of Station (PCS), Outbound Assignment, Separation, Retirement, Retention, Promotion

DEERS (Appointment Only): Mon, Wed-Fri 0800-1600, Tue 0800-1500
Walk-in hours: Tue-Thu 0800-1600, Wed 0800-1130
Appointment hours: Mon-Fri 0800-1600, Wed 0800-1130
*Closed for training every Wed from 1200-1630

MINOT MPF OFFICE

RESTAURANT & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

<p>Atypical Brewery & Barrel Works</p> <p>510 Central Ave E, Minot Phone: 701.833.0567 FB: Atypical Brewery & Barrelworks</p>	<p>Applebee’s Grill & Bar</p> <p>2302 15th St SW, Minot Phone: 701.839.2130 www.applebees.com</p>	<p>Badlands Restaurant & Bar</p> <p>1400 31st Ave SW, Minot Phone: 701.852.7335 www.blgrill.com</p>
<p>Bone’s BBQ Smokehouse & Grill</p> <p>437 N Broadway, Minot Phone: 701.838.9140 www.bonesbbqminot.com</p>	<p>Culver’s Restaurant</p> <p>3000 S Broadway, Minot Phone: 701.852.4800 www.culvers.com</p>	<p>Ironhorse Kitchen + Bar</p> <p>21 E Central Avenue, Minot Phone: 701.852.8183 FB: Ironhorse Kitchen + Bar Minot</p>
<p>Jamaican Vybz Kitchen</p> <p>Dakota Square Mall, Minot Phone: 701-441-9309 FB: Jamaican Vybz Kitchen</p>	<p>Meg-A-Latte</p> <p>2045 N Broadway Suite #100, Minot Phone: 701-838-8479 www.meg-a-latte.com</p>	<p>Mi Mexico</p> <p>3816 South Broadway, Minot Phone: 701.858.0777 www.mimexicomintnd.com</p>
<p>N.D. Asia</p> <p>3400 16th St SW, Minot Phone: 701.852.1240 www.ND-Asia.com</p>	<p>Noodles & Company</p> <p>304 4th Ave NW Minot 701.491.9103 www.noodles.com</p>	<p>Pink’s Bar & Grill</p> <p>102 128th Ave NW, Minot Phone: 701.852.2385 FB: PinksBarGrill</p>
<p>The Blue Rider</p> <p>118 1st Avenue SE, Minot Phone: 701.852.9050 www.theblueriderbar.com</p>	<p>The Starving Rooster</p> <p>30 1st St. NE, Minot Phone: 701.838.3030 www.starvingrooster.com</p>	

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Minot AFB Curling League Results



Through Week 6

CAPTIAN NAME	TEAM NAME	#	WINS	LOSSES	BYES/TIES
Levi Janssen	Silverbacks	1	5	1	0
Grayson Trandem	Sweep Dreams	2	4	2	0
Mitchell Kuhn	Passing Stones	3	2	3	1
Gian Gomez	69th Stratocurls	4	2	3	1
Jason Myers	Chill	5	4	2	0
Steven Lawless	BroomTown	6	4	1	1
Steven Heizer	Penguin Walkers	7	2	4	0
Justin Ahrens	Blended Broomers	8	1	4	1
Murphy Lamb	Motley Curl	9	3	2	1
Alex Mathews	Sweeping Beatuies	10	2	2	2
Ivan Cruz	Ice Hookers	11	4	2	0
Anik Emery	Firedawgs	12	3	3	0
Gabriel Harms	Brooms & Booms	13	2	2	2
Alex Garver	Justice League	14	2	3	1
James Schlabach	Curl Jam	15	1	4	1
Kevin Brown	The Shooters	16	3	2	1
Jackie O'Mara	Tootin Turtles	17	0	4	2

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SPRING HUNTING? GO FOR IT!
Patricia Stockdill

It's time for the state's hardy tree squirrel hunters to hang it up for another year – the season ends Feb. 28.

But that doesn't mean hunting is over until those who drew a spring turkey tag can go out beginning April 12.

Rather, North Dakota's Light Goose Conservation season opened Feb. 15.

Yes, there is a hunting season underway.

Granted, snowdrifts and snow still dot frozen ground across the prairie landscape and lakes and wetlands look like large, amazing ice cubes. Plus, any sheet water from potentially melting snow or ice is likely to harden rapidly because this is North Dakota and winter can last well into...well, it can last into April and May depending on Mother Nature. And who knows if June will be abundantly wet and cool or hot and dry?

However, that being said, should any brave, hardy light goose (and its light goose friends and relatives) decide to test the elements and head north for an early start on Arctic nesting activity, hunters can try to find them.

It's likely any and all light geese – snows, blues, and Ross's – are still languishing somewhere along their southern wintering grounds. They're soaking up the sun and warmth, feeding, and putting on weight in preparation for their lengthy 1,500-mile journey.

Depending on when Mother Nature decides to shift from winter mode to spring, light geese probably won't be anywhere in the state until enough snow melts allowing for sheet water in fields and open water in wetlands for birds to feed and rest.

It may or may not happen anytime soon, although this is North Dakota and anything can occur.

There is a reason the Conservation Order opens so early: It allows ample time for harvest opportunities should any light geese be in the state. That philosophy also applies to the fact that it doesn't end until May 11. By that time a vast majority have long settled into their Arctic summer homes, although some juveniles may have missed the note to board their flight.

North Dakota isn't a large player in harvest totals during the light goose conservation order largely because of weather. When they start making their northward move light geese tend to languish more so in South Dakota, resting on sheet water covered fields and feeding.

When it comes to North Dakota the state typically needs a snow line or adverse weather and shallow sheet water in fields and temporary wetlands to hold them so they can rest. Otherwise, most tend to view North Dakota from the air. The peak light goose migration across the state centers around April 1, typically a week on either side of that date.

Another reason North Dakota isn't a major player in harvest is that it can be challenging to get into position to harvest spring birds. For starters, there are thousands – tens of thousands and more – of them flying in large flocks. That's a whole lot of eyes in the air. Those adults are pretty suspicious when it comes to identifying potential dangers even when flying high in the sky.

In other words, they're darn smart birds and they're darn hard to decoy.

Plus, muddy fields often abound by the time they're moving through in late March and early April. Access is difficult and it's imperative to get permission – even if fields aren't posted, whether electronically or with physical signs – because landowners don't appreciate muddy fields torn up by hunters.

Another challenge in the spring is light geese tend to move rapidly once they're near North Dakota. They usually need a storm to hold them in the state after staging in South Dakota. Otherwise, they can be in one location one day and well into Canada by daybreak if they decide to take flight.

However, generous regulations during the light goose conservation order allow for a larger harvest and make it a little easier to be successful. It's still worth checking out for more information on license requirements, regulations, and other details. Go to the N.D. Game and Fish Department website, (gf.nd.gov) for details.

Their migration is a wondrous sight and sound as they journey over the state – and worth watching.

The big unknown for migration this year, though, is if and how avian influenza may affect populations.

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WHAT'S GOING ON MINOT AFB

FRIDAY 28

- Registration Closes: Youth Basketball Registration, CYPBMS website at <https://parent.afcyp.com/>
- Registration Closes: Youth Indoor Cheer Sports Registration, CYPBMS website at <https://parent.afcyp.com/>
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Senior TAP (DOL) – Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Bootcamp, 0900, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- BOGO Bowling Fridays, 1600-2100, Rough Rider Lanes
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Nerf Battle Bash, 1800-2000, Youth Center

TUESDAY 04

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Moving Out of the Dorms Budget Class, 0900-1100, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center – Room 211
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Minot AFB Library
- Mardi Gras Special Lunch, 1030-1330, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Retraining, 1300-1400, Professional Development Center
- Quiet Book Club, 1800-1930, Minot AFB Library

FRIDAY 07

- 11th Annual Winter Games, 0800-1630, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Spring Break at the Turf, 0900-1600, Turf
- Fun Fri-yay, 1600-2100, Jimmy Doolittle Center
- BOGO Bowling Fridays, 1600-2100, Rough Rider Lanes
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY 01

- Winter Reading Program Ends, Minot AFB Library
- Winter STEAM Challenges, 1000, Minot AFB Library Facebook Page
- Submissions Open: 2025 Air Force Art & Photo Contest, 1200, forcesupport.awardsplatform.com
- 18+ After Hours Bowling, 2100-2400, Rough Rider Lanes

WEDNESDAY 05

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Informed Decision Seminar, 0800-1200, Professional Development Center
- Lifeguard Certification Class, 0800-1630, Outdoor Recreation
- Spring Break at the Turf, 0900-1600, Turf
- 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
- Brown Bag Book Talk, 1200, Minot AFB Library
- Parent Advisory Board & Quality Improvement Team Meeting, 1600-1700, Youth Center

SATURDAY 08

- Winter STEAM Challenges, 1000, Minot AFB Library Facebook Page
- Dr. Seuss Day, 1300, Minot AFB Library
- 18+ After Hours Bowling, 2100-2400, Rough Rider Lanes

SUNDAY 02

MONDAY 03

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Federal Employment Basics 101, 1300-1500, M&FRC
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Writing Club, 1800, Minot AFB Library

THURSDAY 06

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Pre-Separation Counseling, 0830-1130, M&FRC
- Spring Break at the Turf, 0900-1600, Turf
- Reintegration Briefing, 1000-1100, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Home Buying Seminar, 1300-1500, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center – Room 211

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.



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0900-1200 & 1300-1600

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