



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK:



WELCOME BACK DAKRATS!

A9



MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD HIGHLIGHT: LUCAS SMITH

A11



ANGELA PETERSON WINS N.D. 2024 VFW TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

B7



★ MONTH OF THE ★
MILITARY CHILD
APRIL

Minot Air Force Base leadership along with community members and their families joined the City of Minot in signing a proclamation, April 7, 2025 to honor the amazing military children who inspire us with their strength, resilience and unwavering support. Throughout April, Team Minot will celebrate these young heroes with special events to show appreciation for all they do. Thank you, military kids, for your incredible courage and spirit!! See page A11 & B1 for more on Month of the Military Child.

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Gen. Bussiere Thanks Minot AFB Airmen for ‘Astounding’ Teamwork

5TH BOMB WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
MINOT AIR FORCE BASE

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE,
N.D. --

Gen. Thomas Bussiere, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Shawn Aiello, the command chief of AFGSC, visited Minot Air Force Base to personally thank Airmen March 27 and 28, 2025.

“Thank you for your discipline, professionalism, and demonstration of your deep understanding for your mission,” Bussiere said to Minot AFB Airmen.

Bussiere emphasized the strategic importance of the everyday mission at Minot AFB, noting that is the only installation to host two legs of the nation’s nuclear triad between the 5th Bomb Wing and the 91st Missile Wing.

“You perform the nation’s most important mission,” he said to both wings. “And while what you do every day is not easy, your astounding performance gives



U.S. Air Force Gen. Thomas Bussiere, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Shawn Aiello, the command chief of AFGSC, hold an all-call at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, March 28, 2025. During the all-call, Bussiere recognized Team Minot superior performers from the 91st Missile Wing and the 5th Bomb Wing.



U.S. Air Force Gen. Thomas Bussiere, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, shakes hands with an Airman during an all-call at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, March 28, 2025. During the all-call, Bussiere recognized Team Minot superior performers from the 91st Missile Wing and the 5th Bomb Wing.

great confidence to our nation’s leadership and the American public that you are ready.”

Aiello echoed this sentiment and personally thanked Minot AFB Airmen for keeping his family safe by providing surety, safety, and reliability. American families rest assured because Warbirds and Rough Riders remain ready, he said.

After individually recognizing superior performers from both wings, Bussiere acknowledged the teamwork that underpins the successful operations at Minot AFB.

“It takes a team comprised of great leaders and technical expertise, regardless of your job, in order to perform at a high caliber of excellence... and it

is evident you all perform as a team,” Bussiere said.

In closing, Bussiere reminded the Airmen that: “There is no more important a base in the Department of Defense than Minot Air Force Base.” He then

asked Airmen of both wings to “go home tonight and thank your significant others and your families for all they do to support and enable your service to our Air Force and nation.”



U.S. Air Force Gen. Thomas Bussiere, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, and Chief Master Sgt. Shawn Aiello, the command chief of AFGSC, hold an all-call at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, March 28, 2025. During the all-call, Bussiere recognized Team Minot superior performers from the 91st Missile Wing and the 5th Bomb Wing.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN TRUST TATE

THE BLUE RIDER

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Wednesday, April 16 at 9:00pm

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Thursday, April 17 at 4:00pm-Close

26TH ANNUAL TESTICLE FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 19 at 4:00pm

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BABY GIRL BORN ON THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025 TO: KATHRYN AND JERED BRUGGEN MINOT, ND

BABY BOY BORN ON FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025 TO: JASMINE AND KEVYNN BRAND MAFB, ND

BABY BOY BORN ON TUESDAY, APRIL 01, 2025 TO: MARLEY AND ISAAC PEREZ MINOT, ND

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BABY BOY BORN ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 02, 2025 TO: KRISTEEN AND JAMES SHELTON JR MAFB, ND

BABY BOY BORN ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 02, 2025 TO: APRIL LEE AND HECTOR MARTINEZ MINOT, ND

BABY GIRL BORN ON FRIDAY, APRIL 04, 2025 TO: HUNTER AND DEMARIUM TATATUM MINOT, ND

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

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Upcoming REAL ID enforcement

AALIYAH BEVERLY, AIR FORCE GLOBAL STRIKE COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. -- On May 7, 2025, all Air Force Global Strike Command bases will require visitors to have a REAL ID to enter base as part of a nation-wide effort to enhance security and standardize identification requirements across federal facilities.

REAL ID is a federal security credential added to state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards, marked by a gold star in the upper-right hand corner. Once in effect, base security will no longer accept state-issued identification from visitors that does not meet the new federal security standards established by the REAL ID Act.

This requirement does not apply to military and base personnel who already possess a military ID, military dependent ID, a Common Access Card or a federal government-issued Personal Identity Verification Card.

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act enacted the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the Federal Government "set standards for the issuance of

sources of identification, such as driver's licenses."

As the deadline approaches, AFGSC Security Forces is working to minimize disruptions while enforcing the new policy.

"We anticipate some challenges such as additional installation personnel required for escort of visitors/vendors not meeting the REAL ID Act requirements," said Col. Richard Zeigler, AFGSC Security Forces division chief. "There may also be potential delays in updating Entry Access Listing for vendor/contractor personnel requiring routine installation access."

According to Zeigler, visitors not meeting the REAL ID Act requirements can be either escorted by a person possessing a valid installation access credential (if authorized by the installation commander) or denied entry to the installation.

The only alternative forms of ID for visitors to use in conjunction with their non-compliant REAL ID credential include:

- Birth certificate with a raised seal and social security card
- U.S. or foreign Passport/

Passport Card

- Veteran's Health Identification Card
- Transportation Worker Identification Card

"By adding additional security markings, REAL ID credentials provide an added 'proof of identity' layer to enhance the already strict security/access control measures our installation personnel adhere to in the protection of installation personnel and resources," Zeigler said.

For more information about obtaining a REAL ID, visit your state's driver's licensing agency website to find out exactly what documentation is required. Check with your state's driver's licensing agency website before visiting them in person for additional guidance and assistance as some states may impose additional requirements

Reach out to your local base's Visitor's Center for current hours of operation and visit <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id/about-real-id> to learn more about REAL ID.



A graphic created by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for their Real ID public awareness campaign, as part of their integrated efforts to improve the security of the country. Achieving REAL ID readiness is a collective effort between federal, state and local governments, as well as industry partners.

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Minot Recognized as a 2025 Great American Defense Community

MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC

Washington, D.C. - Minot, North Dakota, home to Minot Air Force Base (MAFB) is one of the three communities recognized as a 2025 Great American Defense Community.

The Association of Defense Communities (ADC) announced the three selected communities at the Defense Communities National Summit earlier this month of which Minot was recognized for support of Minot Air Force Base. The two other communities recognized this year are Greater Buckley Region in Colorado for their support of Buckley Space Force Base and Yuma, Arizona for their support of Marine Corps Air Station.

"We're excited to welcome Minot, North Dakota as a 2025 Great American Defense community," said ADC President Karen Holt. "We are especially honored to recognize Minot's unwavering commitment in educating stakeholders on nuclear deterrence and national security."

The Great American Defense Communities program was launched by ADC in 2016 to recognize and celebrate the communities and regions that support military installations for their exceptional commitment to improving quality of life for military.

"North Dakota is committed to being the most military-friendly state in the nation, and this recognition of Minot as a Great American Defense Community is proof of that commitment," Gov. Kelly Armstrong said. "The dedicated airmen of the 91st Missile Wing and 5th Bomb Wing, along with the support personnel from the North Dakota Air National Guard's 219th Security Forces Squadron, play a crucial role in safeguarding our nation and are an incredibly important part of the Minot community."

Minot will be spotlighted by ADC throughout the year with plans for leadership from the association to travel to North Dakota and celebrate with the

community this summer. Then Minot will be featured at the ADC Innovation Forum in Monterey, California at the end of October.

"Minot has always been a proud military community, and being named a Great American Defense Community is a testament to the deep connection between the Minot area and Minot Air Force Base. This recognition highlights what we in Minot have always known—our community and the base share an unbreakable bond," said Ryan Ackerman, MACEDC Board Chair. "We are honored to support them in every way possible."

"Minot Air Force Base is not just a military installation—it's a driving force in our community," expressed Pete Hankla, Task Force 21 Chair.

"With a \$651 million economic impact, its presence strengthens our local businesses, schools, and workforce, while its mission strengthens our national security. This recognition as a Great American Defense Community is proof of that commitment."

Communities are chosen through a competitive nomination process based on community building efforts, such as educational and employment opportunities, and support and collaboration with neighboring military installations. In ten years, 50 communities have been selected as Great American Defense Communities across all branches of military. To learn more about ADC, visit defensecommunities.org.



Photo L to R: Minot Area Chamber EDC President | CEO Brekka Kramer, Task Force 21 Chair Pete Hankla, 2025 Minot Area Chamber EDC Board Chair Ryan Ackerman, and Task Force 21 Member Cassidy Hjelmstad in Washington D.C.

MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC PHOTO

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A VIEW FROM OUR SIDE

ROD WILSON

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MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NEWSPAPER | WWW.NORTHERNSENTRY.COM

My seat for the Air and Space Force Association banquet was randomly chosen. It was my responsibility to take photos of the Commander's Choice Award Winners. The Northern Sentry is also a member of the AFA, so both Ted, publisher of the Northern Sentry, and me were there in support of the 42 Airmen and civilians that received the awards.

The awards ceremony went off without a hitch, including Col. Jesse Lamarand's speech, which is covered in another story in this edition of the Northern Sentry.

Although I was only able to talk to a few of the recipients, what they shared kind of defined the evening. By their very nature and design the Commanders Choice Awards allow a commander to choose someone who may not get recognized for their efforts or exceptional service. One young man probably said it best. I have been at Minot Air Force Base for 7 years, and next summer I will PCS out. In those 7 years very little exciting has happened. I do my job and really, I like Minot. But now I can leave next year and wherever I go, I will have this award to put up in my office. It's pretty special.

Another young Airmen talked

about how it will be special to her Mom and Dad, both Air Force retired veterans. "I'm an Air Force brat" she said, "and this award is really for doing my job." When I told her that all of the photos would be in the Northern Sentry she said that would make sure and get a copy to send to her parents. "You know they'll tell all of the neighbors. The retirement village where they live has a lot of retired Air Force veterans."

That's kind of the way it is with awards like the Commander's Choice. There are no rules that define who receive the award, it truly is the squadron commander's choice of the Airmen or civilian that deserves the award. In most cases, but not all, it is the unsung hero in the squadron. The Northern Sentry is certainly proud to be a member of the AFA, and we are proud of the 42 recipients of the 2025 Commander's Choice awards. Check out the special section in this week's Northern Sentry.

HOMEWORK TIME

I was on the road this week, a little grandkid time as my youngest grandson turned 5. Granddaughter Addely, (the only granddaughter-the one who has grandpa wrapped around her little finger as they would say), asked me to read a book to her as she was headed to bed. The book was about reaching for the stars, and all of the planets. We talked about how there are no 8 planets because Pluto was a planet no more. I told Addely that sometime she can join us on our sailboat and we can watch the International Space Station as it crosses North Dakota. "International Space Station?" Addely asked, "what is that?" That triggered BePa to go

Sitting With The Best!

into hyper information sharing mode. I am, and always will be, a big fan of the ISS. We started with how they built the space station taking small modules up one at a time. "Do they have air on the space station" Addely asks. Well yes, they have several ways of creating oxygen. We could have talked about electrolysis that allows the space station to take water and split out the oxygen molecule, but that lesson will probably be left for another day.

"How do people get to the space station? How many people are there on the space station?" Well, Addely, there are normally about 10 people on the International Space station, and they get there in a spacecraft from earth. There were 2 people that were only supposed to be there a few days and ended up staying about 6 months, I answered.

"So, I guess I can someday be number 11?" she asks with a determined voice. I very proudly answer "You know Addely, you just have to set your goals, and who knows what will happen when you are grown up." And then a bit of a teaching moment as Addely looks up and says "Yeah, everything seems to happen when you grow up." Grandkids are great, aren't they?

IT'S ONLY A WORD!

I may have shared with you that my grandkids call me BePa. I even have a BePa license plate on my pickup. Once in a while one of the grandkids will refer to me as grandpa, which is OK, but really I prefer BePa. But a bit of reality struck this week when my oldest grandson, now 13, was talking to me about his upcoming Caribbean cruise (I know...we never did

Caribbean cruises when we were kids). Well grandfather, it will be a lot of fun. What? Grandfather? That's some old guy who walks with a cane, and has grey hair and well, that's not me. "Grandfather, Carter? Why am I grandfather?" Carter kind of chuckles and explains..." Well, because I think you've been around long enough and you've earned the right to be called Grandfather." I was about to answer something like, "that's what you call that big clock that sits in the corner and chimes every 15 minutes", but hey, he's my grandson, and if he thinks that I've earned the title of grandfather, then so be it. Grandfather, although I still think that is my Dad's dad, it is. Reality sets in.

BEST KEPT SECRETS

PCS season is upon us, and I was recently asked, "If there was one must see place you would go before I PCS out on May 22nd, where would it be?" Oh boy! Good question. I have always said that either the Pembina Gorge in northeast North Dakota, or the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park must see places, and not to far behind those locations is the Enchanted Highway off of I-94. Yes, there are a lot of other destinations in North Dakota that would be on the must see list, and maybe someday I will write a book that is titled "Touring North Dakota from the Minot Air Force Base." I'll put it on my To-Do list.

TODAY'S CHUCKLE(S)

A vacation in which you don't have to answer work emails is called unemployment.

If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf.

Most wanted fugitive to face trial...

he was teaching English in a school in Sosonate, El Salvador under the alias Jack Donovan. He was taken into custody, extradited to the United States and will go on trial May 28 in San Diego County District Court. Mcleod has pleaded not guilty to a murder charge.

When he was captured, he was carrying a Canadian passport and told his "students" he was Canadian. It isn't known yet how he obtained the passport, but he is not a Canadian citizen. He may have used the identity of Raymond Mcleod, a Canadian Football League player who died 10 days after the murder.

One of Mcleod's students who was interviewed by a San Diego TV station, said Mcleod always wore long-sleeve shirts, it is assumed, to cover identifying tattoos and he never drove a car.

Although Mcleod's link to Berthold is obscure, he did attend at least one Berthold City Council meeting with his partner Alex Gregg, who was spearheading a housing development east of town called Prairie Rose Estates.

McLeod and Gregg had been partners in a roofing company in Phoenix. Court records in Maricopa County indicate Gregg and Mcleod preyed on the elderly, providing estimates and charging home owners for roof repairs that

were often non-existent.

Mcleod wasn't part of the Berthold development, but his father, Raymond Mcleod Sr., was. Mcleod Sr., was a financial partner of Gregg and had also visited with the Berthold City Council about the housing development that never really got off the ground.

It is also strongly believed by the San Diego Police Department that it was Mcleod Sr., who gave his son thousands of dollars and a rental car to leave the United States and travel into Mexico. Days after the murder, Mcleod's rental car was located in Mazatlan, Mexico.

So even though he was being considered an accessory to his son's escape, less than a month after Raymond Mcleod Jr. was captured without incident, Raymond Mcleod Sr.'s obituary appeared in a Phoenix newspaper. The cause of death wasn't released to the public. He was 69 years old.

Mcleod Jr. spent a hitch in the Marine Corps., and was said to have a violent temper. An ex girlfriend has testified to that behavior. Mcleod was also a bodybuilder and was considered extremely dangerous.

On the night of the murder, eyewitnesses said Mcleod and another man got into an altercation in a San Diego bar after Mcleod

slapped Mitchel. He was later seen on surveillance video slapping Mitchel again as they entered an elevator. That was the last time Mitchel, a young mother of two, was seen alive.

Mitchel's mother, Josephine Wentzel, led an exhaustive search to find Mcleod and bring him to justice. Wentzel, who grew up on Guam and later became a Tacoma, Wash., police officer, led an independent search to find her daughter's killer.

The San Diego Police Department has acknowledged that Wentzel was instrumental in the capture of Mcleod, but didn't say why, or whether or not she collected the reward. Wentzel spent years talking to the media and worked closely with San Diego PD regarding leads on Mcleod's case. She even took a social media course and posted wanted ads on social media platforms.

In addition, Wentzel has filed a civil lawsuit looking to hold Mcleod financially responsible. Meanwhile, Gregg, who was facing heavy pressure in Arizona and North Dakota, is believed to have committed suicide and is buried in Waco, Texas.

Mcleod has been formally charged with murder and if convicted, faces 25 years to life in prison.



UPSIDE DOWN UNDER

MARVIN BAKER

A man whose business partner was involved in a failed Berthold housing development and one who visited Berthold at least one time, has been arrested in El Salvador and is going on trial in San Diego in May.

Raymond Mcleod Jr., is accused of killing his girlfriend Krystal Mitchel in San Diego on June 10, 2016, then fleeing the United States.

Mcleod and Mitchell both lived in Phoenix and traveled to southern California to visit a friend of Mcleod's. That friend found Mitchell's body the following day and after six months had passed, the U.S. Marshals Service placed Mcleod on its 15 most wanted list and offered a \$50,000 reward for his capture.

On Aug. 29, 2022, a tip received by El Salvadorian officials indicated



weekly post brief

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SHE'S NOT FROM AROUND HERE

AMY ALLENDER

After living in Minot for a while, you start to pick up on the little things. You figure out which car wash you prefer, what playgrounds have the best slides, and which roads are most likely to be sanded after a snowstorm. But no matter how long you've called Minot home, there's always something new to learn.

This week, I hosted a round of Hey Minot trivia as part of an MSU Giving Day event, and it was a blast. I am a lover of fun facts, so getting to create a trivia round was a great assignment. Whether you're a lifelong local or a newly arrived transplant, I hope these tidbits are fun—and a little challenging for you. After all, there is nothing like frivolous trivia to impress your friends and fill gaps in conversation.

So, are you up for a little trivia? Let's dive in.

1. How many animal species are on display at Roosevelt Park Zoo?

According to their website, our zoo is currently home to 54 different animal species. That includes everything from

majestic Amur tigers to curious red pandas, and a whole host of animals in between. And it's one of my favorite places to spend a spring day.

2. What well known building in town used to be known as McFarland Auditorium?

Ann Nicole Nelson Hall, located on the campus of Minot State University, was formerly known as McFarland Auditorium. In 2003, the space was renamed in honor of Ann Nicole Nelson, a Minot native and MSU graduate who tragically lost her life in the September 11 attacks. The renaming not only preserved her memory but also added a deeply personal connection to a space that continues to bring people together through music, performance and learning.

3. In 2025, how many years will Minot have hosted its annual performance of Handel's Messiah?

Each December, the voices of Minot come together for a breathtaking community performance of Handel's Messiah. In 2025, that tradition will mark its 96th consecutive performance. It's a powerful display of talent and community spirit, and if you've never attended, put it on your holiday calendar.

4. What does MAYSA stand for?

We all know the MAYSA Arena as the go-to for ice skating, hockey, and tournaments. But did you know that MAYSA is an acronym? It stands for Minot

Area Youth Skating Association. That's right—it all started with a focus on giving kids a space to skate.

5. What was Minot's first organized baseball team called?

Before the Hot Tots brought summer baseball back in a big way, Minot had a rich baseball history. The first organized team was formed in 1917 and went by the name the Minot Why Nots. I for one, didn't realize that saying went back that far.

6. What's Dizzy the Clown's real name?

Dizzy the Clown is a Minot legend. He's been delighting kids and adults alike for more than 50 years. Behind the wig and nose is Ken Gillespie, a man who has made it his mission to bring joy and laughter to this community.

7. How many years has Daryl's Racing Pigs been performing?

The pig races are always a must-see at the fair, and Daryl's Racing Pigs have become the longest-running entertainment act on the grounds. In 2025, Daryl will mark 38 years of snorting, squealing, and sprinting pigs. What a legacy.

8. Which of these items is not available for checkout with a Minot Public Library card: a telescope, Nintendo Switch,

jigsaw puzzles, or pickleball equipment?

Our library is full of surprises. You can check out a Nintendo Switch for family game night, borrow pickleball gear, or take home a telescope to stargaze. But jigsaw puzzles are the odd one out. They're available on a take-one, leave-one basis—no checkout necessary.

9. What did Josh Duhamel study at Minot State University?

Before becoming a Hollywood heartthrob, Josh Duhamel studied biology at MSU with plans to become a dentist. (Somehow, I think acting worked out okay for him.)

10. What is Minot's record high temperature?

Minot is famous for its frigid

winters, but our record high is 109 degrees, set in July 1936. But what's really wild is the state high temperature: 121 degrees, in Steele, ND in the same year.

So, how did you do? Whether you aced it or learned something new, I hope these little nuggets of Minot trivia were fun. Maybe this week you'll visit the zoo, borrow something unexpected from the library, or dazzle someone with your knowledge of North Dakota record temps.

Minot has more to offer than meets the eye—but you already knew that.

For more on life in Minot, and learning to love where you are, join me online at amyallender.com, or Instagram and Facebook @HeyMinot and @Amy_Allender



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General David C. Jones Chapter 135



91 SFG
TSgt Brendan Cuniff



23rd Bomb Squadron,
RET Instructor Team,
Accepting Capt Amanda Roeber



791 MXS
SSgt Corey Glover



5th Munitions Squadron
SrA Lisa McCollum*
*Accepted by SSgt Mills



5 BW Staff Agency
TSgt Shan Lowe



91 MXG
SSgt Austin Messer



69th Bomber Generation Squadron
TSgt Jesus Trevino



91 OSS
SrA Kaytlyn Scott



91 MFS
SrA Abigail Christian



69th Bomb Squadron
Capt Jacob "Crash" Carlson



791 MSFS
A1C Charles Germany



5th Maintenance Operations
Mr. Liam Hale



5th Operations Group
MSgt Hillary Wallace



91 MW WSA
MSgt David Foley



5th Maintenance Squadron
SrA William Young



740 Missile Squadron
Capt Daniel Pena



91 MMXS
SrA Trenton Strode



5th Maintenance Group
MSgt Passion Harper



891 MSFS
A1C Jacob Kohler



5th Mission Support Group
Mrs. Alana Lowry



5th Operations Support Squadron
SrA Sean Rowe



742nd Missile Squadron
Lt. Chris Voegele



705 Munitions Squadron
SrA Marilyn Moreno



741 Missile Squadron
TSgt Devin Wigley



91 MSOS
TSgt Brian Bond



23rd Bomber Generation Squadron
SrA Weldon Spivey



Magic City Composite Squadron
Civil Air Patrol
Cadet TSgt Divine Okonkwo



5th Logistics Readiness Squadron
SSgt Sara Maund

41st Annual Commander's Awards



91 OG
Capt Taylor Tonnies



5th Communications Squadron
MSgt Shawn Ransome



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Mr. Bob Ogurek



5th Security Forces Squadron
SSgt Bryson Lee

The General David C. Jones Chapter 135, 41st Annual Commander's Awards were presented April 3, 2025 in Minot, North Dakota. Presenting the Awards Col. Jesse Lamarand, 5th BW Commander. Note: Some awards were accepted by others In absence of the winner.

NOTICE

Minot AFB, ND – 2d Lt Lorimar Pantoja Rivera from the 91st Missile Maintenance Squadron has been appointed the Summary Courts Officer (SCO) for the estate of **SRA FABIAN ROMAN, 5TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON**

All claims for or against the estate of the deceased must be submitted to the SCO.

For more information, please contact:
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Air and Space Force Association Sponsors Commander's Choice Banquet

ROD WILSON, NORTHERN SENTRY

The room was filled to near capacity as the crowd gathered to help the 42 Air and Space Association Commander's Choice award winners celebrate. Emceeding the awards for his 21st year was Air Force veteran George Masters. Col. Jesse Lamarand called George Masters to center stage to award him a Minot Air Force Base coin and thank him for his years of service. "Without people like you in the community who give a lot of time and effort to organize this banquet, it just wouldn't happen" said Lamarand.

Organization of the Commander's Choice Banquet starts early as "we're getting together this month to talk about this year's banquet and discuss things we could have done better, although it certainly went well, and start to talk about next year" says Masters "and that's a whole year out."

The evening would start with President of the local Air and Space Force Chapter, Jim Bowman thanking the audience for their attendance and recognizing distinguished guests in the crowd from the Minot Community and Minot Air Force Base.

The Magic City Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol presented the colors and TSgt Christine Cherry followed with the National Anthem.

After the invocation by Bowman, recorded videos from Senators John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer, and Representative Julie Fedorchak were played. Senator John Hoeven is on the U.S. Appropriations Committee which deals with Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. He highlighted some of the future growth that will take place at Minot Air Force Base programs like the new Grey Wolf Helicopter, modernization of the B 52 H models to the advanced B 52 J models and the future construction of the Sentinel Missile System which will replace the Minuteman III. All 3 thanked Commanders Choice Award winners for their dedication and service to the U.S. Air Force, and Minot Air Force Base.

After supper, it was Col. Jesse Lamarand's turn to take the podium and talk about dedication and service. Col. Lamarand's speech was well received by the over 180 in attendance. In particular, Col. Lamarand's reference to George Washington's challenges during the Revolutionary War certainly



Air & Space Forces Association president Jim Bowman welcomes guests to the Annual Commander's Choice Awards banquet sponsored by General David C. Jones Chapter 135.



Col. Jesse Lamarand, 5th BW Commander, coins George Masters of the AFA for his 21 years organizing the Annual AFA Commander's Awards banquet.

drew a parallel to the challenges today's Airmen face at Minot Air Force Base as they perform the missions of two legs of the nuclear triad, the Minuteman III missiles and the B-52 Bombers.

After Col Lamarand's speech he would stay center stage and present the Commander's Choice Award winners with their plaques. In all, 42 different award winners would come forward to accept their award. From the audience would often come squadron cheers as their award

winner accepted well-deserved recognition.

With the Minot Air Force Base insignia in the background, each recipient paused for a photo to capture their moment in the spotlight. The 41st Annual AFA Awards banquet would come to an end, but the recognition that each recipient received, and the pride that exemplifies their accomplishment, will live on for a long time. Congratulations to each and every award winner. Take a well-deserved bow.



The Honor Guard from the Minot Chapter of the Civil Air Patrol presents the colors to open the AFA Commander's Choice Awards Banquet.

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Welcome Back DakRats!

HANNAH WATERS, NORTHERN SENTRY

Whether you love them or hate them, it looks like the Richardson Ground Squirrels, more commonly known as DakRats, are here to stay. Not to be confused with the much larger Prairie Dog, DakRats are much smaller in size reaching only seven to nine inches in length. Their arrival on Minot AFB this spring has been anything but peaceful as they have been causing commotion all over the base. Between the garage surfing, taunting house pets, and digging holes throughout the base, these creatures have become a menace once again.

The DakRat is a long-term resident of Minot AFB. They usually start popping up from their underground burrows in the early months of spring, but by summer there are often hundreds scattered around the base. Over the last few weeks, the DakRat population has increased exponentially as they are coming up from a long winters’ hibernation underground in search of food and fun. The reproductive cycle of the DakRat starts in the spring, and it takes about 23 days for a new batch of newborns to start making their migration around the base once the mating season has started.

The DakRat is an omnivore, but if you keep your eye out, sometimes you’ll catch one deciding to be on a more cannibalistic diet. DakRats have also been known for opportunistic cannibalisms, often eating other animals or even each other. Often times, this results from animals that have been run over in traffic. Even though they prefer to eat nuts, plant life, or grain, Dana Berger, a resident on Minot AFB, said she found one in her garage chewing up her brand-new foam pad for the lake. It seems like these creatures really do not care what they are eating as long as they are eating something.

The Minot AFB community has been very open on their opinions on the DakRats. One resident, Ms. Jessica Pfouts said, “Just this week they chewed through the cords under the medical group. They broke the electrical wires for the clinic and the lights in the parking lot.” A few of our other residents spoke out saying their cats and dogs go on “Watch” waiting for their chance to pounce on the unwelcome inhabitants. There are even a few residents who have claimed to be fearful of the creatures. Ms. Vonica Oliva commented, “I was more afraid of it than it was of me.” It seems like there are a plethora of opinions on these creatures. Ms. Odalis Jones Martinez even mentioned how her husband wanted to keep one as a pet after their cat had brought a still alive DakRat inside!

The Richardson Ground Squirrel, or DakRat, has undoubtedly become a fixture at Minot AFB, sparking a wide range of emotions from residents. While some see them as a nuisance, chewing through wires, invading garages, and



Ayami Bland and her family love to feed and name the DakRats that wonder into their yard every year.

taunting pets, others find humor or even affection for these persistent creatures. Regardless of personal opinions, it’s clear that the DakRat’s presence is deeply woven into the fabric of life at Minot AFB, and as long as these little animals continue to thrive, they will remain a unique,

if sometimes frustrating, part of the community’s story. Whether they are loved, loathed, or simply tolerated, the DakRat will likely continue to make its mark for years to come, forever associated with the quirks of life in North Dakota.



“Mighty Hunter” is determined to keep his family’s yard free of DakRat holes thsi year! Photo by Crystal Garcia

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution to last weeks Crossword puzzle.

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

SUDOKU

Solution to puzzle on page B9

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- Across
- 1. Cash stashes
 - 5. Beach bag item
 - 10. One working on a good figure?
 - 13. Hajj destination
 - 15. Quickly
 - 16. Gear for a galley
 - 17. Make a show of wealth
 - 19. Figure in Italy
 - 20. Old saloon receptacle
 - 21. Tony-winning tap dancer
 - 23. Easy gait
 - 24. Laugh gleefully
 - 26. Infidels
 - 29. Teeny particles in physics
 - 30. Form of sarcasm, e.g.
 - 31. Add later, as sound
 - 32. Virginia specialty
 - 35. Salacious
 - 36. Less restricted
 - 37. Scorer of 12 World Cup goals
 - 38. ___-di-dah
 - 39. Orally
 - 40. Common refrigerant
 - 41. C to C
 - 43. Felt one's way in the dark
 - 44. Spend extravagantly
 - 46. White-billed marsh bird
 - 47. Guiding principle
 - 48. Release
 - 52. Gasp of delight
 - 53. Make a show of bravery
 - 56. "Imagine" album co-producer
 - 57. Painter Rousseau
 - 58. Took the heart out of
 - 59. Hi-Q piece
 - 60. Sing Alpine-style
 - 61. Baby seats

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						32	33	34
35					36						37		
38				39					40				
		41	42						43				
44	45						46						
47						48					49	50	51
52					53	54	55						
56					57					58			
59					60						61		

- Down
- 1. Mischief-makers
 - 2. Sign up for another tour
 - 3. Plot introducer
 - 4. Robert Burns' birthplace
 - 5. California-Nevada border lake
 - 6. Candid
 - 7. Clump
 - 8. System starter
 - 9. Small chicken
 - 10. Advice to an insomniac
 - 11. Jury
 - 12. Resulted (from)
 - 14. Shakespeare title hero
 - 18. Does better than
 - 22. Peeve
 - 24. More than doubled
 - 25. Show with "Aquarius"
 - 26. Grumpy person
 - 27. Sector
 - 28. Spare nothing
 - 29. Line
 - 31. Chauffeured
 - 33. Medicinal plant
 - 34. Heal
 - 36. Checkered race-ender
 - 37. Code of correct conduct
 - 39. Wasting away
 - 40. Cavort
 - 42. Cow's chew
 - 43. Teutonic invader of Rome
 - 44. Hot news item
 - 45. Liable
 - 46. Rhodes of Rhodesia
 - 48. Ancient harp
 - 49. Pods used in stew
 - 50. Leak through
 - 51. What a ring lacks
 - 54. Hall of Famer Durocher
 - 55. Also



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Thriller (R)

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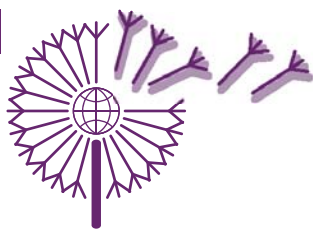
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MOMC Highlight: Lucas Smith

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

What does it mean to be a military kid anyway? According to Lucas Smith, age 12, it means “living in lots of different places and not having to do all the same old stuff all the time.” But, it also means, “making friends and then as soon as you make them, they are gone.” The military nomadic lifestyle is known to produce resilient and well-adjusted kids who thrive in many different environments. Lucas is one of the hundreds of military kids right here at Minot AFB who we are celebrating this April for Month of the Military Child.

In most ways, Lucas is just like any other middle schooler. He has an older brother, Jake, younger sister Emily, his parents, and dog Ruby to hang out with. He is a 7th grader at Memorial Middle School, plays percussion in the school band and loves to run long distances for his track team. When asked about what he likes to do in his free time, Lucas said that he really enjoys playing sports with his brother and friends in the Bubble on base- which he mentioned is way better than the Turf because it is so much bigger and cooler.

But, when asked to describe what makes living on Minot AFB unique, he mentioned that he loves the amount of freedom he has on base riding his bike all over to see friends. He said, “Everything is so close and controlled by SF [Security Forces] so you don’t have to worry about being robbed.”

According to Lucas, his dad, an Active Duty military member, is the Commander of the 5th OSS. Lucas explained his dad’s job saying, “My dad oversees the operations of the flight line, the ATC tower and the alert facility. He also sits at his desk and signs a lot of papers.” Military families are often presented with opportunities that civilian families are not, and Lucas recalled a time when his family was stationed at Barksdale AFB in Louisiana and his dad had his final flight. “He got sprayed with a fire hydrant when he landed. I kinda felt bad for him.” He also recalled a time when his dad returned from an Al Udeid deployment. As a young child then, his memories were muddled with emotion and childhood haze, but he recalled holding signs and noticing that while he was happy to have his dad home, he also could tell his dad was a little sad to leave his friends and colleagues that he had spent months working



Lucas Smith, age 12, is a positive and energetic military kid on MAFB!



Lucas and his dad, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Smith, enjoyed a Minnesota Vikings football game in 2023

alongside. After two and three-quarters years here, Lucas and his family are set to leave Minot this summer for a new life elsewhere. But, Lucas remained steadfast that Minot AFB has been his best place to live and that being a military kid has been a great experience. In fact, Lucas even said he wanted to be a “WSO” when he grows up, which he explained was a navigator position in a Bomber. He said it was what his dad did and it sounded so cool that he wanted to be a part of it! Thanks for being an awesome military kid Lucas! We salute you and your family!



The Smith Family enjoyed Disney World in 2024.

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Wheel Alignment Tips

Have your Wheel Alignment checked every other tire rotation and always when installing new tires. Wheel alignment sometimes referred to as tracking, is part of standard automobile maintenance that consists of adjusting the angles of the wheels so that they are set to the car maker's specification. The purpose of these adjustments is to reduce tire wear, and to ensure that vehicle travel, is straight and true (without "pulling" to one side). Alignment angles can also be altered beyond the maker's specifications to obtain a specific handling characteristic. Motorsport and off-road applications may call for angles to be adjusted well beyond "normal" for a variety of reasons.

Primary Angles

The primary angles are the basic angle alignment of the wheels relative to each other and to the car body. These adjustments are the camber, caster and toe. On some cars, not all of these can be adjusted on every wheel.

These three parameters can be further categorized into front and rear, so summarily the parameters are:

- Front: Caster (right& left)**
Front: Camber (right & left)
Front: Toe (left, right & total)
Rear: Camber (left & right)
Rear: Toe (left, right & total)
Rear: Thrust angle

Secondary Angles

The secondary angles include numerous other adjustments, such as:

- SAI (left & right)**
Included angle (left & right)
Toe out on turns (left & right)
Maximum Turns (left & right)
Toe curve change (left & right)
Track width difference
Wheelbase difference
Front ride height (left & right)
Rear ride height (left & right)
Frame angle

Setback (front & rear) is often referred as a wheel alignment angle. However setback simply exists because of the measuring system and does not have any specification from car manufacturers.

Measurement

A camera unit (sometimes called a "head") is attached to a specially designed clamp which holds on to a wheel. There are usually four camera units in a wheel alignment system (a camera unit for each wheel). The camera units communicate their physical positioning with respect to other camera units to a central computer which calculates and displays how much the camber, toe and caster are misaligned.

Often with alignment equipment, these "heads" can be a large precision reflector. In this case, the alignment "tower" contains the cameras as well as arrays of LEDs. This system flashes one array of LEDs for each reflector whilst a camera centrally located in the LED array "looks for" an image of the reflectors patterned face. These cameras perform the same function as the other style of alignment equipment, yet alleviate numerous issues prone to relocating a heavy precision camera assembly on each vehicle serviced.



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ANIMAL SPOTLIGHT



BLACK AND WHITE RUFFED LEMUR

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- Black and White Ruffed Lemurs are one of the only primates to make nests and commonly give birth to twins or triplets.



Fact File

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

Photo by Amanda Cline

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- Long journeys
- Strong desire to achieve something
- Quality of being orderly

DOWN

- Break from work or school
- Against
- Vacation properties
- Runs on rails

Answers: Across 1. Voyages 2. Ambition 3. Neatness 4. Vacations 5. Rentals 6. Train Down 1. Vacation 2. Anti 3. Rentals 5. Train

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JOY-NICOLE SMITH
SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM MANAGER, GS-12
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LIAISON PROGRAM



It has been a pleasure to serve you over as the School Liaison Program Manager of Minot Air Force Base. As “Guardians of the Upper Realm” and “Poised for Peace”, the mission of Minot Air Force Base remains crucial in the security of our great nation. With this in mind, supporting our military connected students and families continues to be essential.

As I prepare to depart, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the incredible families, educators, and community partners I’ve had the honor of working with.

It has been a privilege to serve our military-connected students and help bridge the gap between the education system and the unique needs of our families. Thank you for your trust, collaboration, and support throughout my time here. Though I’m moving on, I will always carry the spirit of the Minot Air Force Base community with me.

In my place, Ms. Alyssa Kelly will step into the role as School Liaison Program Manager of Minot Air Force Base and she is thrilled to continue the legacy of an incredible program!



Governor Kelly Armstrong surrounded by Minot AFB children and leadership during a proclamation signing at the ND State Capitol, Friday, April 4, 2025.



Col. James Schlabach, Alyssa Kelly, Governor Kelly Armstrong, Joy-Nicole Smith, and Jennifer Schroeder (Grand Forks AFB School Liaison Program Manager) and Col Jesse Lamarand during a proclamation signing at the ND State Capitol, Friday, April 4, 2025, recognizing April as the Month of the Military Child.

April 2025 Month of the Military Child Minot AFB, ND

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
All Month Long: Month of the Military Child Book Display at Minot AFB Library & Magic City Sweets* FREE scoop of ice cream		1 Rockin' into MOMC at YC Clap-In 2:30-4:15pm	2	3	4 Proclamation Signing Bismarck, ND 12:00pm ND PURPLE UP DAY	5
6 Magic City Discovery Center* FREE ADMISSION for all military families	7 Magic City Discovery Center* FREE ADMISSION for all military families	8 Magic City Discovery Center* FREE ADMISSION for all military families	9 Minot AFB Library Literacy Story Time Program 10:30am Magic City Discovery Center* FREE ADMISSION for all military families	10 Homeschool Spring Festival (community-wide homeschool event) Bud Ebert Park 12pm-3pm Magic City Discovery Center* FREE ADMISSION for all military families	11 Dakota Elementary Clap-In and Assembly 8:40am Minot AFB Thrift Store One Free Item to Military Child 4-6pm MOMC Carnival at Youth Center 6-8pm (Open to the Base) Magic City Discovery Center* FREE ADMISSION for all military families	12 Minot AFB Library Star Wars Program 1:00pm Magic City Discovery Center* FREE ADMISSION for all military families
13	14	15	16 Minot AFB EFMP & Library Egg Hunt 3:30pm	17 Pre-teen Glow Dance Spectacular at the Youth Center (Open to the Base)	18 Qdoba* FREE CHIPS and QUESO for kids under 12 years old with purchase of an entrée (south location only) Putt District* FREE game for all military children	19 Putt District* FREE game for all military children
20	21 Minot AFB Food Court and Exchange 9:30am-10:30am Pancake Breakfast (\$1 children 1-17, \$4 adults) & 11:30am-1:00pm Crafts and Fun!	22 Glenburn School Live Music Event: Farah Siraj 10:00am (Homeschoolers Invited)	23	24 WeeLinks Golf* FREE evening of golf and clinic to all military families	25 Memorial Middle School Clap-In and North Plains Clap-In & Assembly 7:20am/8:30am Operation Megaphone – MS Late night Teen Lock-in at Youth Center (Open to Base) Tie-Dye Shirt Event Minot AFB Housing -Sign-ups Required-	26 MAFB Spouses' Group* Scholarship Brunch 10-11:30am (contact MAFB Spouse Group to Attend)
The information in this calendar is provided as a resource and does not constitute endorsement by Minot AFB, the United States Air Force, or the Department of Defense of the information, products, or services contained therein. Current as of 28 March 2025		29	30 FCC Provider Spotlight Minot AFB Housing Residents Nominate a FCC Provider for a Prize Skate Party and Craft Parent Involvement (School Age Care-only event) Minot AFB Library Literacy Story Time Program 10:30am	“The official flower of the military child is the dandelion. Why? The plant puts down roots almost anywhere, and it’s almost impossible to destroy. It’s an unpretentious plant, yet good looking. It’s a survivor in a broad range of climates. Military children bloom everywhere the winds carry them. They are hardy and upright. Their roots are strong, cultivated deeply in the culture of the military, planted swiftly and surely. They’re ready to fly in the breezes that take them to new adventures, new lands, and new friends.” -unknown author		
*Minot ND Business – No endorsement intended						

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Syber-Sentinels Compete in Grand Forks

BRYLEIGH MCBRIDE, SYBER-SENTINELS

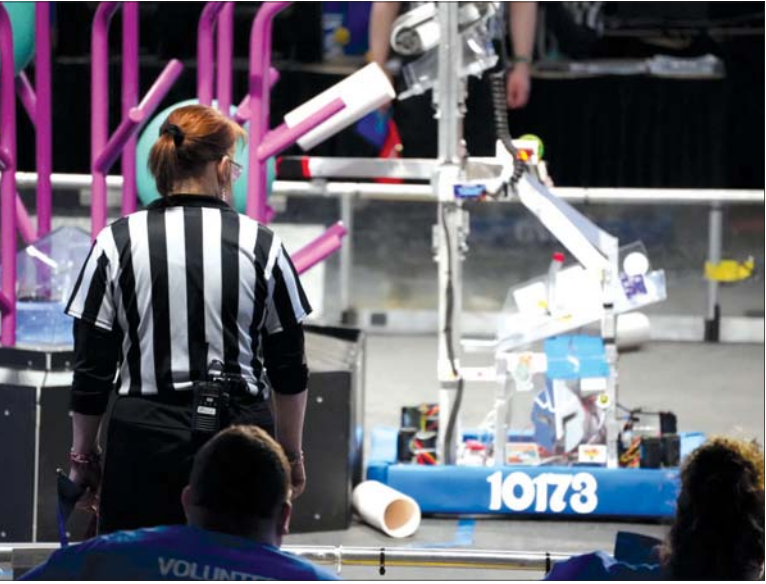
My name is Bryleigh McBride. As a first-year member of our rookie First Robotics team, Syber-Sentinels 10173, my recent trip to Grand Forks was an incredible learning experience that allowed me to grow both personally and academically. I was fortunate enough to serve in a variety of

roles — from media manager, to working with the build team, electrical team, and shadowing the code team. Each of these experiences taught me valuable skills that I can apply not only to robotics, but to my life. As media manager, I had the opportunity to document

our journey and share our team’s progress with others on Instagram and to be able to be proud to showcase those images in my TSA competition. It was inspiring to see how much the team cared about the work we were doing and to see it come to life.

Working on the build team gave me hands-on experience, and collaborating with the electrical team allowed me to dive into the technical side of robotics, which was very fun because my dad (Brandon McBride) is an electrician who helped us, so I got to take what I knew in those fields and apply it to a real-life scenario. I also started learning how to code, which was both challenging and exciting. Each endeavor was a chance to learn from my more teammates.

In addition to all the technical learning, this trip also presented a chance to network with other teams and people. I quickly realized how important these connections are, both for the team and for personal growth. As someone who’s passionate about



Senti-Bot in action at competition.



Members of the Syber-Sentinels, Advisory Byron Borgen and Senti-Bot.

building relationships, I was able to engage with other students and mentors, exchanging ideas and gaining insight into the world of FIRST Robotics. All in all, my Grand Forks robotics trip was a remarkable

experience. I not only gained new skills, but I also learned the power of teamwork, communication, and networking. I can’t wait to continue this journey and see where these experiences take me!

Bishop Ryan Catholic School Third Quarter Honor Roll

HIGHEST HONORS (3.667-4.000+)
SENIORS: Emma Brandt, Conner Brintnell, Tyler Burns, Leah Charley, Teagan Coonrod, Rylie Deeter, Olivia Demars, Violet Demars, Boden Erck, Clay Fegley, Eva Hernandez, Cambrie Johannes, Alena Johannsen, Ruby Lormejuste, Jett Lundeen, Taylor Lundeen, Lilly McGough, Margaret O’Riley, Jace Schwan, Macksen Shean, Autumn Steckler, Ramsey Walz, Riley Weeks, Drew Zwak
JUNIORS: Mia Braunberger, Kirstin Brunner, Ashlyn Burgardt, Katherine Castaneda, Carmyn Durand, Claire Fegley, Anne Fricke, Celia Martinez, Cade Okeson, Jack Passa, Bentley Schneider, Tochi Udekwe
SOPHOMORES: Jaidyn Braunberger, Lauren Burns, Seth Finley, Chisom Osuala, Adelynn Selk
FRESHMEN: Taylor Brintnell, Tatiana Coronell, Viosa Cumani, Hayden Deeter, Sage Feininger, Joshua Franks, Caleb Haverstock, Helen Kamba, Gryphen Leier-Wangler, Justice Lundeen, Izabella Mocko, Zachary Spain
EIGHTH GRADE: Ella Brandt, Liam Finley, Liam Hieb, Penelope Morales, Kene Osuala, Jack Prough, Hannah Schaefer
SEVENTH GRADE: Sophia Cartier, Elira Cumani, Genevieve Deeter, Madison Fricke, Oluwafadeorehanmi Oni, Ava Passa, Emaree Ruby
SIXTH GRADE: Nhyira Boamah, Blake Burckhard, Chloe Burgardt, Hadley Duchscherer, Chloe Faken, Myla Hieb, Quinn Hulm, Brynlee Hust, Zoey Mocko, Crew Samson, Anjuli Schmidt, Deacon Wald

HIGH HONORS (3.333-3.666)
JUNIORS: Annyka Anderson, Ella Boyle-Clark, Treyson Christianson, Miyah Harvey, Haylee Schwan, Hayden Seay, Jason Spain
SOPHOMORES: Kathryn Gonsorowski, Lilly Jundt, Dani

Martinez, Elijah Penton, Thomas Postula, Michael Prough
FRESHMEN: Calvin Olson, Cambree Zwak
EIGHTH GRADE: Liam Hulm, Grady Keyes, Afton Ost, Bryleigh Thorson
SEVENTH GRADE: Camden Ahmann, Lawson Borgeson, Matthew Bryans, Natalie Burns, Keaton Sorum, Jazmin Vazquez
SIXTH GRADE: Katelyn Coronell
HONORS (3.000-3.332)
SENIORS: Parker Baier, Aidan Kelly-Binkoski, Emily Plessas
JUNIORS: Elsie Braun, Aidan Elm, Miguel Manjarrez Gonzalez
SOPHOMORES: Abigail Frey, Tytan Lundeen, Peyton Seay

FRESHMEN: Cheyenne Degenstein, Cecilia Johannsen, Akasha Pacheco, Cohen Schneider, Dylan Walther
EIGHTH GRADE: August Bice, Branson Bosch, Samuel Haverstock, Bridger Johannes, Sasha Kowalczyk, Kaidence Williams
SEVENTH GRADE: Reed Feininger, Carsten Klein, Odin Martinez, Brooklyn Ost, Thomas Prough, Harper Schneider, Mollie Selk
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- Thursday \$1 up for all Tall Taps (all day)
- Sunday BRUNCH (11am-2pm)
 - \$7 TSR Bloody Mary & Caesars
 - \$12 Bottomless Mimosas
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A LOOK BACK

THIS WEEK IN USAF HISTORY

THE DOOLITTLE RAID

APRIL 18, 1942

B-25 Bombers aboard the USS Hornet prepare to take off for the Japanese islands. (US Air Force Photo)

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States Army Air Forces and Navy began formulating a plan for a reprisal attack on the Japanese Empire. They recruited Col. James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle to train the pilots who would be a part of the raid. On April 18, 1942, 16 B-25 Mitchell Bombers from the 17th Bombardment Group, led by Col. Doolittle, took off from the Navy’s USS Hornet 650 miles off the coast and made a path towards Tokyo. The bombers hit targets in Tokyo, Yokosuka, Yokohama, Kobe, and Nagoya. On the way back, fifteen of the aircraft crash-landed or had crews bail out due to low fuel and one made it to Russia. Three crew members died and eight were taken as Japanese POWs. According to Pacific Air Forces, Doolittle thought that he would be court-martialed upon his return. However, the Doolittle Raiders received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2015 and Col. Doolittle received the Medal of Honor for one of the greatest surprise attacks of the time. While the damage left by the raid was not severe, it was a serious morale booster for the US.

Information courtesy of: pacaf.af.mil / aetc.af.mil / history.navy.mil

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The Untold Toll: COVID’s Impact on Laughlin AFB Families

ERIN BEENE

**This article was written in August of 2020, but was not authorized for publication at that time. This writer hopes the integrity of this story, written in the midst of the struggle, without the benefit of retrospect to add bias, will bring awareness to the mental struggle that was mostly silenced from military families during the first few months of the Covid Pandemic in these circumstances.*

The last few months need no explanation; we have all experienced the world shattering pandemic of COVID-19. Everyone, everywhere has a unique story to tell regarding this global issue. This article wishes to explain the specific experiences of the families that have been stationed at Laughlin AFB, a small, remote base near Del Rio, Texas, just miles away from the Mexican border. The base’s mission is primarily to train pilots. It also functions as a fully operational Air Force installation, with all the support and security functions needed to maintain the facility. According to MyBaseGuide.com, Laughlin AFB hosts approximately 1,268 family members at any given time. This story is about them during this global health crisis.

Del Rio, Texas, is a small town, with a population of about 40k. It does not offer much in terms of amenities, but has what most small towns have: a single movie theater, a miniature mall, local shops, parks, public pools and even a near-by lake. There are some things to stay busy with, but most newcomers would say you have to be willing to look for them. In mid-March, when COVID-19 kicked off and the official lock down began, the situation here was likely similar to others around the world. Businesses were forced to close, all sporting activities were canceled, and life virtually shut down. What separated these family members stationed at Laughlin from other families around the globe, even those stationed at other military installations, was the specific isolation. As most people are aware, military families move around constantly. Rarely are they within driving distance to family or friends. That in itself is a difficult lifestyle. Usually, military bases offer many programs, events and unit functions to help combat the loneliness that comes with the military lifestyle. But those social programs also came to a halt during the COVID-19 closures.

What happens when you take a military family, put them in a remote location -where most have no friends or family- tell them they have no say in what happens and that no one can come visit them? Oh, and also tell them not to leave their house for months on end? I will let the families explain it to you.

One Laughlin mom, whose husband had just deployed in February 2020, explained to me how alone she truly felt, and the emotional struggles she encountered during the height of the shutdown. At one time, the handful of grocery stores here in Del Rio were not allowing children in the stores at all. With a spouse deployed and no family to watch her kids, this was a difficult and scary blow. She told me, “I felt at a great loss and like my hands were tied since my children were out of school, we weren’t supposed to be in contact with anyone outside of our household, and grocery pickup slots in this small town were almost nonexistent. I felt myself rapidly losing the ability

to safely care for myself and my children both emotionally and physically. It was very scary and very isolating.” She was unsure how she would hold it together for her family.

Another spouse, who was on active duty and recently separated to stay home with her two young kids, explained to me her COVID shutdown experience . Since she recently decided to be a stay at home parent, she was not yet accustomed to the stay at home mom lifestyle, let alone being literally trapped in the house all day. Staying at home with kids is no walk in the park and is extremely isolating. But for this spouse, learning to do this during a pandemic was beyond difficult and mentally draining. She told me, “I have a lot of anxiety about whether I’m doing the best I can raising my kids and just sitting at home all day. The days seem to run into each other. I catch myself feeling more irritable and turning on the TV all day long for the kids and I wish I had the energy to do more for them.”

Another spouse I spoke to over the course of the pandemic shared with me about how having her husband home all the time -as he was forced to work from home- caused extreme hardship in their marriage, to the point of divorce conversations. They were stuck living in a situation where no one had much to do, kids were bouncing off the walls, emotions were running high and they were almost at the end of their ropes on how to get through this. More recently she explained to me how this extreme marital situation virtually vanished once her spouse was allowed to return to work and her and the kids were allowed to do some things once again. But the mental strain of the continuing pandemic still lingers.

Parents are not the only ones who struggled with this isolation. One childless spouse revealed to me that “Laughlin is a small base already, but COVID made it smaller with the gym closing

(group fitness), food services closing, travel restrictions, spouse socials canceled. I guess mostly I’m saying it’s already a hard place to live in, but COVID made it one million times worse.” She addressed her concerns in the lack of medical care -that is already a concern here- and how it was nearly impossible to get even basic medical specialty care since trips to San Antonio (approximately 150 miles away) were prohibited. She also said, “COVID has wreaked havoc on me personally here in Del Rio. On my mental health, work life, social life, etc. I think why it’s been so hard here specifically is because we are already isolated, detached, and living in a town with limited resources. Then add COVID, and it’s just a misery fest.”

On the opposite side, one spouse did share with me how the shutdown actually benefited her. It gave her the push she needed to finally reach out and get some personal therapy. She finally had time to really work on herself. According to her, it actually strengthened her marriage because it allowed her and her husband to work on communication skills. She found the resources to get the counseling she needed through a Facebook post she saw about maintaining mental health and what services were available on this base. She did also admit that since her child was not in school yet and she had not yet made friends, the shutdown didn’t affect her all that much in terms of daily life.

There are many more similar situations, but most spouses I have been in contact with have a version of the same stories. Being isolated in a remote area caused other issues to arise. All the spouses I talked to experienced extreme loneliness of some kind and most also admitted to feeling abandoned by the base in terms of support. All the spouses admitted that they have less hope about the future now and said they



A few weeks into the pandemic in March 2020, photographer and mil spouse Asia Woodmancy drove around Laughlin AFB, asking residents to pose outside their homes to capture what life was like at the time. Her drive-by photography brought a bit of fun to the dark situation and helped ease some of the loneliness.

ASIA WOODMANCY PHOTO

thought the base could be doing something more to look after the mental health and stability of the families struggling here.

Although basic physiological needs and safety are numbers one and two on Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, genuine sense of love and belonging is number three. People cannot thrive and succeed in life without all these basic needs fulfilled. With continued restrictions, wielding of emergency authorities, shaming of perceived “selfish” people who seek those needs, new levels of societal norms, and so on, what has it been doing to society as a whole? Besides trying to protect from illness, are these restrictions leading to even larger problems?

This question has become even more relevant when speaking to spouses who revealed things to me that they would never openly reveal to their spouses’ leadership. When we uncover the stories and truths behind what happened to the spouses at Laughlin AFB during the COVID-19 shutdown, we are led to the realization that there is more at stake than worrying about physical health. If connection and belonging are also basic needs, are we actually doing the best we can make sure those personal needs are met too? Or are we willing to continue to sacrifice one need for another, and what kind of society does that make us in the longer term?

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COVID: Has It Really Been 5 Years?

ERIN BEENE, NORTHERN SENTRY

Five years ago, the world came to a screeching halt. We were all flipped inside out, and yet told to hunker down at home to “stay safe.” It was a time of confusion, fear, and contradictions. What started as “two weeks to flatten the curve” became years of social distancing, lockdowns, and evolving health mandates. At first, masks were said to be ineffective and meant only for healthcare workers—then not wearing one made you a “grandma killer.” Toilet paper became a hot commodity, and spring 2020 felt like the start of a strange, surreal new world.

Looking back, many of us now laugh at the unique, often bizarre circumstances of that spring and summer. But when we were in it, with no clear end in sight, the uncertainty felt crushing.

Ask anyone about their experience during COVID, and you’ll hear a different story every time. Each person’s challenges were shaped by their beliefs, circumstances, and family or work life. Almost everyone can name at least one way the pandemic shifted the trajectory of their life—and life at Minot AFB was no exception.

Mil spouse Kaija Tilstra shared her COVID experience, which began just months after her family arrived at Minot.

“We got here right before midnight on December 30, 2019,” she said. “We had a spectacular welcome by our

squadron (5 CES) and settled into our TLF room, not realizing we’d be in that room for nearly three months.”

As the pandemic set in, base protocols tightened. Cleaning staff could no longer enter rooms, so supplies were left outside the doors. “I didn’t mind the extra cleaning,” Kaija said, but she did imply that the cramped space was wearing them down.

Fortunately, the family got into a house and received their household goods just one day before all PCS Household deliveries were halted. “All in all,” she reflected, “our experience wasn’t the worst. Looking back, I can finally laugh at the chaos instead of feeling frustrated.”

If you weren’t stationed here at the time, here’s a snapshot of what life was like on Minot AFB in the early pandemic days. While the timeline mirrored much of the country, it often felt like a slow trickle of new restrictions every day:

March 20, 2020 – Base schools and CDCs remained open, though the first confirmed COVID case (a non-military employee) was reported.

March 16–20 – North Dakota governor ordered state-wide school closures.

March 25 – Minot AFB elevated to HPCON Charlie (with little explanation for many about what that meant).

March 27 – Norsk Høstfest

was canceled months ahead of schedule, along with the Minot Shrine Circus.

April 10 – Air Force mandated mask use, but gave commanders discretion on enforcement for civilian employees.

April 17 – New arrivals to North Dakota were required to quarantine for two weeks.

The MAFB school liaison even launched a base-wide coloring contest with a \$300 prize—anything to boost morale.

And that was just the beginning. Airmen from the 91st Missile Wing had to extend the length of their missile field tours and begin two-week quarantines prior to posting. Entire organizations restructured operations. Some of those changes ended up improving processes in ways that still benefit the base today. The entire Team Minot worked to secure the MAFB mission despite the new set of challenges.

Five years later, most people don’t want to talk about COVID anymore. We’ve moved on to today’s worries and political debates. It feels like a distant memory—but when you dig into it, those old emotions of fear, isolation, and confusion quickly resurface.

So, how do you feel now, looking back on the pandemic?

Did it shape you? Change your path? Leave a scar—or perhaps, a lesson?

Confirmed COVID-19 Case on Minot Air Force Base

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

There is one positive case of COVID-19 of an adult, non-military member at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota.

To mitigate and manage the risks associated with COVID-19, Team Minot is implementing proactive measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among our base population and to ensure continuation of our no-fail mission. As such, Team

News/Coronavirus-COVID-19-News/.

Social distancing at all times will continue to be a focus. Additionally, clean workstations and good hygiene are crucial for slowing the spread of disease and germs. Airmen, their families and civilians should regularly wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, limit contact with those

In the 3rd week of March 2020, the first confirmed COVID case on Minot AFB (a non-military employee) was reported.

Minot Air Force Base changes to HPCON Charlie

5TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D. --

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2025 DoD Annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey



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



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 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 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.*



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



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11-12 APR

THE BIG ONE
SPRING ART AND CRAFT FAIR
10:00 AM
North Dakota State Fair Center
2005 Burdick Expressway East

The 34th Annual Minot Spring Show includes over 250 booths showcasing products hand made from across the US. Over 175 exhibitors will fill their booths with arts, crafts and baked goods that all have a touch of being hand made. Admission: \$5.00 Friday, 10am – 8pm, Saturday, 9am – 5pm

For more information:
<https://thebigone.biz/minot-spring-show/>



16 APR

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



17 APR

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY
FLOWERS POTTING CLASS
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Magic City Discovery Center,
1545 1st Street NW

In this fun and educational potting class, children will explore the magical journey of a plant's life cycle—from seed to sprout to bloom! Through interactive activities, they'll learn how water, sunlight, and soil work together to help plants grow. The highlight of the class is a hands-on potting experience, where each child will plant their very own flower to take home and nurture. Perfect for little green thumbs or anyone curious about nature, this class inspires creativity, responsibility, and a love for gardening. Ages: 4-9



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

17 APR

DOWNTOWN BUNNY HOP
10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Various Locations
Downtown Minot

Join us for the annual Bunny Trail in Downtown Minot on Thursday, April 17th from 10am until 12pm. Bring your Easter baskets to collect goodies from participating businesses. Maps will be available at several locations. Open for preschoolers and under. Free to the public.



For more information:
Facebook/ Downtown Business & Professional Association/ Events

19 APR

MINOT HOT TOTS AND HONEYBEES
EASTER EGG HUNT
10:00 AM
Corbett Field, 1124 E Burdick Expy

Come on down to Corbett Field this Easter Eve to celebrate the upcoming spring season with inflatables, pictures with Tate R. Tot and the Easter Bunny, and an Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 1 – 9! This event is completely FREE to the public



For more information:
Facebook/ Minot Hot Tots/ Events

19 APR

EASTER AT THE ZOO
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Roosevelt Park Zoo, 1219 E Burdick Expy
The Greater Minot Zoological Society will be hosting Easter at the Zoo, at Roosevelt Park Zoo, on Saturday, April 19th, 2024, from 11 am to 2 pm and the zoo will only be open during these hours. Easter at the Zoo admission is \$3 per person for non-members, and free for members. You may also purchase your membership in person during the event to receive free admission. The event will feature crafts, activities, a visit with the Easter Bunny, plus a photo station for guests to take photos, and a goody bag of candy for each child as they exit the Zoo (while supplies last).



For more information:
Facebook/ Roosevelt Park Zoo/ Events

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Angela Peterson Wins North Dakota’s 2024 VFW Teacher of the Year!

NATALY ZARRELLA, NORTHERN SENTRY

Angela Peterson, a third-grade teacher at North Plains Elementary on Minot Air Force Base, was awarded the prestigious 2024 Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Teacher of the Year Award for the state of North Dakota!

This award recognizes educators who inspire civic responsibility, promote patriotism, and teach flag etiquette – qualities that Peterson embodies both in her teaching and personal life. As the daughter of a Vietnam War veteran and the mother of an Air Force Airman currently stationed at Minot Air Force Base, Peterson’s connection to the military is deep-rooted.

Born and raised in Minot, Peterson has been a dedicated teacher at North Plains Elementary for the past three years. Her passion for teaching military children and instilling a sense of duty, respect, and community is evident in the classroom. “If

for whatever reason I forget to lead my students in the Pledge of Allegiance, which doesn’t happen often, my students will remind me because it’s part of our daily routine,” Peterson said, laughing. “It’s something we do every day, and it’s important to me that they learn the value of that tradition.”

Throughout her time at Minot AFB, Peterson has gone above and beyond in supporting the military community. She has actively promoted fundraisers to support local veterans and has been a participant in the Wreaths Across America initiative for the past five years, alongside her family and loved ones.

“My connection to the military goes as far back as my grandfathers,” Peterson shared. “That’s why the military is so important to me – it’s part of who I am.”

Winning the VFW Teacher

of the Year Award came as a surprise at every level, but Peterson humbly expressed her gratitude for the recognition. “I was shocked when I won at the local and district levels, and when I won at the state level, I was shocked again. While it’s been surprising at every level, it has also been incredibly humbling.”

As a teacher to military children, Peterson understands the unique challenges they face. “Watching my students go through the emotions of transitioning to new bases has been difficult. But one of my favorite things about teaching military kids is the love they share and the way they connect with others and myself. They have a special ability to form bonds quickly, and it’s inspiring to witness.”

Angela Peterson’s dedication to her students, her unwavering support for the military, and her commitment to promoting patriotism and civic responsibility make her a true role model. VFW Post 743 of Minot has honored her not just as a teacher but as a vital part of the community.



Mrs. Angela Peterson, teacher at North Plains Elementary at Minot AFB winner of the 2024 North Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year Award.

COURTESY PHOTO



Mrs. Angela Peterson was presented her award at North Plains Elementary by VFW Post 743 of Minot at North Plains accompanied by her family and students (not pictured).

COURTESY PHOTO

NOTES ON BEING SAFE

SPRING THAW MEANS THIN ICE

SSGT JOE VERGARA
5TH BOMB WING
NCOIC OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

FLIGHT

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D.

-- The old saying, “You’re on thin ice” usually means one is probably speaking of a subject matter best left alone. The reason behind the saying is obvious -- those who attempt to walk on thin ice are quite likely to be swimming in short order. Every year, people head out onto frozen lakes in search of that last good fishing spot and end up at the bottom of the lake. There always seems to be that one guy who is oblivious to the rapidly approaching spring weather.

There is no guaranteed “safe” thickness of ice. However, there are general ice thickness guidelines that will give a good approximation.

Rivers and river outlets, which flow into lakes, are dangerous areas all throughout the winter months. Currents can erode ice, even when there are no indications of weakening on the surface. The only sure way to know how thick the ice is would be to drill test holes along the intended path.

North Dakota regulations require ice fishing houses and shelters to be removed from lakes no later than March 15. However, this does not guarantee safe ice until that last weekend. If it has been a warm winter, those dates may be well past a safe time to go out on the ice with vehicles or recreational equipment.

However, one cannot count on “the other guy” or a government agency for protection when they venture out on the ice. It is the individual’s responsibility to verify the ice conditions and be constantly aware of their surroundings.

In closing, here are a few tips if for those who venture out onto ice during the spring thaw:

- Use caution near bridges and trestles, as the structures conduct heat into the water, causing ice near these areas to be more dangerous. This is also true for areas where the water has a strong current running through it.
- Be watchful when traveling on the ice at night or in fog. Reduced visibility increases your chances of driving into open water or onto weak ice. This is a frequent cause of ATV and snowmobile related crashes.
- Use the buddy system. A friend may be able to rescue or go for help if one gets into difficulty. Before leaving home, a person should tell someone where he is going and what time he expects to return.
- Always wear a floatation suit or a lifejacket. Wearing a personal flotation device increases ones chance of survival if he should go through the ice.
- Take safety equipment. Ice picks, a rope and a cell phone can make a big difference.
- Avoid alcohol. Alcohol impairs ones judgment, coordination, and reaction time and speeds up hypothermia.

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Close Encounters with Musicians of the MSO

THE MINOT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Minot Symphony Orchestra is proud to announce its second Chamber Concert of the 2024-2025 season. “Close Encounters with Musicians of the MSO featuring ‘Minot’s Slidin’ Four’” will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7pm in Aleshire Theater at Minot State University.

Minot’s Slidin’ Four is a trombone quartet composed of four members of the Minot Symphony Orchestra: Michael HarriSon, Tyler Schwan, Luke Spelhaug, and Brook Jenks. The ensemble will perform the music of a variety of familiar composers including Beethoven, Bach, Tchaikovsky, and more.

“Many people ask, what is a Chamber Concert? Simply put, it is a performance by a small group of musicians in a small space. The atmosphere will be relaxed and welcoming, making it a great place to enjoy music without the intimidation of a big concert hall for newcomers. Providing opportunities for musicians and patrons is the focus of our mission and we are excited to bring these Chamber Concerts to

the Minot community,” explains Ellen Fenner, MSO Executive Director.

Close Encounters will be held at the Aleshire Theater located inside Hartnett Hall at Minot State University, Minot. The theater entrance is across from the MSU Dome on 11th Ave. SW. The 60-minute performance will begin at 7pm. The doors will open at 6:30pm. All seats are general admission and \$25 each. Tickets are available at www.minotsymphony.com or by calling the box office at 701-858-4228.

The Minot Symphony Orchestra is a unique blend of student, community, and professional musicians from the Minot area. The symphony is directed by Maestro Efraín Amaya, Associate Professor of Performing Arts at Minot State University.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts as well as a grant from the Minot Community Endowment Fund.



Members of Minot’s Slidin’ Four: Michael HarriSon, Brook Jenks, Luke Spelhaug, and Tyler Schwan.

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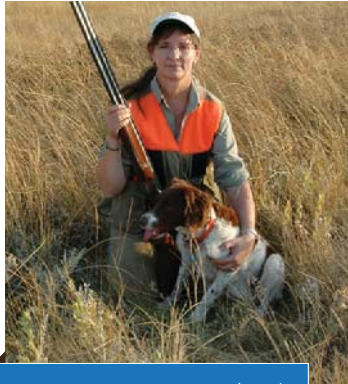
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Broken No More
maryl@beu.midco.net

Tamela Anderson
Speaker
Fargo, ND

Tanya Humphreys
Speaker
Minot, ND



by Patricia Stockdill

FISHING:
Lake Sakakawea elevation, April 7: 1,831.29 feet above mean sea level (MSL); 17,900 cubic feet per second (CFS) Garrison Dam average daily releases.
Devils Lake elevation: 1,449.56 feet above mean sea level.
Stump Lake elevation: 1,449.49 MSL.

- N.D. Game & Fish Dept. game wardens: No reports from Lake Sakakawea, Devils Lake, and north-central area lakes as ice conditions deteriorate.
- Devils Lake, Woodland Resort, Devils Lake: Continued shore-fishing success around the bridges on Devils Lake.
- Lake Darling, Karma C-Store, Ruthville: No new reports.
- Lake Darling, Upper Souris Nat’l. Wildlife Refuge, Foxholm: Look for open water fishing opportunities along Lake Darling designated access points as shorelines start to open. Lake still mostly iced over early in the week but avoid walking on with poor ice conditions.
- Lake Metigoshe, Four Seasons, Bottineau: A few bluegill starting to show up with some anglers walking the ice for walleye, as well.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Cenex Bait & Tackle, Garrison: No reports from Lake Sakakawea or Lake Audubon with deteriorating ice conditions and limited open water yet along the shorelines.
- Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon, Hwy. 83 Lawn & Leisure, Garrison: Watch for deteriorating ice conditions on the east end of Lake Sakakawea. Try the open water shorelines on Lake Audubon for walleye but limited activity.
- Lake Sakakawea, New Town: No new reports from the Van Hook Arm.
- Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River, Scott’s Bait & Tackle, Pick City: Missouri River tailrace continues producing walleye from boats in the chutes and Spillway Channel. Try jigs and minnows or plastics, as well as crankbaits. Wing walls also producing some activity. Try casting

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.



- New fishing licenses now required for the season.
- Wildlife viewing blinds available at Upper Souris Nat’l. Wildlife Refuge. Contact the refuge, (701) 468-5467, for free reservations to observe, photograph, or video area grouse leks.
- April 9: Registration now open for two Lake Metigoshe State Park Fly-fishing/fly-tying workshops in June. Go to, (<https://bit.ly/LMSPShowClix>), for information and registration.
- April 11: Badlands Toms Nat’l. Wild Turkey Federation banquet, Outlaws Bar & Grill, Watford City, 5 p.m.
- April 12: Spring turkey season opens.
- April 12: Williston Ducks Unlimited banquet, Upper Missouri Valley Fairgrounds, Williston, 5 p.m.
- April 12: Maple Sugaring Day, Fort Stevenson State Park, Garrison, beginning at 10 a.m. Contact the park, (701) 337-5576, for details.
- April 12: Easter Egg Hunt, Lewis & Clark State Park east of Williston, 10 a.m.
- April 14: N.D. Game & Fish Dept. public input meeting, Velva Wildlife Club 1901 Hwy. 52, Velva, 7 p.m.
- April 15: N.D. Game & Fish Dept. public input meeting, McKenzie Co. Sportsmen Club, 2306 121X Ave., Watford City, 7 p.m.
- April 20: Sandstone Arch Guided Hike, Theodore Roosevelt Nat’l. Park South Unit, Medora. Meet at the Halliday Well Trailhead (Mile 7 on South Unit Scenic Drive), 10 a.m. Free (entrance fee required) Guided hike about 2.5 hours around the park’s only sandstone arch. Contact the park, (701) 623-4466, for more information.

crankbaits from the rocks in the evening or during dark hours.

- Lake Sakakawea/northwest N.D. lakes, Scenic Sports, Williston: Upper end of Lake Sakakawea has open water. Look for some area boat ramps to be usable with dock access soon. Try smelt for pike from shore. Continued fair to good walleye success on the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers. Try crankbaits.
- North-central/central N.D. lakes, Towner Hdwe. Hank, Towner: No activity on the Souris River and area lakes as anglers wait for ice-out.

SNOW GOOSE MIGRATION:
•Some birds around Devils Lake but more migrating through farther west in north-central N.D. with

good numbers still going through northwestern N.D. early in the week. Look for areas with standing water or open water along larger water bodies. Some birds still moving through along the Missouri River System but fewer numbers than last week as they push north. Some smaller flocks of about 500 birds around Lake Darling early in the week.

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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NOTICE

NOTICE

Minot AFB, ND – 2d Lt Lorimar Pantoja Rivera from the 91st Missile Maintenance Squadron has been appointed the Summary Courts Officer (SCO) for the estate of **SRA FABIAN ROMAN, 5TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON**. All claims for or against the estate of the deceased must be submitted to the SCO.

For more information, please contact: 2d Lt Lorimar Pantoja Rivera 787-908-2161

NOTICE

Minot AFB, ND – 2d Lt Jacob Trach from the 5th Contracting Squadron has been appointed the Summary Court Officer (SCO) for the estate of **SRA. DAWSON CHERICO; 5TH OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SQUADRON**. All claims for or against the estate of the deceased must be submitted to the SCO.

For more information, please contact 2d Lt Jacob Trach: COMM: 701-723-1293

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5	2	8	6	4	9	3	1	7
3	4	1	8	7	2	9	6	5
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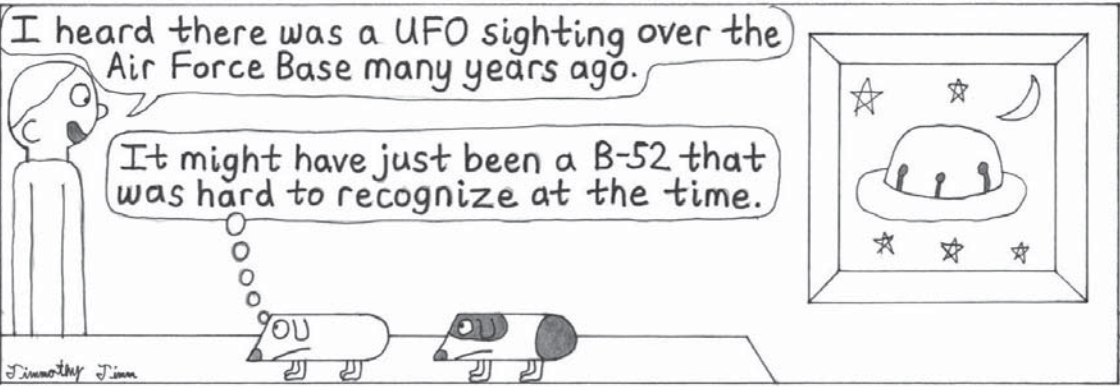
MINOT AFB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



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

TIMMOTHY TIMM



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www.theblueriderbar.com

The Starving Rooster

30 1st St. NE, Minot
Phone: 701.838.3030
www.starvingrooster.com



Weddings for Warriors

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

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

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

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

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

DEERS (Appointment Only): Mon, Wed-Fri 0800-1600, Tue 0800-1500

Walk-in hours: Tue–Thu 0800–1600, Wed 0800–1130

Appointment hours: Mon-Fri 0800–1600, Wed 0800–1130

*Closed for training every Wed from 1200–1630

MINOT MPF OFFICE

ALS GRADUATION
Shaping the leaders of tomorrow. Last week, Team Minot celebrated its newest Airman Leadership School graduates. Congratulations to all the graduates! Check out the photo album from the ceremony on Minot AFB PA Flickr page.

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A SPRING WALK

Patricia Stockdill

Spring brings warmth, sunshine, a chance to get out and walk, hike, or take a morning run without donning three layers of clothing, gloves, and stocking cap, plus early blooming flowers. It's all a precursor to summer's arrival.

But, admittedly, it also brings the real world "joy" of soon-to-burst onto the scene arrival of wood ticks, exposed accumulation of months of winter grime from things blowing in the breeze, and grubby streets from stuff spread over snow and ice to them traversable. Plus it brings mud.

It seems that even if it's a drier-than-normal winter or early spring, mud is ever-present.

Yet there is an advantage to mud, especially when hiking in North Dakota's Great Outdoors.

While it likely means muddy boots and probably muddy jeans and clothing, at the same time it can reveal the intriguing array of wildlife that's out and about.

In other words, it can be easier to identify animal tracks. The benefit of mud in that situation was an awakening while enjoying an early morning weekend walk with the two four-legged Hunting Maniacs. At that point the ground was still frozen so we could walk sans muddy feet while discovering an array of frozen-in-the-mud tracks.

The Hunting Maniacs – both Brittany's – are medium-sized dogs with medium-sized paws and resulting tracks. The perfect track in frozen mud made it easy to identify the fact that the "puppy dog" tracks we were stepping over didn't belong to a cute domestic "puppy dog".

Rather they were coyote tracks - unfriendly puppy dog tracks. They were smaller to mid-sized tracks resembling a dog but smaller than that of the Hunting Maniacs, despite the fact the Maniacs are about same size as a coyote.

My mind wandered along and over the tracks as the Hunting Maniacs ran in all their glory - hunting in their mind, albeit a morning hike in mine. I got to thinking about how different wild animal tracks compare.

It was easy in the crisp, clean frozen mud to see the difference between the coyote track and that of the dogs. Part of why I could tell the difference is explained in the book "A Field Guide to Mammal Tracking in North America" by James Halfpenny.

The bottom line is my dogs – like all domestic dogs – have evolved over eons of living with humans. They don't need to be stealth and coy to find a meal. They simply tell me to feed them. And, like most domestic dogs, they're sloppier walkers than a wild dog, whether coyote, fox, or wolf.

Domestic dogs approach new objects directly, often throwing caution to the wind. That perfectly describes how the youngest Hunting Maniac, Magnum, greets people – robustly and with gusto.

Wild canines approach a new object with caution, often circling downwind. Claws on a canine track tend to show, although the claws on the two outside toes of a coyote might not always be visible. If soil and vegetation conditions permit, though, the claws of the two inside toes could be visible.

That's different than wild cats, such as bobcats, mountain lions, and lynx. Their claws remain retracted when they walk or run.

Halfpenny confirmed my idea that even though the Hunting Maniacs were about the same size and weight, their tracks were larger than that of the coyote. A typical coyote track is about 2.5 inches long and 2.25 inches wide.

That morning journey offered other tracks, including pheasants, cottontail rabbits, and squirrels – even tiny tracks from LBBs – Little Brown Birds, so dubbed when I can't identify a Little Brown Bird even if it had been present.

Deer tracks was accompanied by a smaller set and I smiled. Mama white-tail still had her fawn from last year with her, a good sign they both survived a North Dakota winter.

While mama deer and her almost yearling fawn had walked in the depths of the bare earth when it was wet and muddy, it was obvious they didn't enjoy the mud between their hooves - after a short distance they both walked in the adjacent grass. Quick learners, I thought, as I, too, began walking along the edge of the grass rather than the bare soil of the old prairie trail.

By this time in the morning journey that frozen earth was starting to soften. It wouldn't be long before the Hunting Maniacs and I would both be slogging in ever-present spring mud.

It was time to head back home.



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WHAT'S GOING ON MINOT AFB

FRIDAY11

- FTEC, 0730-1600, Professional Development Center
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- BOGO Bowling Fridays, 1600-2100, Rough Rider Lanes
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Famaganza, 1800-2000, Youth Center

TUESDAY15

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Run Fast, 0600, Dome, hosted by McAdoo Fitness 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
- Retraining 101, 1300-1400, Professional Development Center
- Zumba, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Grease and Gears— Road Rookies/Teen Drivers, 1730-1930, Auto Hobby Shop
- Quiet Book Club, 1800-1930, Minot AFB Library
- Run Far, 1900, Dome, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center

FRIDAY18

- TAP (DOL) Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Inflatables at the Turf, 0800-1600, Turf, hosted by Outdoor Recreation
- Lifeguard Certification Class, 0800-1630, Outdoor Recreation
- Bootcamp, 0900, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, McAdoo Fitness Center
- High-Tech Home Run Derby, 1600-2100, Rough Rider Lanes
- Friday Flicks, 1630-2200, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Karaoke Nights, 2100-2330, Rockers Bar & Grill

SATURDAY12

- Zumba, 0800, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Star Wars Spectacular, 1300, Minot AFB Library
- 18+ After Hours Bowling, 2100-2400, Rough Rider Lanes

WEDNESDAY16

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- TAP (DOL) Overview, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Self Care Workshop, 0900-1030, M&FRC
- 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

SATURDAY19

- Cold War Spy Escape Room Game Ends, Minot AFB Library
- Teen CERT Training, 1300-1700, M&FRC
- 90's/00's Pop Culture Trivia, 1700-1900, Rockers Bar & Grill
- Airmen Movie Night, 1900-2200, Turf, hosted by Outdoor Recreation

SUNDAY13

MONDAY14

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- TAP Overview, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Family Bootcamp, 1000, Turf, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- TAP Overview, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Palace Chase/Front Briefing, 1400, Professional Development Center
- Cycle, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Zumba, 1800, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Craft Club, 1800, Minot AFB Library

THURSDAY17

- AFFT, 0530, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Run Fast, 0600, Dome, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center
- Informed Decision Seminar, 0800-1200, Professional Development Center
- TAP (DOL) Employment Track Workshop, 0800-1600, M&FRC
- Reintegration Briefing, 1000-1100, M&FRC, Zoom Meeting
- AFFT, 1100, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Tuition Assistance (TA) Brief, 1330, Education Center – Room 211
- Zumba, 1700, McAdoo Fitness Center
- Glow Dance Spectacular, 1800-2000, Youth Center
- Run Far, 1900, Dome, hosted by McAdoo Fitness Center

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Bomber Bistro Featured Item
Banh Mi Sandwich
Marinated pork with a slaw and sriracha mayo sauce on a hoagie roll!

The B-Fifty Brew Featured Item
Southwest Chicken Breakfast Burrito
Bell peppers, onion, black and pinto beans, eggs, cheese, and seasoned potatoes!

Rockers Bar & Grill Featured Item
Harvest Salad
Spring Mix, cranberries, sunflower kernels, mozzarella balls, cherry tomatoes, crumbled boiled egg, and croutons. Add chicken or shrimp!

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