



Chamber opposes Measure 2

Measure 2: ill-advised and unrealistic

by L. John MacMartin,
Minot Area Chamber of Commerce President

Measure 2 is a sledgehammer that destroys local autonomy. This is a strong statement to start with when talking about an initiated measure that few have heard about and one that seems so innocuous in its wording.

So what exactly does Measure 2 say and what are the implications? This measure would prohibit political subdivisions from levying taxes on "assessed value" of real or personal property. Property taxes would be eliminated by the enactment of measure #2 because all property taxes are levied on the assessed value of property.

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce supports the continued revision of property taxes in North Dakota, but Measure 2 is not a solution; instead it just creates new problems that would be even more difficult to solve. This Draconian measure requires that the Legislature determines what is best for local governments. This is counter to what we all know about North Dakota, what works best for West Fargo may not work well at all for us here in Minot. The Chamber believes that local government — city councils, county commissions, school boards — are more accountable to the people and that local officials respond more effectively to the immediate needs of their constituents.

The Legislature would be required to determine the funding, or in other words approve the budgets, for more than 2,000 North Dakota political subdivisions. What does that mean here in Ward County or

Minot? The County, all of the cities, the park districts, the school districts and the townships would all have to submit each respective budget to the legislature for approval. This would mean if you wanted to provide input or object to a portion of a budget you would need to travel to Bismarck and appear before a Legislative Committee to voice your concerns. If you had concerns about more than one budget, that would possibly mean multiple trips to the Legislature.

Measure 2 will more than likely require tax increases in state income taxes, state sales taxes, state fees and local sales taxes. To make up for the more than \$800 million in lost annual revenue, legislators will almost have to raise taxes and fees to fill the gap. Local officials would almost certainly have to raise local sales taxes, and higher sales taxes adversely impact businesses. There are many unintended consequences for Measure 2, chief among them is the fact that we would be locking tax policy into our state's constitution and that will remove the flexibility we currently have to deal with local emergencies and local needs. Also, by placing tax policy Measure 2 in the Constitution, it is very difficult to change to meet the ever changing needs of a growing economy.

To recap, the Minot area Chamber of Commerce supports the continued revision of the North Dakota property tax system as we have seen over the last two legislative sessions. Measure number 2 is both dangerous and flawed and is not the answer to property tax reform in North Dakota.

INSIDE THE COMMUNICATOR

Page 2:
*Minot YP to host
June conference.*

Page 3:
*Prairie Warrior
Auction March 31;
Eagle Award
winners honored.*

Page 4: Dale
*Carnegie course
begins Feb. 12;
Home & Garden
Show set for March
3 – 4; Ambassadors
celebrate with area
businesses.*

Page 5-6:
*Members offer
updates.*

Page 8:
*Get involved
in Chamber
activities.*

Business After Hours hosted by Hess Corporation



Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012

5 – 7 p.m.

IRET Corporate Plaza

3015 16th Street SW, #20 • Minot
*Join us to learn more about Hess
Corporation — your neighbors in
North Dakota since 1951.*

Hors d'oeuvres | Refreshments | Door Prizes

Drawing for \$500 in Chamber Bucks

If winner not present, \$50 in Chamber Bucks guaranteed \$5 fee charged at the door

**MINOT AREA CHAMBER of COMMERCE
COMMUNICATOR**

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JANUARY BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Thank you to Souris Valley Animal Shelter and Grand International for the January 12 Business After Hours. One hundred twenty-five people enjoyed the elegant atmosphere with delicious food, great prizes and an opportunity to network with other Chamber members.



From left to right: Chamber President John MacMartin, Chamber Board Chair Bruce Walker (Coldwell Banker - 1st Minot Realty & Management), Souris Valley Animal Shelter Board Chair Dave Bosch, and Souris Valley Animal Shelter Director Susan Wagers.

Minot YPs to host 3rd annual Great Plains Young Professional Summit this June

Save the date! The 2012 Great Plains Young Professional Summit has been scheduled for June 6-8 at the Grand International in Minot. The Summit will be packed with top notch speakers, interesting and timely breakout sessions, and plenty of opportunities to network with other young professionals. The Summit kicks off Wednesday night with an after work networking session followed by a two-day conference that wraps up early Friday afternoon. The Summit is one of the only regional conferences geared toward the professional development needs of indi-

viduals age 21 to 39. Through the sharing of ideas and networking with peers our regions young professionals will gain the tools and resources needed to keep our region strong and competitive. For more information and conference updates visit www.gypysummit.com.



RENEWALS

The Chamber extends a big "THANK YOU" to our members who have renewed their membership through Jan. 24, 2012. Your continued support helps your Chamber promote the business community and do the work seen in the pages of this newsletter.

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|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Allen Realty Co. | Mr. Pat Jones | Nash Finch Co. |
| Avitus Group | Blake Krabseth | Norsk Hostfest Association |
| Behm Energy | Comedian/Magician | Northern Brake Service |
| Border States Electric Supply | Judge Gary Lee | Northwest Building Improvement |
| Bremer | Margie's Art Glass Studio | Northwestern Mutual Financial |
| Brick Studio | Marketplace Foods | Network |
| Central Michigan University | Mary Me Bridal & Formal Wear, Inc. | Papa Murphy's Take 'N' Bake Pizza |
| Clute Office Equipment | Mattson Construction Co. | JC Penney |
| Conlin's Furniture | Judge Douglas L. Mattson | Professional Hearing Services |
| Culligan Water Conditioning | Mercer Engineering P.C. | Rasmussen College |
| Dale Carnegie Training/Eide Bailly LLP | Midcontinent Communications | American Red Cross Mid-Dakota Chapter |
| Denny's Restaurant | Minot Area Schools Federal Credit Union | Roger Ward North American |
| Easter Seals Goodwill of ND, Inc. | Minot Builders Supply | Royal Fork Restaurant |
| Embry - Riddle Aeronautical University | Minot Public School District #1 | Ryan Chevrolet |
| First International Bank & Trust | Minot Voc Adj Workshop (MVAW) / Recycling Center | Stevick Business Forms |
| Food Management Investors, Inc. | City of Minot | Ms. Lila Striefel |
| Gary's Hairstylists | Miracle-Ear | Taco John's |
| Glacial Holdings Inc. | Monarch Products Company | Vallyley Sport & Marine |
| Grizzly's Grill & Saloon | Montana Dakota Utilities Company | The Village Family Service Center |
| Independence, Inc. | | Watne Realtors |
| JoAnne Johnson Contracting LLC | | Zarr Financial Services |

Prairie Warrior Auction raises funds for MAFB competitions

The 26th Annual Military Affairs Committee Prairie Warrior Competition Auction is set for Saturday, March 31, 2012, at the Holiday Inn. Preview of auction merchandise begins at 5:30 p.m., with refreshments and hors d'oeuvres being served. The auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. There is a \$25

charge at the door.

Each year, the event raises thousands of dollars to help with the expenses for Minot Air Force Base competitions. Funds are also used to underwrite events designed to improve the morale of the men and women stationed at Minot AFB. Every year, dona-

tions by area businesses and individuals make this event successful. Donations for the auction can be serious, humorous, unusual, imaginative or creative.

For more information or to make a donation, please call the Chamber at 852-6000.

Chamber's Ag Committee supports ag producers at Expo



The Chamber's Agribusiness Committee served coffee to livestock producers at the KMOT Ag Expo Jan. 26. The Chamber extends a thank you to Alternative Health Solutions, Bremer, Effertz, Black Butte Acres, First International Bank & Trust, First Western Bank & Trust, Gooseneck Implement, Poynter's Ag Supply, and Western Agency for supporting this event.

EAGLE AWARDS

The Eagle Award winners were recognized in January and thanked for superior customer service skills. If you would like to nominate someone for outstanding customer service, please call the Chamber at 852-6000 for a nomination form, or visit the website at minotchamber.org.

A special thank you goes out to Homesteaders Restaurant for the gift certificate provided for Eagle Award recipients.



BOBBY JO VIGNESS
Magic City Cleaners

*Photo
Not
Available*

MICHELLE MOORE
Pizza Hut

Annual Sportsmen's Feed successful

The annual Sportsmen's Feed was a great time for airmen at MAFB to watch the AFC/NFC playoffs, enjoy great food and games. Special thanks to Joe Quaglia and

chief chef Gary Brevig and all those in the kitchen for their help with this event. Thank you also to the following sponsors for donating items to the event.

*American Legion, Post #26
Big Kmart
Bloms Meat Market
Capital RV Center
The Computer Store
Don Bessette Motors
Grand International
Harley's
Holiday Inn
Homesteaders
I. Keating Furniture World
KXMC CBS13*

*Magic City Beverage
Marketplace Foods
Mi Mexico
Minot Area Chamber of
Commerce
Minot Daily News
Morelli's Distributing
Northern Tier Federal Credit
Union
Pheasants for the Future
Roger Ward North American
Roughrider Golf Course*

*Ryan Family Dealership
Scheels Sports
SRT Communications, Inc.
Souris Valley Golf Course
Tires Plus Total Car Care
United Community Bank
Verendrye Electric Cooperative
Wal-Mart Super Center
Wells Fargo Bank*



Volunteers pose for a picture as they take a break from cooking for the Sportsmen's Feed. They toasted volunteer Mike Fedorchak (center) for his long-term dedication to this event.

9-week Dale Carnegie Course set to begin Feb. 16

Through a proprietary process that uses team dynamics and intergroup activities, this course will help you master the capabilities demanded in today's tough business environment. You'll learn to strengthen interpersonal relations, to manage stress and to handle fast-changing workplace conditions. You'll be better equipped to per-

form as a persuasive communicator; creative problem-solver; and focused leader. In addition, you'll develop a take-charge attitude that allows you to perform with confidence and enthusiasm. In short, the course will empower you to move far beyond your comfort zone as you stretch for and attain ambitious new goals.

Team rates are available. Space is limited so make your reservation now. For more information please contact Michelle Wall at 701-255-8476 or email her a mwall@eidebailly.com, or visit www.northdakota.dalecarnegie.com.

Home and Garden Show set for March 3 - 4

The Minot Association of Builders (MAB) presents the 37th Annual Home & Garden Show at the Magic Place, ND State Fair Center Saturday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, March 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Exhibitors displaying the newest in products, materials and services from the home

construction/remodeling industry, gardening/landscaping and many other associated businesses will be available in the 40,000 square foot arena. Useful, general interest seminars will be held both days.

This year the Area Homeless Coalition will be the beneficiary of funds raised in a raffle for lawn furniture constructed by

Burdick Job Corps Facilities Maintenance students and instructor and sponsored by MAB. Tickets are available from the Minot Association of Builders as well as at the Show.

For more information contact the MAB office at 852-0496.



Save the date:
*24th Annual International Military Ball
is set for Saturday, April 14 at the
Minot Holiday Inn*

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Tutti Frutti

813 North Broadway • Minot, ND 58701 • 838-4050 • www.tfyogurt.com

Jeff Bailey, Manager

Ambassadors were on hand for the grand opening of Tutti Frutti, a specialty soft serve frozen yogurt company with branches around the world. Tutti Frutti provides no sugar added mixes, smoothie base mixes, 20 plus natural flavors, soft serve equipment, and designed unique cups.



Motor Vehicle Department

1600 2nd Ave SW • Minot, ND 58701 • 857-8221

Carla Vannett, Manager

The Chamber Ambassadors were on hand to celebrate the newly remodeled offices of the Motor Vehicle Department. MVD was temporarily relocated to the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce offices during the flood, but is now back in its own location, ready to take care of vehicle license plates, titles and tabs.

MEMBER NEWS

“Love Without Fear” Walkathon Feb. 18

The Domestic Violence Prevention Foundation will sponsor the 11th annual “Love Without Fear Walk-a-thon.” The funds raised from this event will be used to ensure that services will continue to be provided to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in this area.

The Walkathon will be held Feb. 18, 2012 at the MSU Dome from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Music and refreshments will be provided throughout the day. Children’s activities will also be taking place. There will be a prize given to the team which raises the most money. Each walker will be given a “Love Without Fear” T-shirt for their participation.

Please call Kari at the Domestic Violence Crisis Center at 852-2258 for more information. Walkathon Team packets are available at the 3331 Burdick Expressway E., Minot.

United Community Bank promotes Wyman

United Community Bank of Minot announces the recent promotion of Audra Wyman to mortgage loan officer. Wyman graduated from Westhope High School in 2004. She then attended Minot State University where she graduated in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in finance. Wyman has been employed at United Community Bank for the past five years and most recently served as a loan processor. She is active in Young Professionals and teaches Junior Achievement.



Audra Wyman

Kiwanis Club helps keep kids safe

The Kiwanis Club of Minot is getting ready to stay up all night. The group is once again hosting the Minot High School After Prom Party. Thanks to their friends at the Moose Lodge, they have a great facility to use March 31 when the students come dressed in their elegant gowns and tuxedos. The party will start at midnight and end around 4 a.m. when all the prizes are handed out. Businesses willing to help out are encouraged to send a donation to P.O. Box 663 or drop off a donation at the Minot Chamber with Carla Dolan. Thanks for helping give our youth a good choice for a night they look forward to every year!

MSU Alumni Association seeking scholarship applications

The Minot State University Alumni Association is accepting applications for its annual scholarships through Feb. 15. The scholarship application form is available online at <http://www.minotstateu.edu/alumni/scholarship.shtml> or a paper copy can be requested from the alumni office at 858-3234.

Students who received an MSU Alumni Association Scholarship in the past and are junior, senior or graduate students can also apply for the Peggy Wittliff Memorial Scholarship. This \$4,000 scholarship is paid over the full academic year. For questions, contact McKechnie at 858-3234 or janna.mckechnie@minotstateu.edu.

Ribbon cutting scheduled for Medcenter One occupational health, walk-in clinics

Medcenter One will have the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors to help celebrate the opening of two clinics in Minot. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7 at the Medcenter One Occupational Health Clinic and Walk-in Clinic. Light refreshments and tours of both clinics will be available.

The new clinics are located at 801 21st Ave. S.E., off the Highway 2 and 52 bypass east, near the Schatz Crossroads Family Restaurant.

Medcenter One Occupational Health Clinic offers a full scope of innovative work-related healthcare services in one convenient location. Medcenter One Walk-in Clinic provides convenient, no call-ahead and no-appointment-necessary healthcare to people who have non-emergent immediate care needs. Operating hours are 8 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday–Friday and 9 a.m.–4 p.m. weekends and holidays.

Verendrye scholarships double

Verendrye Electric Cooperative has beefed up its annual scholarship program by doubling the amount awarded. The award amount was increased to \$1,000 from the previous level of \$500. To be eligible, students must be dependents of members of Verendrye Electric and must be high school seniors or college freshmen who will be attending a college or vocational school in the fall of 2012.

Each year, Verendrye and Basin Electric Power Cooperative team up to award three scholarships, one in each Verendrye director district. Students must complete an application, which is available at www.verendrye.com/programs/services/scholarships or by calling or visiting Verendrye Electric’s offices in Velva or Minot. Applicants are required to include a recent academic transcript, copy of a college entrance exam (ACT or SAT scores), a one-page essay and an appraisal completed by a teacher, counselor or supervisor.

For questions about the scholarships, call (800) 472-2141.

Funding available for summer interns

North Dakota businesses looking for summer employees can receive up to \$6,000 in matching funds by tapping an underused pool

of candidates: high school and college interns.

Operation Intern, administered from the North Dakota Department of Commerce, is designed to expand the number of internship, work experience and apprenticeship positions with North Dakota employers. The program’s primary focus is employers in the state’s targeted industries: energy, advanced manufacturing, value-added agriculture, tourism and technology-based.

In addition to students registered at North Dakota colleges or universities, the program has expanded eligibility to include high school students and registered apprenticeships.

The Department of Commerce is accepting applications for internships. For more information, visit www.operationintern.com.

Minot Public Schools seeking summer internships for high school students

Minot High School is in its second year of a pilot program placing high school students in internship positions for the summer. Students earn high school credit working a minimum of 75 hours advancing their knowledge and skills while exploring a future career interest.

Business and industry partners are needed in all areas to provide internship opportunities. Work with energetic young adults to gain fresh new ideas, increase your productivity, and train a potential future employee. Employers are asked to orient an intern to company policies and specific work tasks, assign sufficient quality work, and provide safe training, guidance, and supervision of the intern.

Students are selected for an internship through an application and interview process and are covered by Worker’s Compensation once placed on the job. All internship opportunities will be posted for students to review.

If you are interested in providing an internship experience or would like more information, contact Pam Strokland, Career & Technical Education Director, at 857-4458 or pam.strokland@minot.k12.nd.us.

Ashley promoted to marketing director

The North Dakota State Fair has promoted Jennifer Ashley to director of marketing. Ashley is originally from Velva, ND, and graduated from North Dakota State University with a bachelor’s degree in mass communication. In 2010, she joined the State Fair as assistant marketing director and brought with her a background of five years of marketing experience.



Jennifer Ashley

MSU alumnus Paul Johnson returns from Bulgaria

Paul Johnson, president of the American College of Sofia in Sofia, Bulgaria, will visit Minot State University Feb. 7 as part of the Distinguished Alumni Series. Johnson will meet with President's Staff, guest lecture to education classes and speak at Minot Kiwanis Club. Community members are invited to a free reception, where Johnson will discuss his career, in the Gordon B. Olson Library media center at 4 p.m.

Johnson upheld a family tradition graduating from MSU in 1972. He was born in Minot while his parents, Art and Annabel, were Minot State College students. Four out of five Johnson siblings are MSU alumni. Three aunts and several cousins also attended the university.

One of those aunts, College of Business professor emeritus Adelaide Johnson served as the Ray native's mentor. Daniel Johnson (nephew), a junior, keeps the red-and-green tradition alive.

With a bachelor's degree in elementary education, Johnson began teaching at Edison Elementary. After working in rural North Dakota for several years, he returned to Minot as principal of Nedrose Elementary School from 1981 to 1987. Johnson earned a master's degree from North Dakota State University in 1989 and a doctorate from the University of North Dakota in 1994.

After nine years as Bismarck Public Schools superintendent, Johnson and his wife, Teresa, an alumna, sought employment opportunities overseas. In July 2010, Johnson became president of the American College of Sofia, considered one of the most prestigious secondary schools in Bulgaria and the Balkans.

In 2008, the North Dakota Association of School Administrators named Johnson the North Dakota Superintendent of the Year.

Pearson joins Town & Country CU

Shannon Pearson has joined Town and Country Credit Union as the VP of Marketing. Shannon is originally from Minot and attended the University of North Dakota receiving a Bachelor's degree in Marketing in 2006 and a Masters in Business Administration in 2008. Shannon was previously employed as the Marketing Director for the North Dakota State Fair. She is an active member of the Minot Area Professional Communicators, Minot Sunrise Rotary and the Minot Young Professionals.



Shannon Pearson

Ackerman-Estvold welcomes new employees

Joe Maki has joined Ackerman-Estvold Engineering and Management Consulting, Inc. as a Senior Civil Designer. He brings with him nearly 20 years of drafting experience, including time as the owner/operator of a land development/CAD design consulting firm. We are excited to welcome Maki, a Wisconsin native, as the newest Ackerman-Estvold Engineering team member with expertise in the areas of land development, transportation and municipal service.



Joe Maki

Justin Froseth, EIT, has been hired as Project Engineer for Ackerman-Estvold Engineering and Management Consulting, Inc. Froseth was previously on staff as an engineering intern while he completed his degree. He graduated from North Dakota State University in December 2011, with a civil engineering degree. In addition to his civil engineering degree, he holds a bachelor's degree in construction management, also from NDSU. Froseth is a native of Kenmare.

Ackerman-Estvold Engineering and Management Consulting, Inc. is a professional engineering firm headquartered in Minot, N.D. The firm provides planning, design, and construction services for public and private clients throughout North Dakota and the surrounding states.



Justin Froseth

U.S. News ranks MSU online business programs among best

The *U.S. News & World Report* reported that Minot State University's College of Business online graduate programs and MSU undergraduate online programs rank among the nation's best online education programs. Recognizing the growing significance of online education in the university experience and the unique, numerous factors involved in making online degree programs successful, *U.S. News* released its first "Top Online Education Programs" rankings Jan. 10.

Among 177 universities reporting their graduate business program practices, the CoB's online Master of Science in management and Master of Science in information systems ranked sixth in the nation (top 3 percent) for "Student Services and Technology." They also ranked 25th (top 14 percent) for "Admissions Selectivity," 47th (top 27 percent) for "Faculty Credentials and Training"

and 57th (top 32 percent) for "Teaching Practices and Student Engagement."

For the overall performance of its online undergraduate programs, MSU ranked 17th (top 9 percent) for "Teaching Practices and Student Engagement" and 41st (top 21 percent) for "Student Services and Technology." MSU's online bachelor's degree programs include management, management information systems, marketing, international business, nursing for registered nurses, general studies, applied management and applied business information technology.

According to said JoAnn Linrud, dean of the College of Business, about 16 percent of CoB students take their major business program completely online, while another 16 percent take at least half of their degree program online.

"When you consider that about a third of our students make online classes a substantial portion of their degree programs, we strive to make courses available to them and pay attention to their needs. Our high rankings are attributable to our dedicated faculty and support staff. MSU has offered courses online long enough to have worked out many of the kinks," Linrud said.

U.S. News ranked 196 online bachelor's degree programs and 523 online master's degree programs in business, engineering, nursing, education and computer information technology. Programs needed to have at least 80 percent of their course content available online.

For questions, contact Linrud at 858-3110 or joann.linrud@minotstateu.edu.

Independence, Inc. offers correct email

An incorrect email address for Independence, Inc. was listed in last month's Chamber Communicator. The correct address is independencecil@independencecil.org.

American Bank names new employees

American Bank Center announces Julie Flemmer and Ann Summers as tellers.

Flemmer is returning to American and previously worked in the Teller line in 2007.

Summers has an associate's degree in criminal justice from the Community College of the Air Force and is currently pursuing a corporate fitness degree from Minot State University.

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Ribbon Cutting, 10:30 a.m., Professional Business Interiors, 1310 East Burdick, Suite 2	2 Ambassadors Committee, 4:30 p.m., Off the Vine Ribbon Cutting, 10 a.m., First International Bank & Trust, 1705 2nd Ave. SW	3 Ribbon Cutting, 9 a.m., RSI Children's Home, 500 7th Ave. NE	4
5	6	7 First Dollar of Profit Presentations, 10 a.m., various loca- tions Military Ball Planning Committee, Noon, Holiday Inn Ribbon Cutting, 4:30 p.m., Medcenter One - 801 21st Ave SE	8 Right Start Presentation, 10 a.m., MAFB	9	10 Infrastructure Committee, 7:30 a.m., Homesteaders Restaurant	11
12	13 Right Start Presentation, 12:30 p.m., MAFB	14 Eagle Awards Presentation, 10 a.m., Chamber office	15	16 Diplomats Committee, 9 a.m., Parker Center Business After Hours, 5 – 7 p.m., Hess Corporation, 3015 16th St SW, Ste 20	17	18
19	20 President's Day Office Closed	21 Board of Directors, 7:30 a.m., Grand Int'l	22 Right Start Presentation, 10 a.m., MAFB	23 Energy Committee, 11:30 a.m., Vegas	24	25
26	27	28	29			

To view meeting changes or community events, log on to www.minotchamber.org