

northern sentry

FREE | WWW.NORTHERNSENTRY.COM | VOL. 63 • ISSUE 10 | MINOT AIR FORCE BASE | FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025



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DAKOTA ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES SUCCESS

B6

BEYOND THE BASE



Yellow perch are displayed after being caught on Devils Lake, North Dakota, Feb. 25, 2025. Yellow perch are a common species of freshwater fish native to many lakes in North Dakota.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KYLE WILSON



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March Squadron of the Month

791st Missile Security Forces Squadron

The 91st Missile Wing Command team would like to congratulate the 791st Missile Security Forces Squadron on being selected as March Squadron of the Month.

The "Dark Horses" of the 791st Missile Security Forces Squadron advanced the protection of the nuclear security enterprise and recertified its license to secure nuclear assets during the recent Nuclear Surety Inspection. Over the course of the inspection week, 273 Dark Horses performed around the clock security for the 8,500 square mile area of responsibility around Minot. Additionally, the Dark Horses were put to the test during an exercise scenario where they showcased their tactical prowess in a response to a calculated threat affecting Air Force resources. The team's quick reaction coupled with their scheme of maneuver, blocked enemy advancement, mitigating the loss and destruction of the nation's most strategic assets. Additionally, the Dark Horses conducted their monthly Dark Horse Day with a focus on Overcoming Adversity. Fifteen peer-to-peer facilitators led instruction and activities,



creating a safe environment for the navigation of sensitive subject matter. They established an environment of compassion, understanding and empathy. Their dexterity proved vital as they provided strategies and tools for the incorporation of resilience skills and proactive self-care. Finally, the Dark Horses were lead coordinators for both the 91 Missile Wing Annual Awards banquet and

the Senior Master Sergeant Promotion Release Party. The teams combined efforts ensured that the hard work, commitment and efforts of the Wing's top Airmen did not go unrecognized. These actions amongst many others signifies that the 791st Missile Security Forces Squadron delivers uncompromised defense and protection of Air Force resources while taking care of Airmen and their families.



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EVENTS THIS WEEK

SHAKY CALLS GO SXSW!-LIVE MUSIC
Friday, March 7 at 8:30pm

PEYTON LILY-LIVE MUSIC
Saturday, March 8 at 10:00pm

\$6 HAMM'S & GRILLED CHEESE
Tuesday, March 11 at 4:00pm

TRIVIA NIGHT
Wednesday, March 12 at 9:00pm

FREE NACHOS
Thursday, March 13 at 4:00pm-Close

REVERSE COVER NIGHT + LIVE MUSIC
Friday, March 14 at 10:30pm (Brandon Foster)

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the northern sentry

Salute

A1C Sean Sporre

891ST MISSILE SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON
HOMETOWN: CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS

Airman First Class Sean Sporre serves as a Missile Security Operator defending \$3.3 billion worth of nuclear weapons. Sean is a certified Emergency Medical Technician and is the unit's primary medical trainer for emergency and life-saving care for its 260 personnel. He is an exceptional role-model for all Airmen, and through his training and mentorship, he ensures the safety of our military and civilian communities. His service is the backbone to Minot's mission of providing around-the-clock deterrence to the nation.

GAME SALUTE: FRIDAY, MARCH 7

TSgt Marquis Tinsley

5TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON
HOMETOWN: GOLDSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Technical Sergeant Marquis Tinsley has been in the Air Force for 17 years and stationed at Minot AFB since April 2023. Sergeant Tinsley leads a 35-person Electrical systems shop where he has directed 2.7K electrical repairs and 2.4K preventative maintenance actions to sustain a \$4.3B infrastructure. Sergeant Tinsley also fabricated cold temperature alarms for aircraft hangers that alerts facility personnel to implement protective measures, safeguarding 8 hangars and \$40M in assets from freezing temperatures. Finally, Sergeant Tinsley intercepted a suicidal Airman and talked with the member for over 5 hours, convincing the member to seek professional help. He stayed by the members side for 2 days and escorted the member to Texas for impatient treatment, embodying the Wingman ethos and undoubtedly saving the life of a fellow Airmen.

GAME SALUTE: SATURDAY, MARCH 8

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.

2025 DoD Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey

The FY25 Department of Defense (DoD) Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey is now open and will run through May 1. This survey gives Minot Air Force Base housing and dorm residents (new this year) the opportunity to provide valuable feedback that directly impacts the future of military housing.

Residents have two options available to obtain and complete a survey:

1. CEL and Associates, Inc will send out surveys via your Air Force email or the one on file with the leasing office. The message is from AirForceHousingSurvey@celassociates.com and is good for completion of one survey.

2. Use the QR Code to request text notification of survey availability.

The survey results help Department of the Air Force



SAMANTHA MENDOZA, GS-12, USAF
PRIVATIZED HOUSING RESIDENT ADVOCATE
5TH BOMB WING



leadership and project owners identify areas for improvement, ensuring the long-term sustainability and quality of housing for service members and their families. All responses are **completely confidential**. CEL & Associates, the independent firm conducting the survey, will handle all responses, and no identifying information will be shared with

the Air Force.

This feedback is essential in shaping the future of base housing/dormitories. For any housing concerns or questions, residents can contact the **Resident Advocate** at 701-818-7075 or on Facebook at **Minot AFB Resident Advocate**.



U.S. AIR FORCE

It's almost time for the FY25 Department of the Air Force's Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey. Are YOU In?

Opt-In from your cell phone now to receive your Survey via text message when it becomes available in March*



*U.S. phone numbers only at this time

The survey is being conducted online and is being administered through a third party, CEL & Associates, Inc. (CEL). All households living in privatized, or government managed Air Force Family or Unaccompanied Housing are invited to participate in the survey, and this is your opportunity to provide feedback on your housing and community. Households will also receive the survey via email but only one survey per household can be submitted or room/bed for Unaccompanied Housing. All surveys submitted are confidential and anonymous. For more information contact your Military Housing Office or management office for privatized housing.

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0704-0553 OMB EXPIRATION DATE: 05/31/2025

An announcement from the Minot AFB Environmental Team

PRESCRIBED FIRE/OPEN BURN OF TREE DEBRIS PILE IN CANTONMENT AREA 7 - 9 MARCH 2025.

Background: Trees removed for maintenance, windstorms, and old age have been accumulated leading to a tree debris pile in the 5 CES cantonment area. These piles increase wildfire fuels risk, increase BASH risk by housing animals, and reduce available land space for other projects. For safety reasons, the best option is to reduce the piles using fire. Ellsworth AFB Wildland Fire Team will be on base to conduct an open burn starting evening (estimated 1800) on Friday, 7 March 2025. Large flames and smoke plumes

are expected for the first 8 -10 hours. The piles are expected to smolder up to 48 hours after first ignition. Minot AFB has an approved Variance Approval to Open Burn from the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality. This notification will also be sent through Housing and Public Affairs notification channels. Open burning is contingent on weather conditions and base operations. Any questions can be directed to 5 CES Environmental: 5ces.ceiec.enviroengineers@us.af.mil



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**A VIEW FROM
 OUR SIDE**
 ROD WILSON



I had the honor of being able to review every photo submitted to The Northern Sentry in our recent photo contest. It's always a pleasure to see all of the various photos as they capture the people and the lifestyles of ordinary folks.

In my younger days I was a very avid and focused photographer. My first camera was a Kodak instamatic. Simple because the film was in a cartridge and just had to point and shoot. On the top of the camera was a flash cube containing 4 flash bulbs. You may remember them...the flash cubes were almost as expensive as film to purchase.

The Wilson family, for some reason, seemed to stay on the cutting edge of the camera world. I do remember our first camera. You looked in the top of the camera as you struggled to frame your photo correctly. On the side was the flash, that you popped a flash bulb into. If you used the

flash accessory you were also very careful not to prematurely grab the flash bulb. Many a finger was burned from trying to switch the flash bulb in a hurry.

Our next camera took us into the Polaroid era. Once you shot the photo, you had to quickly pull out a film sheet that had just been exposed. Then, you had to look at your watch and wait 60 seconds for your photo to develop. Last, you had what looked like a small bar with a sponge on it. Whatever the chemical was on the sponge gave the photo you just took the final touch. Quite honestly, the film was expensive, and the results were not all that great; but you had your photos instantly.

My journalism career would take me down many paths. Super 8 and 16 millimeter movie films were my start into film making. My first instamatic camera was replaced with a 35 MM still camera. Eventually I would make the jump to video and a 30 year career doing commercial video and still photography work. Never did I dream that someday I would carry a small phone capable of doing video and stills. Smart phones have certainly changed the world of photo and video capture. One of my friends told me she came back from a recent Caribbean cruise with over 600 photos and numerous videos.

It's nice to have the convenience of being able to take hundreds of

photos and numerous videos in a 7-day span, but my opinion is "less is more." What in the world are you going to do with 600 photos. Even if you have the best photo archive in the world, there is not a need to shoot 100 photos a day, of any trip. That is where I have a distinct advantage over the young photographers of today. I learned on film. Film was expensive, and film processing was even more so. We were careful to make sure we had quality and did not lean toward quantity.

I spend a few minutes with my 11 year old grandson who was randomly photographing his friends and his friends and his friends. Had he ever heard the rule of 2/3? What is that BePa? Well Carter, you try to put the eyes of the person on the 2/3 line of your screen. That way you have them framed correctly. I also gave him the quality vs. quantity lecture. One nicely framed, thought out photo will have more of an impression than 20 photos "shot from the hip" as we used to say in our photo class.

My last lesson in Rod Wilson Photography 101 was: Look at what you are shooting and decide if it truly is going to be a great photo. My rule in shooting nature photos is: It better be a WOW!!!! or it will just be a very average photo. Sunsets are great, but we see everything in 3-D. Camera see everything as a flat image.

I don't want to discourage anyone from taking photos. But there is another rule that I live by. Who, besides me, is going to enjoy this photo? Why ask that question? Because what I enjoy may not have the same meaning to anyone else. Always push yourself to improve the photos you take. In almost every case you should probably move closer. My photography teacher at the University of North Dakota hammered on us to fill the viewfinder with the real photo, and only use a zoom lens if needed.

I also believe that there is that saying about being in the right place at the right time. Good photos are often captured by accident. Keep your eyes open. Teach your kids, and grandkids, the basics of photography. And remember that a good photo, tells the complete story.

BEST KEPT SECRET

A shout out to Oak Park theater and their famous movie theater popcorn. Stop in and see AI and take a bag home. I also hear that he will custom pop popcorn for parties. And folks, Oak Park Theater has the right product at the right price. Buttered or not, you will love Oak Park popcorn, fresh from popper.

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

Middle age is when you're grateful that the shower fogs the mirror.

Where is Fort Rice?



**UPSIDE DOWN
 UNDER**
 MARVIN BAKER

A little known Army fort in a place most people know little about, had a big part in the settling of the western Dakota Territory.

Fort Rice was established on July 7, 1864 by Gen. Alfred Sully north of the mouth of the Cannonball River and south of the Heart River's mouth. In other words, the fort was in present-day Morton County, approximately 30 miles south of Mandan.

During the summer of 1864, the Sioux in Dakota Territory were angered by the military expeditions that had attacked Dakota, Lakota, and Yanktonai bands the previous year. In response, the tribes increased their attacks on northern plains transportation routes, including steamboats traveling on the Upper Missouri River.

That summer Sully brought 3,500 troops to the area to punish the Sioux and to force them onto reservations and to strengthen peace in the territory.

The fort was abandoned in November 1878 when Fort Yates was established on the Standing Rock Reservation. Today nothing remains there except foundation depressions and an historic sign with limited information.

But in its short history of only 14 years, a lot happened there. Between 1871 and 1873, expeditions escorted parties surveying the route of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Four companies of the Fort Rice contingent of the 7th Cavalry accompanied Lt. Col. George Custer on the Black Hills expedition in 1874 and two companies from Fort Rice fought in the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Numerous meetings were held and treaties were signed on the premises. Although tensions remained high for the entire duration of the fort's usage, it served as an invaluable outpost in the frontier for the U.S. military.

Having that Cavalry presence nearby meant that travelers, railway surveyors and workmen were safe from ambushes from indigenous peoples and wildlife.

The winter of 1864-65 was incredibly difficult, however. Eighty-one men died, mostly from scurvy as a result of malnutrition. Seven of the 81 losses resulted from attacks from Lakota tribesmen, who believed the property where the fort sat and its 112,000 acres, rightfully belonged to the Lakota people.

Legally speaking, their belief was true because the land Fort Rice sat on was a direct violation of the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie. Lakota leaders demanded the removal of the fort.

Prominent Sioux leaders including Sitting Bull, led attacks against the fort's supplies and livestock in hopes of making the Soldiers of the 30th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment abandon the fort.

Other notable history at Fort Rice included the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie, also called the Sioux Treaty of 1868. It brought 50,000 Sioux to Fort Rice for the signing of specific articles of the treaty, with Running Antelope and Two Bears attending. Sitting Bull was not there, but one of his representatives was in attendance. Think about that number! It's the size of current-day Minot.

In addition to official documentation, some of the Soldiers penned their own history while stationed at Fort Rice. Their version of history was what they witnessed and was written in their journals.

As an example, they wrote about surveillance on the tribal people in the area. Some of them were involved in attacks and fought in combat, revealing the details of those battles.

The Soldiers also wrote

about "terrible" infestations of grasshoppers during the summer months. They said there were grasshoppers everywhere and for a time, there was no escape from them.

Long after the fort was abandoned, an F5 tornado hit the community of Fort Rice on May 29, 1953 with 260-318-mile-per-

hour winds. The tornado killed two people, injured 20 and wiped out numerous buildings including a Catholic church, a general store and half the local school.

The tornado crossed the Missouri River and moved northeast into Emmons County, dissipating before it reached Moffit in Burleigh County.

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U.S. AIR FORCE GRAPHIC BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENDRA A. RANSUM

SENIOR AIRMAN KYLE WILSON, MINOT AIR FORCE BASE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. – Growing up in the foothills of North Carolina, I developed a love of fishing from an early age. Some of my fondest childhood memories are of days spent out on Lake Wylie with my dad and uncle reeling largemouth bass, catfish and crappie into our boat. For those who have never visited the Tar Heel State – whether you’re in the Appalachian mountains, on the coastline of the Outer Banks or somewhere in between, there’s always a body of water close by to cast your line into.

When I received orders to Minot AFB two years ago, I began researching things I could do to make the most of my time stationed here. To my delight, I read that North Dakota boasts some of the finest fishing in the continental United States; and soon discovered that to be the case.

During my time in Minot, I’ve enjoyed many weekends on Lake Darling and Lake Sakakawea catching northern pike, walleye and the occasional bullhead catfish. But there comes a time every year where all of the lakes are frozen over; not good if you’re a fisherman – or so I thought.

Recently, I heard about a resort on Devils Lake, N.D. that offers the unique experience of ice fishing; something I had heard of people doing up here in the Midwest, but it seemed very foreign to me.

In North Carolina, if you were to mention the idea of going out onto a frozen lake and ice fishing you’re likely to catch a funny look or two; but as they say, when in Rome, do as the Romans do. I decided to seize the opportunity.

I was joined by Senior Airman Kendra A. Ransum, 5th Bomb Wing public affairs specialist, who has been fishing occasionally, but considers herself more of a journeyman at the sport.

“I’ve been fishing from time to time over the years,” said Ransum. “I know how to tie a hook on, but I certainly wouldn’t consider myself an expert.”

Upon arriving at the resort,

we were greeted by Landen Blanchfield, Devils Lake ice fishing guide, who provided us with some gear and told us to follow him in our vehicle out onto the ice.

As we left the familiar asphalt roadway and our tires began crunching over the ice, I began to nervously roll my window down.

“We may need to make a quick escape,” I joked to Ransum with a smile.

Soon enough, we arrived at our home for the day – a small shack on the ice, known as an ice house. It was comfortably warm inside and there were holes drilled through the floor and ice, ready for fishing. With rods in hand, we dropped our lines into the frigid water hoping for a bite from whatever lurked beneath.

“You want to drop your line about a foot above the bottom of the lake bed and gently move it up and down to attract the fish,” Blanchfield instructed, gesturing to the fishing sonar, a gadget that let us see the precise depth of our lines.

Curious, I asked Blanchfield what types of fish people commonly catch while ice fishing on Devils Lake. He explained that the lake is famously known as the ‘Perch Capital of North America’, and that yellow perch are mainly what ice anglers target there; but it’s also home to walleye and northern pike.

Over the following hours, we repeatedly brought our lines up to the surface empty-handed with our bait stolen. Unfortunately, on this day, the fish had won.

“Man, I really hoped we were going to catch something,” said Ransum.

“That’s why they call it fishing, not catching,” I grinned.

I couldn’t help but imagine a school of yellow perch just below the ice, gleefully celebrating the feast we were providing for them as they gracefully evaded our hooks time and time again.

“Ice fishing is really hit or miss,” explained Blanchfield. “It all depends where the fish are located on the lake that particular day and

if your ice house is in the right spot.”

Deciding to call it a day, Ransum, Landen Blanchfield and I packed up our gear and headed back to the resort. There, I got the chance to speak with Kyle Blanchfield, the owner of the resort and Landen’s father.

“Once you get bitten by the ice fishing bug, for a lot of people, it becomes a passion,” said Kyle Blanchfield. “Every winter, there are people from all over the Midwest who drive 12-plus hours to come here and go ice fishing.”

Something I commonly hear about Minot from fellow Airmen is that there’s not much to do in the winter. For anyone who feels that way, I encourage them to give ice fishing a try.

“I’m sure if you’re from a warmer area and you’re stationed up here, during the winter, you might be wondering ‘what can I do,’” said Kyle Blanchfield. “I always tell people to embrace it because you’ve gotta find stuff to do outside; you can’t be stuck in the house all winter.”

I found myself reflecting on something Landen Blanchfield had shared with us earlier that day. He said ice fishing is more of a social experience; an opportunity for people to come together, spend time with each other, and connect – and he’s right.

Throughout our time in the ice house that day, Blanchfield, Ransum and I shared stories, laughs and a sense of camaraderie; and I can definitely say I got to know both of them better through it all.

While we didn’t catch anything, I still really enjoyed the experience and thanked the Blanchfields for the opportunity. It was a one-of-a-kind experience that I probably wouldn’t have had if not for being stationed in Minot, and I would love to try it again sometime. Even though the fish claimed victory that day, the battle is far from over – they won’t have the last laugh. I’ll be back.



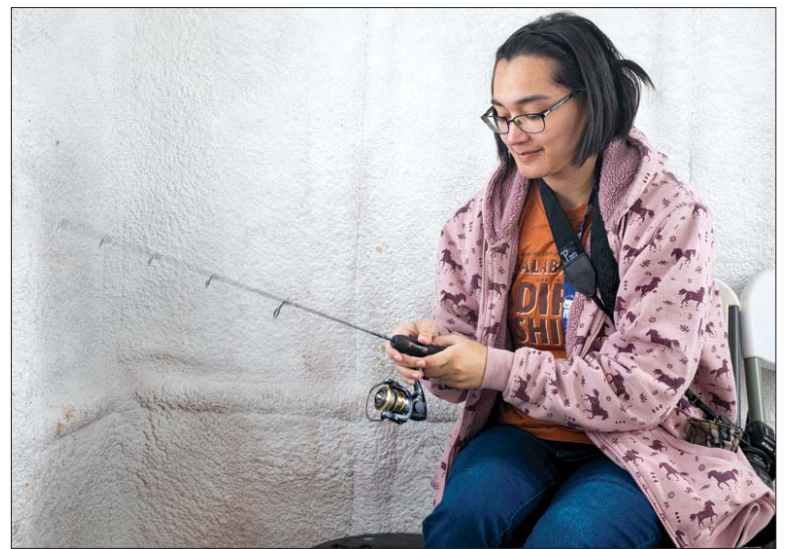
Senior Airman Kyle Wilson, 5th Bomb Wing public affairs specialist, ice fishes on Devils Lake, North Dakota, Feb. 25, 2025. Wilson is an experienced fisherman, but this was his first time ice fishing.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENDRA A. RANSUM



A white bass is displayed after being caught on Devils Lake, North Dakota, Feb. 25, 2025. White bass are a common species of fish native to many lakes in North Dakota.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENDRA A. RANSUM



Senior Airman Kendra A. Ransum, 5th Bomb Wing public affairs specialist, ice fishes on Devils Lake, North Dakota, Feb. 25, 2025. Ransum fished on occasion previously, but this was her first time ice fishing.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KYLE WILSON



Minnows are kept inside a container to be used as fishing bait on Devils Lake, North Dakota, Feb. 25, 2025. Minnows are a popular fishing bait used to attract fish.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KYLE WILSON



An ice fishing shack sits on the ice at Devils Lake, North Dakota, Feb. 25, 2025. These shacks provide shelter and warmth to ice fishermen during the ice fishing season in North Dakota, where temperatures are consistently below zero.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENDRA A. RANSUM



A fishing sonar is used for ice fishing on Devils Lake, North Dakota, Feb. 25, 2025. The sonar was used to help locate fish and determine the depth at which they were swimming.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENDRA A. RANSUM



An ice fishing hole is drilled into the ice on Devils Lake, North Dakota, Feb. 25, 2025. At the time, the ice on Devils Lake was about 30 inches thick. The ice on the lake needs to be at least 4 inches thick for a person to safely walk on it.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN KYLE WILSON

New Global Household Goods Contract Sparks Controversy Amid Promised Reforms

KERIANNE NOEL, NORTHERN SENTRY

It has been said that moving is one of the top stressors in a person's life, and yet military families are forced to do it multiple times in a career. Recent changes to how these moves are managed may make this common stressor more complicated. As of January 23, 2025 PCSing will be managed under the new \$6.2 billion Global Household Goods Contract (GHC) which was awarded to Houston-based HomeSafe Alliance, LLC on November 4, 2021. Though awarded in 2021, it faced legal challenges and process delays that prevented it from being phased in until last April.

United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) is the major command that oversees the contract and is ultimately responsible for the over 300,000 moves of DoD and Coast Guard families. Under the previous Defense Personal Property Program (DPS), the

government contracted moves to over 900 different companies. However, according to Andy Dawson, Defense Personal Property Management Office Director, customer satisfaction had reached a low of 77%. Plagued by complaints such as months-long delays, damaged or missing personal property, poor communication and a cumbersome claims management process it drew the attention of lawmakers after a particularly painful summer PCS cycle in 2018.

HomeSafe Alliance, the GHC contractor, promised new tools and practices to avoid these pitfalls: an app to track goods electronically, a move counselor assigned to each family to serve as a single point of contact throughout their move and a promise of 24/7 customer support. In short, having a single contractor handle military moves meant modernization and

accountability. However, with up to \$19 billion being funneled through a single contractor, the transition to the GHC has not been embraced by everyone in the moving industry.

HomeSafe Alliance appears to be struggling to build necessary subcontractor capacity to perform successfully. Industry groups such as Movers for America have called for a "strategic pause" on the GHC. Their complaints include a fee structure that would cause them to lose money on jobs as well as more cumbersome legal requirements that did not apply under DPS.

Danielle Hahami, a manager for the American Trucking Association (ATA) Moving and Storage Conference noted that "[The Movers] don't want to sign up for something [where] they don't know what it is they're getting themselves into." She went on to share that the



A major PCS Milestone: Household Goods Delivery Day. Is everything accounted for and intact? If so families can finally relax. For others, it might mark the beginning of a long and laborious claims process.

contractors they represent have helped move military families for many years, care about them as a customer base, and don't want to be left behind by the new system.

When asked to provide a statement, USTRANSCOM noted that "the legacy system has complexities that over time disproportionately benefited the moving industry at the expense of our military members." But whether it is an industry that

cannot or refuses to modernize, it is ultimately the service members and their families who suffer. This could take the form of less experienced contractors signing on to work with HomeSafe and resultant performance issues or a lack of network capacity in certain regions, such as Minot. And if there isn't a subcontractor willing to move a military member, they may be forced to move themselves.



Ellen Prescott's Household Goods arriving in January of this year. PCSing in the winter adds the additional challenge of unloading in Minot's frigid climate.



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POLICE OFFICER POSITION AVAILABLE

The City of Garrison, North Dakota is accepting applications to fill an immediate opening for a **FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER.**

Applicants must currently possess a North Dakota peace officers license or be in the process of obtaining a license. Have a valid driver's license and be able to pass a background check.

This is a salaried, full-time position with a pay range of \$43,000 to \$58,000 DOE with benefits and moving stipend. The city pays 85% for single/family health and dental plan.

Applications and job description can be obtained at www.cityofgarrisonnd.com, or by contacting garrisoncity@restel.com, or calling 701-463-2296.



The City of Garrison is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

APPLY

Please submit cover letter, resume, copy of law enforcement training record, and completed city application to Chief Travis Tesch, P.O. Box 459, Garrison, ND 58540.

Military families have strong opinions on personally procured moves (PPMs). Some avoid them, while others prefer control over their belongings. However, the new system seems to make PPMs less appealing financially. A change.org petition (found at <https://www.change.org/p/military-families-forced-to-new-pcs-contract-amid-diminishing-self-move-rates>) circulated around social media in January of this year that raised red flags for military members. Started by Megan Harless, a military spouse and PCS reform advocate, the petition cited numerous examples where, under the GHC, families

were being reimbursed up to 40% less for personally procured moves. Additionally, Facebook groups such as Harless's "PCS Like a Pro" have shared stories where families ended up having to pay out of pocket for these moves because the government's reimbursement under the new Milmove system did not align with the actual costs incurred. These complaints seem to echo what subcontractor's have stated about HomeSafe's now lower fee structure.

Scott Ross, Deputy Public Affairs Officer for USTRANSCOM, noted that "prices referenced for PPMs are NOT determined by

HomeSafe." In accordance with the Joint Travel Regulation, the government reimburses service members what it would cost the government to pay a contractor to perform the move. However, as Harless has rightly pointed out, HomeSafe is now the only contractor handling these moves, therefore their rates are the only thing informing the government rate.

Issues with the new contract extend beyond a less profitable PPM rate. They include the same problems that the GHC was meant to fix: poor communication, lack of transparency, and stories about contractors simply not showing up to do the work. These experiences are in stark contrast to the multiple positive reviews featured on HomeSafe's website, which are based on the Government administered Customer Satisfaction Survey (CSS.)

While it may be reassuring to hear that not every moving experience has been difficult, it should be noted that as of February 19th, HomeSafe had only completed just over 1,400 moves. This is a fraction of the nearly 200,000 moves they will be expected to handle in the coming months of peak PCS season. They are expected to take on all CONUS moves by this summer and OCONUS moves in the Fall. In January USTRANSCOM issued a "show-cause" notice, asking HomeSafe to account for performance issues. According to the Federal News Network, Ken Brennan, USTRANSCOM's director of acquisitions confirmed that this was due to concerns related to missed pick-ups and ability to

access moving industry capacity. The problems with the GHC are quickly gaining wider attention. On February 26, Senator Mark Warner of Virginia reached out to USTRANSCOM requesting clarification on the many concerns raised by his constituents. Two days later, the Army and Air Force opted to switch any moves with less than a 21 day lead time back over to the legacy DPS system.

It remains to be seen how these issues will impact MAFB's summer PCS cycle. When asked to provide more information on how these changes have affected moves to and from MAFB, 5th LRS, which oversees the base's household goods/transportation office, was not able to provide clear answers. SMSgt Appleby, Deployment & Distribution Flight Chief shared

that, "a successful move is based on communicating with the appropriate agencies and keeping your supervisors up to date on [your] move." He encouraged service members to come see his office as soon as they receive their orders. He also emphasized the importance of completing customer surveys, particularly at the end of a move, and speaking with a supervisor if an issue arises rather than suffering in silence.

For more specifics on the GHC and how it might impact an upcoming move, members can visit the Global Household Goods Contract information page at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/millife-guides/ustranscom-global-household-goods-contract/>



Many families opt to move all or some of their household goods themselves via a Personally Procured Move or PPM (formerly known as a DITY move.)



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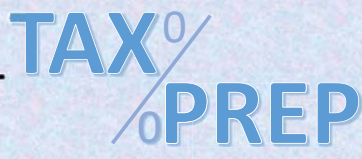
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Friday, March 7: 12 noon-9:00pm
Saturday, March 8: 10:00am-midnight
Alpine Glow Fest!
Sunday, March 9: 10:00am to 5:00pm

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You Nominated— Now It's Time to VOTE!

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY



The MAFB community has spoken, and now the real fun begins! It's time to cast your votes for the Best of Minot AFB Awards 2025!

Last year's competition was intense, and this year is shaping up to be even BIGGER. So don't just vote—rally your favorites, tag them, share the excitement, and make sure your top picks come out on top!

What's on the line? The bragging rights for the BEST spots on and off base, chosen by YOU!

- Best Local WINTER Activity/ Recreation
- Best Local SUMMER Activity/ Recreation
- Best Day Trip Location (Within 4 Hours of MAFB)
- Best School On or Off Base
- Best Local Nighttime Hotspot

Every vote counts, so don't miss out! Let's find out who truly deserves the title of Best of Minot AFB 2025!

Online Voting Closes March 20!



Vote NOW for:

- Best Food Place on Base
- Best Hangout on Base
- Best Restaurant in Minot

<p>EVERYDAY HAPPY HOUR • 3PM – 6PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2 off All Apps \$3 House Wine & Domestic Pints \$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) Sunday BRUNCH (11am-2pm) \$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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11 MAR **MINOT TASTES AND CREATIONS MARKET**
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
 Dakota Square Mall,
 2400 10th Street SW

Your favorites from local summer markets are joining together to continue the fun. Expect choices of sweets, treats, honey, crafted items, unique gifts, jewelry, proteins, household items, breads, winter produce, this season's onions & potato's and more!
 These small businesses can't wait to meet you near JC Penney square and the Sleep Inn entrance.



For more information:
 Facebook/ Minot Tastes & Creations Market/ 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

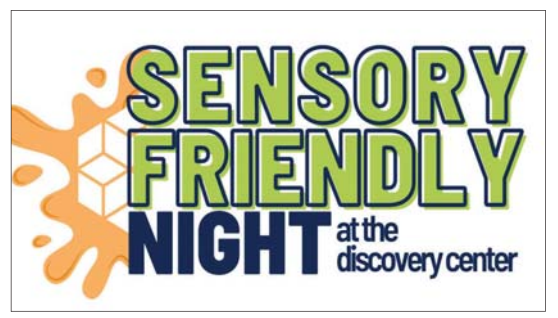
The Minot Fun Zone is being provided free of charge to all area residents through the Minot Park District. The bouncy castles are provided in partnership with the Minot Area Community Foundation.



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

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Minot's Deceptive Spring: Winter Pretends to End!

HANNAH WATERS, NORTHERN SENTRY

North Dakota is no stranger to the unpredictable nature of its seasonal transitions. While many people look forward to the arrival of warm air and sunshine, this region often experiences a phenomenon known as "false spring." This term refers to a brief period of warmer-than-usual temperatures in late February to early April followed by a return to more frigid conditions. According to WeatherAPI.com and Forecast. Weather. Gov, over the past three years Minot has experienced several instances of false spring, each shaped by varying climatic events that bring brief relief from the harsh winter only to be quickly followed by a return to snow and freezing temperatures. Is this what MAFB is currently experiencing? What can history tell us about the likelihood of this recurrence.

Let's go back to the year 2022. In late January, temperatures surged to unexpectedly warm levels, with highs reaching 40°F. These warmer temperatures led to significant snowmelt, offering

the hope that winter was coming to an end. Unfortunately, this break was short-lived. Just as quickly as the warmth arrived, a cold snap came back with a vengeance. By February, temperatures plummeted to a chilling low of -2°F, reinforcing the unpredictable nature of Minot's late-winter weather. The sharp contrast between the temporary warmth and the subsequent cold was a perfect example of a false spring, where the promise of an early spring is dashed by the return of wintery conditions. This was further demonstrated by the Minot Easter Blizzard of 2022. The week before Easter, April 12-14th, 2022, Minot was hit by a heavy snowstorm, dumping over 10 inches of snow in some areas. The blizzard brought a return of harsh winter conditions, dramatically highlighting how unpredictable Minot's spring can be. For many, that Easter Blizzard was a stark reminder that in North Dakota, the calendar date often bears little resemblance to the actual weather. Staff Sergeant

Select Derius Thompson from the 69 Bomber Generation Squadron explained his version of False Spring as "Winter Junior", which is a less intense version of the peak of winter. "False Spring is just North Dakota being excited about Winter Jr's visitation."

Minot's winter of 2023 began with typical cold, averaging 25°F in March. Brief warm spells led to rapid snowmelt and early hopes for spring, but like in 2022, temperatures soon dropped, showcasing the false spring phenomenon. This pattern highlighted Minot's unpredictable weather, with frequent shifts in temperature reminding residents that spring wasn't here to stay.

Looking back to last year and the winter of 2024, Minot residents were likely hoping for a more consistent spring. March started with temperatures averaging a promising 36°F,



SrA Blake Silvis (5FSS) and SSgt Katherine Silvis (5CES) enjoying the warm weather by exploring Minot!

which was slightly milder than the previous year. Later in the month, a significant warm period pushed temperatures well above freezing, leading to even more noticeable snowmelt, with a high temperature of 56°F. Was spring actually on the way? However, as with the years before it, this warmer phase didn't last long. With a significant 20° drop in temperature, a return to colder conditions followed shortly after, reinforcing the ongoing cycle of false spring, solidifying the idea that, in North Dakota, spring is never guaranteed.

Minot's experiences with false

spring over the past three years highlights the region's volatile weather patterns. While spring may seem just around the corner during these fleeting warm spells, residents are reminded that in North Dakota the transition from winter to spring is rarely smooth. As Minot moves through another likely false spring, don't put away those parkas and wool gloves just yet. These temperature fluctuations can be expected to continue, but make sure to get out and enjoy the warm weather... while it lasts!



April 14, 2022 after the blizzard. Some places had up to 4 feet of snow.

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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

Home & Garden Show celebrates 50th Anniversary

MINOT ASSOCIATION OF BUILDERS



The Minot Association of Builders (MAB) is a non-profit trade organization that was established in 1965. Our goal is to promote the home building industry, home ownership and affordable housing in Minot, ND and the surrounding areas. MAB represents the diversity of the building industry with members including builders, remodelers, developers, suppliers, manufacturers, architects, engineers, real estate companies, mortgage lenders, and many others.

This year is our 50th Home and Garden Show at the North Dakota State Fair. This show hosts many of the building industry specialists with over 100 vendor booths. If you are looking to remodel your existing home, we have people you can talk to. Looking to purchase a new home, we have experts to help you with that too.

Since this is our 50th anniversary, we wanted to go BIG! We have 3 large giveaways at the show: a 4-piece LG Kitchen appliance package from TJ Appliance, a 1-2 person Sauna from Magic City Home Leisure, and 20% off materials and labor (up to \$7500) to build a deck from MUUS Lumber.

You will also have a chance to win 1 of 3 prizes by purchasing raffle tickets for just \$10 a piece. First prize is a 6' x 8' chicken

coop, 2nd prize is a hydroponics kit, 3rd prize is a \$250 gift card to Lowe's Garden Center.

Another great giveaway is at The Title Team's hourly cash giveaway! They will be giving away \$50 every hour starting 1pm on Friday and 11am on Saturday. Who couldn't use more money??

Don't forget to stop by our homestead booth: Lexi Lou will have sourdough starters, hydroponics and herbs, farm fresh flowers and eggs. There will also be a make and take area that will be fun for all ages.

The show has many fun things for kids too: Ready Builders Lego competition is Friday 6pm, and Saturday 10:30am and 1:30pm. The first 500 kids that come

through the doors of the show will get a free hard hat and foam hammer from Future Builders! Other fun activities are the indoor sandbox and a coloring area.

In the center of the show is the Dacotah Bank Patio Pub where you can get a nice cold beverage and relax. There should be something for everyone.

The show is Friday March 14th noon-7pm, and Saturday 10am-4pm at the NDSF. The cost to enter the show is \$5.00 (kids 12 and under are free) and if you show your military ID at the door, you will get \$1 off your entrance fee.

Can't wait to see you at the MAB Home and Garden Show!!

Minot AFB Intramural Basketball



Monday Feb 24
 5 FSS W(95) VS OG FIRE L(56)
 91 MSFS L(44) VS 891 MSFS W(46)
 705 MUNS L(32) VS 5 MXS W(47)

Tuesday Feb 25
 5 FSS W(64) VS 91 MSFS L(63)
 891 MSFS W(07) VS 705 MUNS F(Forfeit)
 OG FIRE L(32) VS 5 MXS W(34)

Wednesday Feb 26
 5 MXS L(43) VS 891 MSFS W(61)
 91 MSFS W(71) VS OG FIRE L(48)
 5 FSS W(87) VS 705 MUNS L(46)

Thursday Feb 27
 91 MSFS W(64) VS 5 MXS L(48)
 705 MUNS L(37) VS OG FIRE W(46)

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BABY BOY BORN ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025 TO: EMMA MOIT AND STEPHEN COUNTRYMAN KENMARE, ND

BABY GIRL BORN ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025 TP: GABBREEZELA SHOFFNER AND BRANDEN WARD MINOT, ND

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

MINOT AFB PHARMACY

How YOU can communicate with US!

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



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Saturday: CLOSED
 Sunday: CLOSED



For the latest information on MDG closures and news, please visit our Facebook page at: facebook.com/5thMedicalGroup



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!

Winter Photo Contest Wrap-Up: Stunning Entries & Exciting Winners!

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

The 2024/2025 Wintery Photo Contest was a huge success! We received nearly 100 breathtaking and fun winter photos from the Minot AFB community. While we're sad to see the contest end (and the snow fun along with it), warmer days are ahead! Now for the winners! Sonia Bries was randomly selected as the grand prize winner of the Bottineau Winter

Park Family Five Pack—her family was thrilled! As a special recognition, the Northern Sentry staff selected our favorite entry. With so many incredible submissions, it was tough, but we chose Staci Haynes' stunning shot of the Sisu Lantern Stroll. She'll receive a Downtown Minot gift card for her beautiful work. And one more surprise—

we've selected a photo for the Winter Guide 2025/2026 cover! But we're keeping that reveal under wraps for now. Thank you to everyone who participated! We can't wait for the Summer Photo Contest launching in May. Stay tuned for more from Northern Sentry—Sharing Your Minot AFB Adventure!



The Winner of the Northern Sentry Photo Contest: Bries Family- Sonia, Aaron, Scarlett, Avery, and Vaida out snow tubing at the golf course hill!

Staff Favorite: SiSu Ice Lantern Stroll at the Scandinavian Heritage Park Submitted by Staci Haynes



MSgt Aaron Bries of the 23rd Bomber Group Squadron, along with his daughter Vaida, proudly accepted the Wintery Photo Contest award—a family 5-pack to Bottineau Winter Park.

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A LOOK BACK

THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

FIRST FLIGHT OF SIKORSKY HH-53B HELICOPTER
MARCH 15, 1967

On March 15, 1967, the "Super Jolly Green Giant," or the Sikorsky HH-53B helicopter, made its initial flight. At the time, the HH-53B was the largest, most powerful, and the fastest helicopter in the United States Air Force. The maiden flight of 66-14428 took place in Stratford, Connecticut and was piloted by James R. Wright and Patrick A. Guinn. The helicopters were then sent to the 37th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida and Vietnam to perform combat search and rescue missions, as well as special operations. The aircraft were key participants in the Son Tay Raid, where joint military forces flew a covert night mission to a POW camp in Vietnam to rescue American prisoners. By 1988, the HH-53s were modified to a new special operations configuration. In 2007, 66-14428 was retired to The Boneyard in Tucson, Arizona, and all of the models were withdrawn by September of 2008.

Information courtesy of: thisdayinaviation.com / history.net

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MILEAGE-BASED VEHICLE MAINTENANCE INTERVALS

Maintenance is an essential component of responsible vehicle ownership. Routine maintenance can help discover problems before they escalate into potentially costly issues. Maintenance also keeps vehicles running smoothly, making them more enjoyable to drive and extending their life expectancy.

Various factors can help to determine how often drivers should change their vehicles' fluids and take them in for tuneups. Such variables include how frequently a vehicle is driven, the type of driving (city or rural) drivers do and how many miles are on the car. However, drivers can still rely on this basic car maintenance schedule, courtesy of Advance Auto Parts, to serve as a guide.

3,000 miles/3 months

Advance Auto Parts notes that monthly fluid checks typically are unnecessary with newer vehicles, though older vehicles should be inspected for leaks once a month. Among the fluids to check after every 3,000 miles or three months, whichever comes first, are:

- Engine oil level
- Windshield washer fluid
- Coolant
- Brake fluid level
- Transmission fluid
- Power steering fluid

Drivers also can use 3,000 miles or three months as a benchmark to check tire pressure, hoses and belts. Many vehicles now display tire pressure for each tire on the dashboard, and drivers should pay attention to those

numbers and put air in their tires when necessary. When inspecting hoses, touch them to make sure they're not leaking and bulging. Hoses should be a little flexible, especially when they are warm.

5,000 miles/6 months

Oil and oil filters should be changed at this interval. In addition, this is a good time to rotate tires and inspect lights to make sure they're still operating at peak capacity. Drivers also can check their cabin and engine air filters and replace them if need be. Changing these filters is a simple DIY project, and drivers can find an assortment of YouTube tutorials to help them complete these projects. Wiper blades also can be inspected around this time or whenever drivers suspect the blades aren't operating at peak capacity. Replacing wiper blades is another simple DIY project that drivers can complete in a few minutes.

10,000 miles/12 months

Advance Auto Parts notes that synthetic oil is typically used in cars made since 2010. Each manufacturer is different, and drivers should check their manuals for recommendations. Synthetic oil and filters in vehicles that use synthetic oil is typically changed every 10,000 miles or 12 months, whichever comes first. Once a year drivers should ask their mechanics to check the alignment on their vehicles and the condition of their brakes.

Routine maintenance can keep vehicles running strong for years on end.



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AMUR TIGER

CREATURE FEATURES

- Once known as Siberian Tigers, Amur Tigers are the largest member of the cat family.
- Tigers are the only large wild cats with stripes. These stripes are camouflage that aid them while hunting. The stripe patterns of a tiger are not symmetrical from one side of the animal to the other. Their stripes are like our fingerprints.
- Amur Tigers have "built-in" ways to conquer the cold. They have a layer of fat on their flanks and belly, that helps protect them from the elements. Their thick, long coats also help keep them warm. And like most tigers, Amur Tigers have a ruff of fur around their neck and extra fur on the paws to protect them from the cold snow like built-in "snow boots".


Fact File

Life Span	10 - 15 years
Weight	400 - 675 pounds
Head and Body Length	5 - 9 feet
Tail Length	2 - 3 feet
Tail Length	3.5 feet
Top Speed	40 mph
Wild Diet	Omnivore Carnivore Herbivore Deer, Pigs, Water Buffalo, Antelope

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91st Security Force Group first-ever
Cold Weather Defender Course.
NATALY ZARRELLA PHOTOS



The Security Forces Group Newest and “Coolest” Training Course

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING SITE, GARRISON, N.D.- The 91st Security Forces Group (SFG) at Minot Air Force Base recently launched its first-ever Cold Weather Defender Course, a comprehensive training program designed to equip Security Forces members with the skills necessary to survive and thrive in the unforgiving cold of North Dakota. The first two groups of Defenders attended the three day course in February 2025, putting their skills to the test in some of the most extreme weather conditions.

This new course emphasized the importance of mastering the Airmen’s issued cold weather gear. The goal was not only to familiarize them with their equipment but to test their ability to endure and navigate the harsh conditions typical of the region. During the training, participants faced plummeting temperatures, wildlife, and the mental and physical challenges of surviving in extreme environments.

Colonel James Slaton, the 91st SFG Commander, explained that the purpose of this training was to focus on survival in North Dakota’s harsh cold weather, teaching Defenders how to properly use their gear and what actions to take if they ever find themselves in a situation where survival is

essential. He emphasized that he wanted the Defenders to not only survive, but to be confident in their ability to navigate and thrive in the environment. Col Slaton also provided further insight into the training process, which was divided into three stages. On the first day, members learned how to build basic shelters and find water in the environment. The second stage involved refining shelter-building, fire-starting, and food-gathering techniques. Finally, the last stage focused on perfecting survival methods and learning how to signal for help using available resources, including fire.

Senior Airman Jakob Simpkins, the most junior enlisted member in the group assigned to the 91st Missile Security Forces Squadron, found the course invaluable. “I had very little prior knowledge about surviving in the cold,” SrA Simpkins admitted. “I had no idea how to survive in these temperatures, but now I know how to build shelters, make survival knots, and even cook and boil water safely. It’s been an amazing experience.”

Technical Sergeant Bryan Robinson of the 791st Missile Security Force Squadron reflected on the experience, emphasizing the importance of making the training as authentic as possible.

While participants were allowed to bring additional items, Robinson stressed that the focus remained on using the gear issued by the military. “In this course, with the gear we were issued, we learned how to build primitive shelters (A-frame), start a fire, and survive using only the resources we had,” he said.

Staff Sergeant Nancy Veloz from the 91st Missile Security Forces Squadron, who had no prior experience in camping or outdoor survival said that the course was an eye-opening experience. “I didn’t know what to expect, but I’m glad I attended,” Veloz shared. “I learned so much about how to use the gear I’m issued and how to survive in the elements if needed.”

The training course was led by Security Forces Defenders assigned to the 91st Missile Security Operations Squadron, many of whom had previously attended Arctic Survival School in Alaska. Staff Sergeant Steven Smallacombe, the lead instructor for the course, shared his experiences and explained how the lessons learned in Alaska were brought back and incorporated into the training at Minot AFB. “We wanted to give our Defenders the best possible training using the lessons we learned from the



Cold Weather Defender Course Day 2: Squad 3 consisting of members from all three tactical squadrons within the 91st Security Forces Group.

Arctic course,” he said.

SSgt Smallacombe emphasized the importance of bringing this specialized training to Minot AFB, noting that it was driven by Colonel Slaton’s vision. “Colonel Slaton, the 91st SFG Commander, wanted our Defenders to not just survive in the North Dakota environment but to be comfortable in it. He doesn’t want them to be intimidated by the cold.”

The unpredictable weather in North Dakota played a crucial role in the course’s success. For the second group of Defenders who attended the course last week temperatures were in the 30s. However, the week for the group of Defenders that attended the course the week prior, temperature plummeted to nearly -40°F, providing varied winter conditions to truly test the limits of the Defenders’ gear and survival skills. According to SSgt Smallacombe, “We trained in -40 degree weather last week. The

members were provided all the training they needed to survive, and by following instructions, the course went smoothly with minimal injury.”

The 91st SFG also worked closely with the 54th Helicopter Squadron assigned to Minot AFB to incorporate rescue maneuvers into the training. This partnership added an important element of realistic rescue operations to the course, ensuring that Defenders are prepared for any eventuality in the field.

The Cold Weather Defender Course marks an important milestone for Minot AFB’s Security Forces, preparing personnel for the unique challenges posed by the North Dakota environment. With the continued commitment to survival training, the 91st SFG is helping its Defenders build the mental and physical resilience necessary to excel in even the most extreme conditions.



54th Helicopter Squadron with the 91st Security Forces Group incorporate rescue maneuvers into the Cold Weather Defender Training.



Senior Airman Jakob Simpkins from the 91st Security Forces Squadron the most junior enlisted member to be part of the Cold Weather Defender Course.



1st Lieutenant Cole Lutt and Squad 2 cooking up their meal during their Cold Weather Defender Training.

5TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON TAKES ON WINTER CHILL

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN KENDRA A. RANSUM

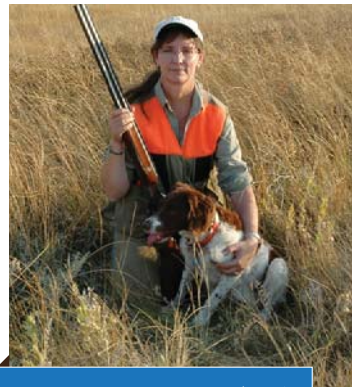


Senior Airman Payton Jones, a 5th Civil Engineer Squadron heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration specialist, puts on an Arc Flash suit while Aaron Puuri, an HVAC maintenance mechanic, prepares the suit's face mask at the Flight Simulation Training building on Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Feb. 19, 2025. The suit is personal protective equipment against possible arc flashes when working on electrical panels.



(From left to right) Airman 1st Class Erik Cruz, Staff Sgt. Micheal Villarreal and Master Sgt. Matthew Yordt, all heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration specialists assigned to the 5th Civil Engineer Squadron, use a voltmeter on an air switch to troubleshoot a furnace at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Feb. 19, 2025. At locations like Minot AFB, where the winters can reach dangerously low temperatures, HVAC/R military and civilian engineers sustain critical heating systems.

U.S. Air Force Capt. Dylan Bechen, the operations flight commander assigned to the 5th Civil Engineer Squadron, looks at a base map in his office on Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Feb. 19, 2025. The 5th CES' heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration specialists provide around-the-clock emergency response and preventative maintenance for 573 facilities for Team Minot.



by Patricia Stockdill

FISHING:

Lake Sakakawea elevation, March 3: 1,830.5 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 21,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.

Devils Lake elevation: 1,449.41 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

Stump Lake elevation: 1,449.33 MSL.

•N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: East end of Lake Sakakawea remains generally slow with occasional walleye. No reports from Devils Lake or north-central area lakes.

•Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Both walleye and perch remain slow with generally scattered success at best. Not many pike reports yet but try working 10 feet and shallower.

•Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: Lake Audubon slow for walleye. No new reports with limited activity on Lake Darling.

•Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: Warm weather bringing out more anglers. Lots of small bluegill with anglers sorting through for keepers. Some small walleye, as well.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: Lots of late season activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea but beware of water on top of the ice. Try 15 to 35 feet around 7 Sisters or deTrobian, Garrison, and Douglas bays. Lake Audubon producing occasional walleye but still generally slow.

•Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Improving walleye activity in the Missouri River tailrace. Some activity on the east end of Lake Sakakawea, as well as Lake Audubon, but limited reports on success.

•Lake Sakakawea, New Town: Van Hook Arm remains slow for walleye with occasional catch.

•Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Pick City:

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.

- Wanted: Garrison Dam Nat'l. Fish Hatchery, Riverdale, is in need of volunteers interested in spending a month - or more - volunteering at the hatchery. Base personnel with interested parents or grandparents who would enjoy the benefit of free camping at the Downstream Campground and be in closer proximity to their family stationed in Minot can email administrative assistant Toni Ganje, (toni_ganje@fws.gov) for information.
- Beware of slumping shorelines with melting snow and runoff due to warm weather. Also watch for water on top of the ice, which can lead to deteriorating ice conditions.
- 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.



Warm weather bringing more activity to the Missouri River tailrace with fair walleye success using jigs and minnows from boats. Also try from shore along the rocks or wing walls. Shoreline access on the east end of Lake Sakakawea will deteriorate rapidly with warm weather so beware of slumping ice and water.

•Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Pike starting to move into the upper end of Lake Sakakawea back bays. Try 10 feet and deeper in bays with feeder creeks using smelt or herring with tip-ups. West end of the lake is muddying up with Missouri River inflows. Try east of Lund's Landing for clearer water. Trenton Lake producing decent crappie activity. Blacktail Dam fair for panfish with nice pike success.

•North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: Some activity on area lakes but no reports.

DOWNHILL SKI REPORTS:

•Big Sky Ski Resort, Big Sky, Mont.: 50-inch base with 32 lifts and 263 runs open.

•Bottineau Winter Park, Bottineau: 12- to 24-inch base with 6 runs, 2 carpets, chair, T-bar, and tubing and terrain parks open.

•Huff Hills Ski Area, Mandan: Closed for the season.

•Terry Peak, Leads, S.D.: 26- to 32-inch base with all lifts, carpet, and 30 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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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution to last week's Crossword puzzle.



SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

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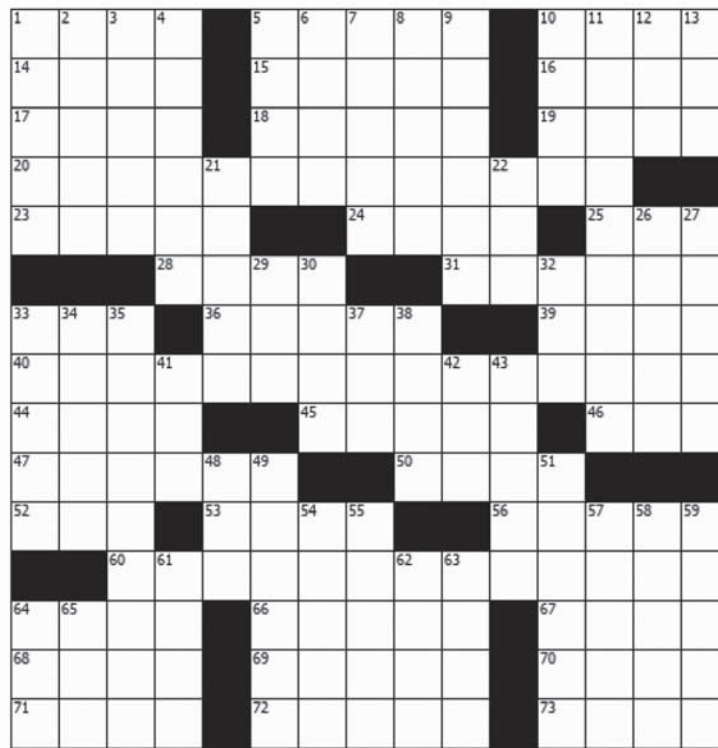
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. That left over
5. Gives everything away
10. Comply
14. She performed with Duke
15. Olive family member
16. Popular moisturizer ingredient
17. Slayer of Adonis
18. Like some angles
19. Phoenix squad
20. Like late-breaking news
23. Places to drill
24. Onion covering
25. A sucker holds it
28. Progenitor
31. Cigar or crown
33. Feathered stole
36. Place to practice driving
39. Christmas drinks
40. Some desserts
44. Guitar part
45. Take the silver?
46. Wily
47. Like a Poe tale
50. Spielberg soldier
52. Leia's love
53. Cardinal point
56. Sports summary
60. Quickly approaching deadline
64. Chester Arthur's middle name
66. Newscaster Couric
67. Site of Perry's victory, 1813
68. It may be read before dinner
69. Spiral-horned antelope
70. "The Lion King" character
71. Little bits of land
72. Schedule snag
73. Former news org.



Down

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Refute | 22. Numero --- | 48. Sitting and singing site |
| 2. Avoid a big wedding | 26. Sabrina, Jill or Kelly | 49. Removed, as a tooth |
| 3. Terrace stone, perhaps | 27. Long-winded | 51. Latest |
| 4. Some picture cards | 29. "Norma ---" | 54. Unoriginal |
| 5. Rainy day feeling | 30. Destinies | 55. Comprehensive |
| 6. Tiny parasites | 32. Genetic stuff | 57. About the time of |
| 7. Reunion folks | 33. Banana cluster | 58. Prima donna's repertoire |
| 8. It's a dyeing art | 34. Gig for Domingo | 59. Jury members |
| 9. Affording a view | 35. State of being in control | 61. Difficult responsibility |
| 10. Kiln for drying hops | 37. Fetched | 62. A Sinatra |
| 11. Social registers | 38. Wide-spouted pitcher | 63. Lamarr of "Samson and Delilah" |
| 12. Longest division of geological time | 41. Likable candidate of the past | 64. "I --- Rock" (Simon and Garfunkel hit) |
| 13. No alternative? | 42. Certain vote | 65. Gift in Maui |
| 21. Show place | 43. --- Boothe Luce | |

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Hof (Norse Pagan)
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Sunday, March 9
10AM, Divine Liturgy

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852-0315

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NATALY ZARRELLA & ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

This article and many more can be found in our 48 page 2024-2025 Winter Guide. The guides are available in racks all across Minot Air Force Base, or can be viewed online at northernentry.com

While winter in Minot, North Dakota, might not be for everyone, it offers countless opportunities for adventure and memorable moments. One of the most enjoyable winter activities in the area is ice skating. Minot is home to several ice rinks, both indoor and outdoor, providing options for everyone to enjoy skating during the winter months. It's a great opportunity to embrace the cold Minot weather, which allows for outdoor ice rinks, something not many places offer. Skating outdoors under the stars and taking in the fresh air adds to the unique experience.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR DOWNTOWN MINOT AND MINOT AIR FORCE BASE

Earlier this year, Minot AFB Homes created its very own ice-skating rink on base. Located right behind the fire pit when coming into base and off Eagle Way, residents can find a large frozen ice patch that is perfect for outdoor ice skating or other ice related activities.

It has been a few months since the rink was filled and since then inclement winter weather has rolled in and caused some changes to the ice. But MAFB residents say that it is still workable. Jenna Turner said, "My husband and kids went [to the rink] about 2 weeks ago. It's a little choppy due to it freezing during high winds. But that is closest to the grass line." Robbyn Gissel said, "They aren't bad but could use a good plow. With the wind there is one small patch to ice on that's usable, but the rest is rocky. My family and I love it because it is just down the road but if they can be cleaned up a little that would be even better!"

According to a source, the Housing Resident Advocate for MAFB Homes has been contacted

and the request to snowplow and do some maintenance on the rink has been put in as of February 2025.

For fans of downtown Minot, Citizen's Alley Ice Rink has long been a popular winter attraction. However, this rink will be closed for the 2024-2025 winter season due to construction. The rink is undergoing major renovations and is expected to reopen as part of a new four-season public plaza in Winter 2025-2026. This exciting new facility will bring year-round entertainment to downtown Minot, offering even more opportunities for recreation and community events.

OUTDOOR ICE RINKS IN MINOT:

Minot Park District operates three outdoor ice rinks for public use, which are perfect for those who love the crisp air and natural beauty of winter skating. These rinks are typically open by late December, depending on weather conditions, as the rinks need to be filled with water, and temperatures must be cold enough to freeze properly becoming ice sheets.

The outdoor rinks are located at:

- Roosevelt School: 619 9th St NE
- Corbett Field: 600 13th St SE
- Polaris Park: 712 26th Ave NW

While these rinks are available for skating at any time at no cost to visitors, warming houses are only open during designated hours for those looking to take a break, change their skates, or warm up with a hot drink at the concession stand for a small price (cash only). The warming houses are open during the following hours:

- Monday to Friday: 4:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: 12:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Visitors may bring their own ice skates to any rink, and for those needing rentals, skates are available for \$5 (cash only). While there are no age restrictions for skating, children must be

accompanied by a parent or guardian. Skate rentals are only available during warming house business hours.

INDOOR SKATING AT MAYSA ARENA

If you prefer skating indoors or want a break from the cold, head to Maysa Arena, which boasts three indoor ice rinks. As the third-largest ice rink facility in North Dakota, Maysa Arena is a popular destination for public skating. Since the rink hosts various events and hockey practices, be sure to check the arena's website for the latest public skating hours, which vary:

- Public Skating Admission: \$5
- Skate Rentals: \$5

In addition to public skating, Maysa Arena offers a changing area, concession stand and a Private Party Room for those looking to celebrate on the ice. Their Party Package costs \$228 and includes skate rentals for up to 12 skaters, one hour of ice time, and two hours in the private party room. Additional fees apply for groups larger than 12.

Whether you're skating under the open sky at one of Minot's outdoor rinks or enjoying the warmth of Maysa Arena's indoor facilities, the city offers something for every ice-skating enthusiast. So, gather your friends and family, lace up your skates, and make the most of this winter season with some fun on the ice!



Minot Air Force Base children during a Homeschool field trip at the indoor ice skating rink at Maysa Arena.



Staci Haynes took her daughters, Hazel, Ellie- and Charlotte and Lyla in the stroller "Ice sledding" at Totem Park on Minot AFB.

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Dakota Elementary Celebrates Success

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

At the beginning of the year the staff and students at Dakota Elementary set proficiency goals for math and reading and tracked the progress of each classroom as the worked to reach and surpass those goals.

Dakota Elementary Principal Kathryn Lenertz gathered students together Friday, February 28 to award those classrooms whose efforts had paid off with proficiency marks above the original set goals.

Kindergarten Teach Mrs. Grace Holm and Miss Kayla Kircher accepted an award for their classrooms as they reached a reading proficiency of 82%.

First Grade teachers Mrs. Jessica Foerster and Miss Melissa Axelson accepted awards for their classroom as they had a reading proficiency of 89%.

Second Grade teachers Mrs. Meagan Espeseth and Dr. Melvina Murray had guided their classrooms to a reading proficiency of 76%.

Fourth Grade teachers Mrs. Ashely Ferguson and Miss Dinah Seastrand heard their names call out twice as they not only reached a reading proficiency of 89%, but also a math proficiency of 84%.

Finally, it was Mrs. Lory Keller's turn to accept awards for her Fifth Grade students also reaching a double goal of reading at 81% and math at 87%.

Principal Lenertz noted that the assembly had a dual purpose as she called Dr. Melvina Murray to the front. Dr. Murray just recently received her PhD after 4 years of dedicated work and study. "This is a first for me after 20 years at Dakota" said Principal Lenertz.

"I started my PhD in 2021" said Dr. Murray who is originally from Guam and has been at Minot Air Force Base for 5 years.

"Originally born and raised in Guam, and I was in the Army for about 9 years, met my husband and that's what brought me to Minot."

Dr. Murray said that getting a routine and structure down was needed to successfully work on and finish her PhD. "I wanted to make sure when I started this program that I wouldn't split myself up. Instead, I would give 100% to whatever I was doing. I made sure that I did my absolute best when I was teaching, made sure that I did my absolute best with my family...we still went on vacations, we still did things as a

family. I didn't want them (my family) to lack that experience, because I'm the one who is in the program, not them."

Her dissertation title was "The Nexus of School Leadership and Teacher Retention. It's about leadership and how it affects teacher retention."

Dr. Murray plans to continue to teach second grade at Dakota Elementary. She has 19 kids in her classroom. "Going forward I want to teach at the elementary level as long as my kids are at that level. I do eventually want to teach at the collegiate level. I would love to teach the future teachers of America."

Michael and Avery echoed that the Murray family got to do all of the fun things like "going on vacations and having fun."

"Now that I am done I am a little more flexible, but I still like to have a structured routine in the house."

And what is your advice to young teachers looking to do the same as Dr. Murray? "I would say to them that it is fully attainable. You can make it happen. If it's something you want you will make it a priority."



Dr. Murray holds the desktop name plaque presented to her from Dakota Elementary.



Teachers from several classrooms accepted awards for their students exceeding goals in Math & Reading.



Principal Kathryn Lenertz of Dakota Elementary talks to students during a recent assembly to celebrate classroom awards and Dr. Melvina Murray, a second grade teacher, receiving her PhD

COURTESY PHOTOS

NOTES ON BEING SAFE

COMPLACENCY, THE SILENT KILLER



SSGT JOE VERGARA
5TH BOMB WING
NCOIC OCCUPATIONAL
SAFETY



Every day in the United States on the average, 15 workers lose their lives as a result of injuries or illnesses related to their work. When you add the figures that's over 5400 people a year. Unfortunately these people leave behind families, friends, and co-workers.

Recently there are more and more "mishaps" that come across my desk dealing with everything from damaged or lost tools and equipment, Damage to Government vehicles due to inattention, dressing inadequately for the cold weather conditions, this list can go on and on... I think you understand the point. Airmen at levels need to fine tune the skills we have been trained and imbedded to our thought processes and way of thinking.

So what is the point am I driving home? Complacency! When it comes to safety, complacency is deadly. If you come to work in an environment that has dangers, you can't afford to let your guard down, you can't relax. If you become comfortable in hazardous areas, your lax attitude will end up getting people hurt. Or worse, it gets you hurt. We can fall into the mindset, "I went to work and nothing happened, nothing happened last week and nothing dangerous happened last month." This allows you to let your guard down. We all need to remind ourselves we're working in a dangerous environment and we need to be alert.

All of us, no matter where you work, or what your job is, need to create a culture within our own organization, and remind everyone that complacency is a treacherous thing - it's a killer. Supervision at all levels needs to find ways to stimulate employees' interest in finding ways to make safety improvements.

We all need to create motivation for a positive change in the organization by believing it's possible to achieve zero mishaps or incidents and communicating that belief to all employees. All of us, by raising our right hand have an obligation to show employees the relevance of working safe to their jobs, careers, and, most importantly, their families. This will create an atmosphere where everyone at every level in the organization will

increase their commitment and their contribution in making the workplace mishap or incident free.

Yes, I understand all of are busy we have tight schedules and deadlines to meet, but we also need to take a step backwards, think of your thought processes, take a "one more time" look around your surrounding and ask yourself "Did I leave anything behind? Are all my tools and equipment accounted for? Did I remember to do that last check before we left the building? Are all the documents properly signed off and reviewed?, am I properly dressed for the outdoor temperatures?" Never forget where you are. If you work in a dangerous fast paced environment, remember that I'm not asking you to

live your life dreading every moment at work. What I am asking each and every one of us is to follow proper procedures at work, and think ahead of what elements await us that can possibly kill us. Think of your surroundings, identify the littlest detail.

In closing, please remember complacency is an ever present danger. When a person becomes complacent their stress level for the task decreases, and consequently, so does their performance. A greater stimulus will be required in order to obtain a response. Let's all take a deep breath and a step back... your life and the life of others may depend on it.

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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



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



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.

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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YOUTH IN ACTION



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COURTESY PHOTO

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



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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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★ Hotel ★
REVEL Weddings for Warriors

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

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

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

For further information, please send a message to the hotel at revelnd.com 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.*

What do you guys think of my ice stack?
It’s impressive, but...
You should’ve built it outside. It’s already melting.

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.

TIMMOTHY TIMM

ARCHERY

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 6:30-7:30 pm
Adult Archery 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

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 UFOs Return

JAYME L. JOB, DAKOTA DATEBOOK

March 5, 2025 – An unbelievable UFO sighting occurred on this date over the Minot Air Force base in 1967. Unbeknownst to many North Dakotans, the state has proved fertile ground for UFO sightings for several decades. In fact, the state even has a connection to the first UFO sighting in history, when the term “UFO” was first coined. That 1947 event began over Washington state, when pilot Kenneth Arnold “...spotted nine unidentified objects flying near Mount Rainier.”

Arnold’s report led reporters to term the entities, ‘unidentified flying objects,’ or UFOs. Arnold grew up in Minot, attending grade and high school there during the 1920s and ’30s. After the initial description and media coverage, UFO sightings became much more common. In response, the Air Force created a catalog of UFO sightings in an attempt to chronicle and explain the phenomenon. Referred to as “Project Blue Book,” the catalog documents dozens of UFO reports from North Dakota, most taking place near the Minot and Grand Forks Air Force Bases.

The UFO sighting on March 5, 1967, took place only three days after two sightings were reported near Mohall and Velva. Then on March 5, Minot Air Force Base security teams were alerted when Air Defense Command radar detected an “...unidentified target

descending over the Minuteman missile silos of the 91st Strategic Missile Wing...”

When security police responded to the call, they saw a large metallic disk hovering over the missile silos. The disk was ringed with bright flashing lights. Before F-106 interceptors at the base were scrambled, the UFO left the silos, moving first over the launch control facility, and then climbing straight up into the air before taking off at an “incredible speed.”

Between the years of 1967 and 1968, a number of UFO incidents occurred at or near the nuclear missile sites in North Dakota. One eyewitness, Lt. David Schuur, claimed in interviews that a brightly lit UFO hovering near missile sites in 1967 was responsible for initiating a launch sequence at the Echo Launch Control Center. Once the glowing object left the vicinity, Schuur was able to activate the launch inhibit switch. Robert Hastings, the professional UFO reporter who interviewed Schuur, called the interview “one of the most disturbing” of his career.

“Dakota Datebook” is a radio series from Prairie Public in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and with funding from the North Dakota Humanities Council. See all the Dakota Datebooks at prairiepublic.org, subscribe to the “Dakota Datebook” podcast, or buy the Dakota Datebook book at shopprairiepublic.org.



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NORTHERN CELEBRATIONS

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THE “GO TO” FOR THE GREAT NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS

Patricia Stockdill

It doesn't matter if it's attracting bluebirds, identifying aquatic nuisance species and raptors, or figuring out how on earth to filet a pike to get rid of its infamous “Y” bones – the N.D. Game and Fish Department has online information to educate, engage, and perhaps even entertain.

Exploring beyond the department's home page, (gf.nd.gov), takes one deep into the world of the Great North Dakota Outdoors:

For example, as North Dakota rolls into spring's arrival and the upcoming northern pike spawn (not to mention the height of pike fishing activity), one popular website link features a step-by-step method to filleting northern pike and removing those infamous and perhaps equally disdained “Y” bones.

The “how to” guide is even viewable as a YouTube link. To get there simply click “Fishing/Boating” on the menu bar, then “More Fishing/Boating”, and scroll down the “Fishing Miscellaneous” column for the article and video.

While the link to rid oneself of a pike's frustrating Y bones is third on the list, it might be easy to get sidetracked by perusing the two links above it – how to identify various fish species found in the state's waters and, one of my favorites, fish recipes.

If you catch 'em, you might as well enjoy eating them and that link features some creative recipes going way beyond traditional fish batter recipes.

Clicking the menu bar's “Conservation” link opens what may seem like the entire world of North Dakota's Great Outdoors: Under just the “Species” column alone one can find descriptions and illustrations of everything from the state's most common to its rarest species – plants and animals alike – from the huntable kind to those that play a critical role in pollinating the foods humans consume.

A person could immerse themselves for hours...maybe days...in the links under the “Resources” column. The “Conservation Corner” is educational and – as much as anything – entertaining with a dash of humor at times.

Just consider this link under the Conservation Corner's “Wildlife Notes”: There is a critter that makes a snow cave to help it best survive the state's feisty winter weather. Yes, much as an igloo made of snow protected humans in the Arctic against wind and cold, snow caves used by sharp-tailed grouse protect the native bird from winter elements. So how does a bird make a snow cave, one may ask?

The answer can be found on the link – complete with photos – but the short answer is the birds scratch with their feet to dig a hole and then burrow into it. Or, as the page describes,

“If you stumble across a burrow in the snow with grouse poo in it, you've found a grouse snow cave!”

Yet there is a serious side to the Great North Dakota Outdoors and a link to the video discussing lowhead dam safety and dangers can be educational at the least – and most importantly, a potential life-saver.

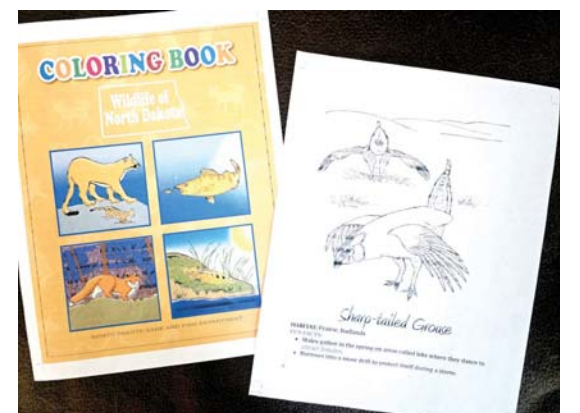
And while many people tend to associate the prairie rattlesnake with the state's more arid and rugged habitat west of the Missouri River, a video link describes one population found “east river” in south-central North Dakota. But, hey, no need to be concerned - it's not yet spring and they're still asleep – plus the den is a long ways from Ward County.

The “Habitats” link really nails a big picture look at just how diverse North Dakota can be when a person gets off the beaten path.

Understanding the state's geology helps one appreciate the importance of an area such as Ward County – its location as part of the Drift Prairie as well as the Missouri Coteau. Both regions are critical to the nation's waterfowl production, especially ducks, in the Lower 48 United States.

Perhaps one of the neatest links discovered while meandering through the Game and Fish Department's website takes one to a children's coloring book, “Wildlife of North Dakota”. Its 34 pages combine education with entertainment – and it even includes the snow cave builder, a sharp-tailed grouse. Download the PDF at (gf.nd.gov/publications/505).

Plus, it's a great coloring book for adults.



The N.D. Game and Fish Department offers its PDF downloadable coloring book, “Wildlife of North Dakota” from the website link, (gf.nd.gov/publications/505).

PATRICIA STOCKDILL PHOTO

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WHAT'S GOING ON MINOT AFB

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

TUESDAY 11

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP (VA) Services and Benefits Briefing, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1000, Education Center – Room 211
- Game Day, 1000-1930, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Zumba, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Grease and Gears – Sisterhood Sessions, 1730-1930, Auto Hobby Shop

FRIDAY 14

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- St. Patrick's Day 5K Ruck, 0800, McAdoo Fitness Center
- TAP (DOL) – Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Bootcamp, 0900, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Quarterly Food Advisory Board, 1300, Dakota Inn Dining Facility
- BOGO Bowling Fridays, 1600-2100, Rough Rider Lanes
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Progressive Bingo, 1730, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Luck O' the Irish Skate Night, 1800-2000, Youth Center
- Karaoke Nights, 2000, Rockers Bar & Grill

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

WEDNESDAY 12

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP (DOL) Overview, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Bootcamp, 0900, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Pre-Deployment/Remote Readiness Training, 1000, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- SkillBridge Brief, 1000, Education Center – Room 211
- Storytime, 1030, Minot AFB Library
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Yoga, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Zumba, 1800, McAdoo Fitness Center

SATURDAY 15

- Zumba, 0800, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Winter STEAM Challenges, 1000, Minot AFB Library Facebook Page
- Mar10 Trivia, 1700-1900, Rockers Bar & Grill
- 18+ After Hours Bowling, 2100-2400, Rough Rider Lanes

SUNDAY 09

MONDAY 10

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

THURSDAY 13

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- TAP (DOL) Overview, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Reintegration Briefing, 1000-1100, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Zumba, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Bookbinding for Beginners, 1800-1930, Minot AFB Library

SPECIALS

Bomber Bistro Featured Item
BBQ Pulled Pork Pizza
 BBQ sauce base with pulled pork, bacon, and onions.
 Only available for the month of March!

The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item
Iced Chai Lattes
 Grab a grande chai latte with lavender cold or cherry cold foam!

Rockers Bar & Grill Featured Item
Grilled Rockin' Chicken Sandwich
 Grilled chicken sandwich, served with crispy fries.
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