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Prairie Warrior Auction raises funds to support men and women at MAFB

In its previous 27 years, the annual Military Affairs Committee Prairie Warrior Competition has raised a half a million dollars. The funds support many base organizations and functions designed to improve the morale of the men and women stationed at Minot AFB. This includes expenses incurred by competition teams, squadron activities and annual awards banquets. Funds also go to the Thanksgiving baskets project during the holiday season and Operation Warmheart, a program for families in need.

The 28th annual auction, set for Saturday, March 22, will be held in the Holiday Inn Riverside in Minot with a preview of auction merchandise beginning at 5:30 p.m. The live auction, with auctioneer John Bearman, will begin at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served, and 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. Last year the auction raised about \$33,000 for Minot Air Force Base, said Betty Fedorchak (Esoterica), auction chair.

Every year, donations by area businesses and individuals make this event successful. Donations to the annual auction in past years have included restaurant certificates and other certificates, baskets

filled with a variety of items, season passes for golf, hotel stays, diamond jewelry, special clocks, outdoor cooking items, Norsk Høstfest and ND State Fair tickets, Roosevelt Park Zoo passes, Minot Family YMCA memberships, special dinners, specially baked and decorated cakes, sports apparel, furniture and military memorabilia and artwork along with other types of artwork and photography.

Items donated can be serious, humorous, unusual, imaginative or creative, Fedorchak said. She said any special instructions or information about the items, such as historical significance, should be included if applicable as the information may increase the items' value during bidding.

If an item is an intangible gift such as a service or membership, a certificate or letter from the donor or business must be included.

For further information about appropriate auction items and donations, or to arrange for pick-up of auction items, please call Fedorchak at 838-6680. Lt. Col. Darrin Morgan is the on-base liaison for the auction. For more information or to make a donation, please call the Chamber at 852-6000.

Construction crews stay busy at MAFB

Minot and the surrounding areas have seen plenty of growth the past few years, and Minot Air Force Base is no exception. The base will have a new temporary lodging facility across from the Shoppette. The project has been designed and will soon go out for bids. The temporary housing is for military members in transition on and off base.

Col. Doug Gilpin, Commander of the 5th Civil Engineer Squadron, addressed the Chamber's

Military Affairs Committee Jan. 9 at the Jimmy Doolittle Center at MAFB. He discussed military construction projects or MILCON. The temporary lodging facility will be a two-story structure with 30 two-bedroom units. This past year, a 168-room dormitory for single airman was complete. This summer the runway will be under construction as well.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Best Western Kelly Inn (1510 26th Ave. SW)

Thursday, February 20 • 5–7 p.m.

This is an opportunity to network with potential and established clients in a social, fun atmosphere. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a chance to win \$500 in Chamber Bucks! If winner is not present, \$50 in Chamber Bucks is guaranteed. (Must be present to win) \$5 charge at the door



MINOT AREA CHAMBER of COMMERCE COMMUNICATOR

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minotchamber.org

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NEW MEMBERS

The Minot Chamber welcomes new members. Join us in thanking **Shoe Carnival**. Please let them know how much of a value they are to our community.

SHOE CARNIVAL

3216 16th St. SW • Minot, ND • 852-1713 • shoecarnival.com

Linda Beitler, General Manager

Shoe Carnival is a family-oriented, friendly and fun place to buy shoes for every member of the family.

AGRI BUSINESS COMMITTEE



The AgriBusiness Committee toured United Pulse's facility in Minot Jan. 16. The tour was given by U.S. Operations Manager Les Knutson, who is wearing the white hard hat. The \$30 million bean, pea and lentil processing facility officially opened in August. United Pulse Trading is a subsidiary of Alliance Grain Traders.

RENEWALS

The Chamber extends a big "THANK YOU" to our members who have renewed their membership Dec. 13, 2013, through Jan. 23, 2014. Your continued support helps your Chamber promote the business community and do the work seen in the pages of this newsletter.

Albertson Rentals
American Legion
Anderson, Wade & Whitty, PC
Artistry Hairstylists & Day Spa
Behm Energy
Best Buy
Bremer Bank
Brite-Way Window Cleaning, Inc.
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Miracle-Ear
Montana Dakota Utilities Company
Muus Lumber and Hardware

Nash Finch Co.
Norsk Høstfest Association
North Dakota Envelope Co.
Northern Brake Service
The OBASA Group - Silver Springs
Development, Inc.
Papa Murphy's Take 'N' Bake Pizza
Pinkerton Animal Hospital
Professional Hearing Services
Roger Ward North American
Ron's Transmission & Auto Repair
Signal Management Corp.-SMC
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Sprung Instant Structures, Inc
Stantec
Staybridge Suites
Lila Striefel
Taco John's
Thorsrud Supply Co., Inc.
Trinity Health
Valley Sport & Marine
The Vegas Motel & Casino
Verendrye Electric Cooperative
Watne Realtors
Wired
WriteDesign
Zarr Financial Services

Lunch-N-Learn features Social Security representative

Did you know that the Social Security Administration has free online tools specifically for businesses? Make your payroll and personnel record keeping easier. Join SSA representative Howard Kossover for an introduction to SSA Business Services Online. This Chamber-sponsored, free Lunch-n-Learn will be March 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton, 3420 South Broadway in Minot. Cost of lunch is \$15.

Other topics will include an overview of the SSA website to find accurate benefit information for your business and personal use, how to create a my Social Security account to access your personal SSA record and your questions.

For more information or to reserve your spot, visit minotchamber.org or call 852-6000.

To register, log onto www.minotchamber.org and sign up today under March 12.

Lunch-N-Learn Wednesday,

March 12 • 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Four Points by Sheraton

Lunch: \$15

3420 S. Broadway • Minot

Visit www.minotchamber.org

and sign up today

Annual Sportsmen's Feed brings communities together

The annual Sportsmen's Feed was a great time for airmen at MAFB to watch the AFC/NFC playoffs and enjoy great food and games. Special thanks to Joe Quaglia, Ron Garcia, Bill Dennis and those in the kitchen for all their help with this event, especially our annual

Sportsmen's Feed planner and chief chef, Gary Brevig. Thanks to Betty Fedorchak and Diana Rylander for working the front desk and greeting those attending. Thank you also to the following sponsors for donating items to the event.

*Bank of North Dakota
Affinity Federal Credit Union
Badlands Grill House & Saloon
Capital RV
The Computer Store
Don Bessette Motors
Grand Hotel
Harley's
Hess Corporation
Homesteaders Restaurant*

*I. Keating Furniture World
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Minot Daily News
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*North Hill Bowl
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Ryan Motors
Scheels
Sevens Restaurant
Sleep Inn
Sportsmen's Loft
SRT Communications, Inc.*

*Staybridge Suites
Steve Kotsick Golf Shop
Tires Plus
United Community Bank
Verendrye Electric Cooperative
Visit Minot
Wal-mart Super Center
Wells Fargo
Westlie Motors
YMCA*

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



The Governmental Affairs Committee hosted a forum for members regarding the legislative budget section with members of the Minot Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee.

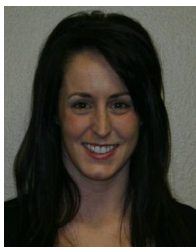
Photo at left, left to right: Pam Sharp (director of the ND Office of Management and Budget), Rep. Chet Pollert - Carrington (legislative budget section chair), Governmental Affairs Committee Chair Tom Seymour, and Rep. Andy Maragos - Minot.

Upcoming meetings for the committee include:

- February 21 – Julie Fedorchak and Brian Kalk, ND Public Service Commissioners, at SRT North at 11:30 a.m. Bring your own lunch.
- March 21 – Ryan Rauschenberger, ND Tax Commissioner, and Senator Dwight Cook, Chair of Interim Taxation Committee, at Vegas Hotel at 11:30 a.m.

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 providing a gift certificate for each Eagle recipient.



AMANDA ROTHE
United Community Bank



AMY HUTCHINS
CVS Pharmacy



CAITLIN BROWN
Grand Hotel/Primo



KASHYAP PATEL
Sears



KRISTINA CAMARILLO
AT&T Mobility



BRAD THOMAS
Thomas Family Funeral Home



KYRA BROOKINS
Trinity Health Exercise



WILL BRAND
American Bank Center



WILL FLATTEM-RIEMER
Menards



SYDNEY LANGE
MarketPlace Foods - North Hill

Annual MAFB Economic Impact Statement

The annual MAFB Economic Impact statement will be released at the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee meeting on Thursday, February 6 at noon at the Vegas Motel.

THANK YOU TO MINOT COMMISSION ON AGING FOR BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



Thank you to the Minot Commission on Aging for sponsoring the January Business After Hours event. Seventy-five people came out and enjoyed the evening. Attendees learned about their planned renovations, networked, enjoyed delicious food, and won prizes.



Mainstream Investors

2825 South Broadway, Suite 2 • Minot, ND • 852-9444 • Fax: 852-9515 • President/CEO: Mark Anderson • Vice President: Mike Donohoe
Website: www.mainstreamnd.com

Mainstream Investors, LLC, is a North Dakota-based non-operating oil and gas company that provides its members with access to oil and gas production activity in the Williston Basin region in western North Dakota.



Home Depot

3425 South Broadway • Minot, ND • 852-9444 • Store Manager: Jason Barker
Website: www.homedepot.com

Home Depot is excited to bring great home improvement products and service to the people of the Minot area.

Annual Champagne and Ice Gala raises funds for Children Advocacy Center

The Northern Plains Children Advocacy Center (CAC) will present the 4th annual Champagne and Ice Gala. The fourth year of this important fundraiser brings a few changes. This year, there will be a new location, live entertainment provided by Soulshine, Minot's own Shaun Sipma as emcee, as well as professional photographers, Otis and James. In previous years, the event has been held in December; however, this year it will be Saturday, Feb. 1.

The mission of the CAC is to protect children by providing on-site agency collaboration utilizing a multi-disciplinary team approach in prevention, investigation, assessment, and referral for prosecution and treatment of child abuse.

It is the goal of the CAC to provide a compassionate and effective way to bring services to children victimized by abuse. This public-private collaboration significantly reduces the trauma associ-

ated with reporting child abuse and holds offenders accountable.

The CAC provides comprehensive services in northwest and north central North Dakota, including Minot Air Force Base, Turtle Mountain Tribe Reservation and Fort Berthold Reservation.

These services include forensic interviews, forensic medical exams, family support and follow-up services, trauma therapy, mental health crisis intervention, specialized therapy, information and referrals, community education, and child abuse prevention presentations.

Since the CAC began in 2009, the need for services has steadily increased. In 2009, the organization provided services to 103 children, while in 2012, 259 children received services. So far this year, the CAC has provided services to 251 children.

Any out-of-pocket expenses that are incurred

for the services of the CAC are not the responsibility of the family. The CAC is solely funded from grants, reimbursements, donations, and fundraisers.

The purpose of the Champagne and Ice Gala is to raise community awareness and funds for the CAC. This year, the gala will be held at the Grand Hotel Saturday, Feb. 1, beginning with a cocktail hour starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25, which will include complimentary hors d'oeuvres and champagne. Following the cocktail hour will be a silent and live auction. There will also be a raffle for diamonds from Lien's Jewelry, one of the major diamond sponsors. Cocktail attire is suggested. Tickets can be purchased at Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center, La Di Da, Broadway Bean & Bagel, and SOS Image.

Housing Incentive Fund fully capitalized in only eight months:

State taxpayers readily support affordable housing development

The North Dakota Industrial Commission announced that the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) has fully capitalized the state's affordable housing development program only eight months after it was reauthorized.

"As North Dakota grows, affordable housing development has become one of our top priorities," said members of the North Dakota Industrial Commission in a joint statement. "The Housing Incentive Fund has been a huge boost in creating affordable housing units in communities all over the state."

The Commission, consisting of Governor Jack Dalrymple as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, oversees NDHFA's housing development efforts and advocated for reauthorization of the highly successful Housing Incentive Fund (HIF) program that was first created in 2011.

HIF was reauthorized during the 2013 Legislative Session and NDHFA received a \$15.4 million general fund appropriation and was given the authority to further capitalize the program by issuing \$20 million in state tax credits by Dec. 31,

2014. Strong public support resulted in the HIF being fully funded well in advance of the deadline.

Almost 450 contributions were received with the greatest monetary support coming from the banking community. Twenty-eight financial institutions contributed more than \$11.3 million combined. Forty-two contributions were made by businesses totaling \$3.6 million. More than \$5 million was directed to the fund by 378 individual taxpayers; the average household contributing \$13,500.

"With North Dakota's strong, diversified economy contributing to statewide growth that is expected to continue well into the future, affordable housing choices are more important than ever," said Jolene Kline, NDHFA executive director. "Greater understanding of this need by the public allowed for the rapid capitalization of the fund."

In November, NDHFA announced that in only two funding rounds, it had committed all of HIF program dollars to 34 projects, leveraging \$150 million in construction financing. The program will create 934 housing units, 220 are set aside for

households that provide essential community services in energy-impacted communities including education, law enforcement, and medical personnel. Approximately one-third of the developments will provide housing for special needs households including disabled, homeless and elderly individuals and families.

The projects funded by the HIF program will be located in Arnegard, Beach, Bismarck, Burlington, Crosby, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Dunn Center, Fargo, Grafton, Hettinger, Jamestown, Lignite, Mandan, Minot, New Rockford, Turtle Lake, Watford City and Williston.

North Dakota Housing Finance Agency is a self-supporting state agency that finances the creation and rehabilitation of affordable housing across North Dakota. The North Dakota Industrial Commission oversees the agency. To learn more about HIF and developments it supports, contact Kline or Bill Hourigan at (800) 292-8621 or info@ndhfa.org. Information is also available online at ndhousingincentivefund.org.

Minot Young Professionals host successful fundraiser for DVCC

The YP Outreach Team hosted Underwear Because We Care, a silent auction and social, on Jan. 16 at the Sleep Inn. The goal of this MSU Power of 100 inspired project was to collect 100 undergarments to be donated to the Domestic Violence Crisis Center. The event was well attended with 270 undergarments being collected and more than \$1,800 raised.

"We are so happy with the results of this project. We're also very thankful to everyone who donated items and also attended the event," commented Kelsey Fagerland, Outreach Team Chair.

The next Young Professionals general membership meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 18 at noon at the Roosevelt Park Zoo. This Quarterly Meet-Up, sponsored by Verendrye Electric, will serve as a no pressure networking event for cur-

rent and potential members. Since Oct. 1, YP Minot has added more than 25 new members. This event will provide an opportunity for new, old, and potential members to connect. Membership in the Minot Young Professionals is open to anyone between the ages of 21 and 39. Annual dues are \$25 and new members can sign up online and find a full list of upcoming meetings and events at ypminot.com.



Members of the Minot YP Outreach Team stand with the items collected for the Domestic Violence Crisis Center.



Save the date:

*26th Annual International Military Ball
is set for Saturday, April 12, 2014
6 p.m. • Holiday Inn*

High school students eligible for \$5,000 Chevy scholar program

Ryan Chevrolet of Minot is part of the West Dakota Chevy Dealers of western North Dakota that have combined forces to launch the fourth annual scholarship program for high school juniors and seniors.

The Chevy Scholar Program invites nominations for outstanding high school juniors and seniors in western North Dakota to compete to receive two \$5,000 college scholarships.

Nominations began in December 2013 and will end Feb. 20, 2014, at which time 10 scholarship finalists will be chosen. From March 3 - March 17, 2014, online and text voting will determine the winners. The scholarship winners will be announced the week of March 21, 2014.

"As dealers, we are all individually involved in our communities, supporting youth sports, service organizations, and other community programs," said West Dakota Chevy Dealers president Christian Kostecky. "The Chevy Scholar program

allows us to work together to provide an ongoing benefit to outstanding students across the region."

Students can nominate themselves or be nominated by family, friends, parents, teachers or coaches. Nomination forms can be downloaded at www.chevyscholar.com or picked up from local Chevy dealers. Nominators fill out basic information including community involvement, academic achievements, extracurricular activities and volunteer work. Students must write a 250-500 word essay.

Past Chevy scholarship winners have kept in touch with the dealers and been extremely grateful for their scholarships. Madison Huber, the 2013 winner from Mandan, said, "I could not be more excited about winning the Chevy Scholarship! College is extremely expensive, and this will help immensely. I am most proud about how much my community backed me."

Calé Pagan, another 2013 winner from the

Bismarck area said, "This is the biggest award that I have ever received. The support I have gotten from people I don't even know is overwhelming. The colleges I am applying for will certainly recognize this scholarship."

"It's nice to hear from past winners and to hear how they are doing," said Kostecky. "Past winners have used the scholarship to help with tuition, housing, and even their books and supplies. The scholarship is nice in the flexibility for the student to use the money towards what they need for college."

Nomination forms can be submitted upon completion at any of the 10 West Dakota Chevy dealerships. At the end of the process, one nominator will win \$500 through a random drawing.

To learn more or to nominate a student, go to <http://www.chevyscholar.com> or visit your local Chevy dealer.

MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ackerman-Estvold hires Hibbs

Kyle Hibbs, EI, LSI, has joined the Ackerman-Estvold Minot office as a civil engineer. Hibbs earned a bachelor of science in civil engineering from North Dakota State University, Fargo, and a bachelor of arts in applied sciences from Concordia College, Minnesota, in May of 2013. He has served as a surveying technician for Ackerman Surveying & Associates, Inc. for the past two years while completing his course work. Hibbs is joining the land development team with a focus on design of municipal infrastructure.



Kyle Hibbs

Ackerman Surveying staff receive professional registrations

Ackerman Surveying & Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce that Chad Atterton and Chris Brekke have recently earned their North Dakota Professional Land Surveyor registration from the North Dakota State Board of Registration.

Chad Atterton has been a Survey Technician with Ackerman Surveying for over 11 years. Atterton earned associate of science degrees in architectural drafting and construction management technology from North Dakota State College of Science, Wahpeton.



Chad Atterton

Chris Brekke is a graduate of North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, where he earned an associate of science degree in land surveying & civil engineering technology. Brekke has spent seven years with Ackerman Surveying in the role of survey technician.



Chris Brekke

Ackerman Surveying & Associates, Inc. is a full-service land surveying firm that provides services to both public and private sector clients throughout the state of North Dakota, and the upper Midwest. Ackerman Surveying & Associates, Inc. is headquartered in Minot.

Andrist obtains certification

Pam Andrist, trust officer at American Trust Center, Minot, was recently awarded the Certified Trust & Financial Advisor (CTFA) designation from the Institute of Certified Bankers (ICB), a nonprofit organization sponsored by the American

Bankers Association, in Washington, DC. The CTFA designation is awarded to individuals who demonstrate excellence in the field of trust and investment management. In order to be authorized to use the CTFA credential, you must meet the experience, education, ethics and examination requirements determined to be competency measures for personal trust professionals. The CTFA exam covers many areas including fiduciary and trust activities, personal financial planning, tax law, investment management and ethics



Pam Andrist

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch included in Giving Hearts Day 2014

Give online during 24 hours on Thursday, Feb. 13. Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has been chosen by Dakota Medical Foundation and Impact Foundation to participate in the 2014 Giving Hearts Day, a 24-hour online fundraising event that will be held Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014.

Contributions of \$10 or more will be matched by Dakota Medical Foundation, up to the first \$4,000 donated. To support Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch and have your donation matched, simply go to impactgiveback.org or the Ranch's website, www.dakotaranch.org during 24 hours on Feb. 13.

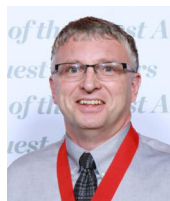
In 2013, gifts totaling \$3.68 million from 16,989 individual donations and 179 charities were received in the 24-hour period.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is a Christian, non-profit agency established in 1952 with a mission to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ. It has three campus locations in Minot, Fargo and Bismarck and eight thrift stores located in North Dakota and Minnesota.

Learn more at www.dakotaranch.org or by visiting our social media sites.

Staybridge Suites Minot named IHG's 2013 Newcomer Property of the Year!

Staybridge Suites Minot has been recognized as InterContinental Hotels Group's (IHG) Newcomer Property of the Year. This is one of the most prestigious honors that IHG can bestow upon its properties throughout



David Bussard
Staybridge Suites
General Manager

the world!

Each year IHG awards a hotel that has provided superior accommodations, along with the highest levels of guest service, quality, and value. National Hospitality Services (NHS) manages the hotel and President Norman Leslie stated, "I congratulate the hotel's staff and partners on this momentous achievement. This award is a testament to the dedication that the team and ownership provides in giving exceptional guest experiences."

For more information about the Staybridge Suites Minot, or to make reservations, visit www.staybridge.com/Minot or call 852-0852.

NHS is headquartered in Fargo, ND, and is a nationally recognized and award winning lodging company that operates hotels throughout the United States. NHS utilizes inventive operating, financial, sales, and marketing strategies increasing the potential of each lodging property it manages. NHS manages both full service and limited service hotels. For more information contact:

Brenda Warren

atbwarren@nationalhospitality.biz or visit www.nationalhospitality.biz.

NDFMGA set for Feb. 14 – 15 in Minot

The 2014 North Dakota Farmers Market Dakota and Growers' Association (NDFMGA) & Local Foods Conference will be held at the Grand Hotel in Minot Feb. 14 – 15. Sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, the event will focus on financing, production and marketing for specialty crop producers to make good business decisions, strengthen old and cultivate new working relationships, and connect producers and consumers.

Producers will have a variety of topics to choose from to help improve their specialty crop business. Non-producers can still attend to learn about what North Dakota is doing and working on to improve the availability of local.

The two-day conference registration price is \$50 per person, or single day registrations are \$30. Registration is due by Jan. 31. For more information, call 701-328-2659 or email jbood@nd.gov.

A special room rate and block of rooms are available at the Grand Hotel until Jan. 31. Ask for the "ND Farmers Market and Growers Association room block." Call the Grand at 852-3161 to reserve your room.

MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

NDSU National Championship Trophy

Tour comes to Scheels

North Dakota State University athletic officials announced the NCAA Division I FCS National Championship Trophies will making a tour sponsored by SCHEELS at several locations around the state beginning Friday, Feb. 7 and running through Sunday, Feb. 9. This will give the people of North Dakota an opportunity to see and get their picture taken with the trophies.

In addition to the 2011, 2012 and 2013 trophies, new NDSU head football coach Chris Klieman and quarterbacks coach Randy Hedberg will appear at three of the four locations.

North Dakota State won the program's third consecutive NCAA Division I FCS Championship with a convincing 35-7 win over Towson on January 4 in Frisco, Texas, and also claimed the program's third Missouri Valley Football Conference title. The Bison were 15-0 overall and 8-0 in MVFC. It was the first undefeated season since 1990 and the program's 14th overall.

Friday, February 7Bismarck SCHEELS 3 – 7 p.m. (Coach Klieman, 3 – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, February 8Minot SCHEELS 9:30 a.m. – Noon

(Coach Hedberg, 10 a.m. – Noon)

Saturday, February 8 ...Grand Forks SCHEELS 5 – 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 9 Fargo SCHEELS Noon – 4 p.m. (Coach Klieman, 1 – 2 p.m.)

Gate City Bank announces employee changes

Forrest Hatchard has been promoted to business development loan officer at Gate City Bank in Minot. He has been employed with Gate City Bank since 2006.

A native of Minot, Hatchard graduated from Minot High School in 1992. He later attended Minot State University where he earned a degree in business management.

Hatchard currently resides in Minot.

Kyle Knutson has transferred from Fargo to Gate City Bank's Minot office where he will serve as personal loan officer. He was previously a personal loan underwriter and has been working for Gate City Bank since 2010.

A native of Minot, Knutson graduated from Minot High School, then attended Minot State University where he earned his degrees in finance, management and history.

Knutson currently resides in Minot.

AE2S recognized with workplace honor

AE2S (Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.) has been recognized by the North Dakota Young Professionals Network (NDYP) as one of the best places to

work in the state.

Each year, the NDYP honors businesses that provide high quality jobs, as well as a work environment which supports young professionals and ongoing economic, workforce, and community development initiatives. A statewide committee of NDYP members serves as judges.

"We are honored that the NDYP has identified AE2S as a top place to work," said Megan Houser, AE2S human resources manager. "AE2S provides comprehensive salary and benefits packages, flexible hours, and advancement opportunities by supporting young professionals in building their leadership skills."

Matthew Madson, engineer-in-training, graduated from the University of Minnesota and joined AE2S in June. "As someone who's just getting started in the field, my new position at AE2S is providing me with great opportunities to work on critical wastewater infrastructure," Madson said. "AE2S is a wonderful place for me to contribute and grow as a professional."

Grand Forks-based AE2S has more than 210 employees located in 14 offices.

Carlyle joins AE2S Nexus

AE2S Nexus, the financial division of AE2S (Advanced Engineering and Environmental

Services, Inc.), has hired Darrel Carlyle as a municipal finance specialist in the firm's Watford City office. He is responsible for providing municipal financial consulting, auditor support, and training services for multiple AE2S Nexus clients throughout western North Dakota.



Darrel Carlyle

Carlyle has more than 15 years of experience in key municipal management, financial, and economic development services. Before joining AE2S, he served as city clerk, city administrator, and/or city manager for the communities of Greenwood, MO; and Lake Mills, Bondurant, and Iowa Falls, IA. Most recently, Carlyle served as the executive director of the Red Oak Chamber and Industry Association in Red Oak, IA.

"It's rare to find someone who brings such a broad municipal finance and management skill set to the table," said Shawn Gaddie, PE, AE2S Nexus division manager.

Originally from Bellevue, NE, Carlyle graduated with a bachelor of science degree in public administration from the University of Nebraska in Omaha, NE. He is currently pursuing his master of public administration degree from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, NE.

Taube sponsors Soup It Up fundraiser

The Taube Museum of Art in Minot will host the 7th annual Soup It Up! fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 8, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. What better way to spend a chilly Saturday than with friends surrounded by art and enjoying mouth-watering soups? The Taube Museum of Art can't think of anything better either and for the price of a ticket, the first 200 attendees will take home a hand-crafted ceramic soup bowl created by the MSU Ceramics Department, Hi-Performance Ceramics, or the Magic City Campus Ceramics Department!

Primo Restaurant, Olive Garden, Ebenezers, Judge Gary and Margaret Lee, Teri Tingley and the Museum Board of Directors are contributing their time and soup for this heart-warming event. Breads and desserts will be provided by Marketplace Foods and Museum members.

There will be live music by Echo's Answer, a silent auction with a variety of gift baskets, pottery, and additional art items will also be offered. A portion of the proceeds from the silent auction will benefit the MSU Ceramics Department Scholarship Fund. MSU Ceramics Department faculty and students, and Jim Bailey with Hi Performance Ceramic Studio, will offer handcrafted pottery for purchase on the tables and in the Museum Gift Shop.

Tickets are \$16 for nonmembers, \$12 for members and MSU Students, and half price for children 8 and younger (which does not include ceramic bowl). Not a member? Join by Feb. 8 and receive an \$8 ticket! Buy your ticket early and get first pick from the selection of handcrafted ceramic bowls! Proceeds support the Taube Museum of Art, a non-profit art organization. With the continuing support of the Minot community we are able to fulfill our mission of enriching lives through the visual arts.

Museum and Gift Shop hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday – Friday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Call Nancy F. Walter, executive director at the Taube Museum of Art, at 838-4445 for further information.



Verendrye Electric Cooperative turns 75!

Verendrye Electric Cooperative turns 75 on Jan. 26, a major milestone for an organization that was started by farmers who helped themselves improve their lives with electricity.

To celebrate the cooperative's diamond anniversary, Verendrye will hold a special Annual Meeting on June 12 with a guaranteed cash prize of \$3,000 to a member in attendance and a second place prize of \$750. The Annual Meeting will also include historic displays, a history video and special musical entertainment by Tigirlily.

Later this year, the cooperative will also be publishing a history book that will be given to members who request one. It will be packed with photos and stories of how Verendrye grew from a handful of farm accounts into a cooperative that now serves more than 15,000 meters in seven counties including homes, farms, businesses and the Minot Air Force Base.

"This is a marvelous story of folks building a better life for themselves when there

wasn't anyone to do it for them," said Verendrye Manager Bruce Carlson "Imagine the farmers and ranchers in the Souris River Valley near the little town of Verendrye digging power poles in by hand in the early 1940s, just to someday have the privilege of electric power in their homes and barns."

The cooperative became official on Jan. 26, 1939, when the state of North Dakota granted it articles of incorporation. It held its first meeting of directors on Feb. 15, 1939, and electrified the first 35 homes on June 27, 1940. The cooperative's first office was in an old bank in the tiny town of Verendrye, which is now home to only two residents. The headquarters was moved to Velva in 1941.

Electric cooperatives are non-profit organizations that are owned by the members that purchase power from them. They were started by farmers in the 1930s and '40s because investor-owned utilities would not bring electricity to rural areas because it was not profitable. Cooperatives are locally con-

trolled by a board of directors who are elected by the members at the Annual Meeting each year. Members also have ownership in their cooperative with capital credits.

For more information about Verendrye's history, go to www.verendrye.com and click on "About Us" at the top of the home page or check us out on Facebook.



Verendrye leaders mark the site in the town of Verendrye, located northeast of Velva, where the cooperative's first office used to be. From left are Chairman Blaine Bruner, board members Bruce Anderson, Cindy Smith, John Warner, Shawn Kaylor and Maxine Rognlien, and Manager Bruce Carlson.

MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

Home & Garden Show March 15 & 16

The Minot Association of Builders (MAB) will present its 39th Annual Home & Garden Show at the Magic Place, ND State Fair Center, on Saturday, March 15 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, March 16 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 can be seen in over 50,000 feet of exhibit area. Interesting and useful seminars will be held both days.

This year the Habitat for Humanity will be the beneficiary of funds raised in a raffle for lawn furniture constructed by Burdick Job Corps Facilities Maintenance students and instructors and sponsored by MAB. Tickets are available from Habitat for Humanity, their volunteers, the Minot Association of Builders, as well as at the Show.

Admission is \$4 for adults. For more information contact the MAB office at 852-0496.

MSU early spring enrollment numbers stable

Minot State University first-day enrollment figures prove to be holding steady. Although enrollment becomes official after the fourth full week of classes, MSU shows initial growth in key areas and a slight decrease in other areas.

The number of out of state and non-Canadian international students has increased from this time last year, which can be attributed in large part to the Grow North Dakota campaign. Grow North Dakota, an MSU endeavor to recruit students,

charges a flat tuition rate.

"The increase in the number of out-of-state and non-Canadian international numbers shows we are becoming much more noticeable from outside this region and this is very encouraging," said David Fuller, MSU President. "We have a very reputable academic program that's starting to show we are getting noticed."

Other enrollment gains include the number of transfer students, especially in state transfers, graduate students and full-time undergraduate students and MSU students at Bismarck and Fargo sites. The number of Ward county residents is down slightly. However, MSU continues to draw students from all corners of North Dakota, as the number of students from numerous counties around the state is higher.

MSU enrollment numbers may change, as official enrollment numbers are not reported to the North Dakota University System until after the fourth full week of classes.

MSU hosts writers' workshop for veterans

The Greater Grand Forks Community Theatre was recently awarded a North Dakota Humanities Council grant to fund "Warrior Words," a monologue-writing workshop for veterans in four North Dakota cities. Conrad Davidson, College of Arts and Sciences dean, will teach the Minot workshop with the first session on Feb. 4 in Hartnett Hall from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tentatively, the workshop will consist of six to eight sessions.

The workshop is open to veterans of any

American war or conflict who have an interest in creating work based on their experiences as soldiers. The three other workshops will be taught by college and university professors: Sherry O'Donnell in Grand Forks, Nita Ritzke in Bismarck and Peter Grimes in Dickinson.

"We anticipate that there will be stories about sacrifice, but we also expect to see a blend of humor, as well, as veterans of different generations share stories about their experiences on topics such as drill sergeants and food rations," said Kathy Coudle-King, The Greater Grand Forks Community Theatre executive director. "The workshop is a way to collect and archive the experiences of veterans living in North Dakota and to bring together service men and women from various generations to craft then share their stories."

Each participant who creates a polished monologue will receive a stipend. They will also have the opportunity to read it aloud before an audience in their workshop city and see it performed in Grand Forks during the run of the Community Theatre's production of "The Last of the Boys," Stephen Dietz' play, in April. "Last of the Boys" revolves around two Vietnam veterans and the ghosts who haunt them, including Robert McNamara.

Workshop writers will be invited to Grand Forks for a collective reading in May.

To enroll in the Minot workshop, veterans can contact Davidson at 858-3159 or conrad.davidson@minotstateu.edu.

MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

"Pennies for Patients" underway

To combat blood cancer, Minot State University Residence Life will host "Pennies for Patients," its annual fundraiser for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. As part of the fundraiser, a Penny Carnival, open to the public, is Jan. 28 in the Dome from 6 to 8 p.m.

"Last year, MSU raised \$3,852.53, but this year, we hope to raise \$5000, and the competition runs through March 8," said Camila Van Dyke, residence life coordinator.

MSU students, faculty and staff and community members are encouraged to enjoy and participate in the Penny Carnival. Campus organizations and departments host booths, games or activities for any age! Festivities, available by freewill donation, include bounce houses, face painting, ring toss, cake walks and more. Parking is free and all lots are open to the public.

LLS, the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer, was founded in 1949. It also funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world and provides free information and support services. Chapters exist throughout the U.S. and Canada.

If an MSU office, department or organization wishes to support Pennies for Patients by displaying a poster and jar, making a donation or by hosting a booth at the Penny Carnival, contact Van Dyke at camila.vandyke@minotstateu.edu or 858-3584. Donations of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, bills and checks (made payable to LLS) are gratefully accepted. To learn more about The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, visit its website at www.schoolandyouth.org.

Local human resources director featured in national publication

HR Magazine, published by the Society for Human Resource Management featured National Hospitality Services', Director of Human Resources, Sarah Koustrup in their cover story, "The Joy of Working in HR."

The January 2014 Edition of HR MAGAZINE highlights what human resource professionals love most about their job. Written by Adrienne Fox, Sarah Koustrup was interviewed for the story.



Sarah Koustrup

"Sarah Koustrup, director of human resources at National Hospitality Services LLC in Fargo, ND, attributes the rise in the importance of healthcare benefits to HR professionals, to their understanding of the changes taking place in that area. 'As HR people, we are in deep with healthcare reform,' she says. 'When we hear numbers of how much it costs for individuals, we appreciate what our company offers.'"

Koustrup has worked for National Hospitality Services for over a year. NHS owns and manages 14 hotels across the country, including the Staybridge Suites in Minot. Koustrup is further quoted regarding NHS as being "impressed by the CEO's ability to articulate the connection between treating employees well and great customer service." Koustrup reports directly to Norm Leslie, CEO of NHS.

The article can be found online at <http://www.shrm.org/Publications/hrmagazine/EditorialContent/2014/0114/Pages/0114-HR-job-satisfaction.aspx>

NHS is headquartered in Fargo, ND and is a nationally recognized and award winning lodging company that operates hotels throughout the United States. NHS utilizes inventive operating, financial, sales, and marketing strategies increasing the potential of each lodging property. NHS manages both full service and limited service hotels. For more information contact: Brenda Warren at bwarren@nationalhospitality.biz.

Designer Genes wins KK BOLD's

"Step Up!" Contest

Designer Genes has won the KK BOLD Step Up! contest and will receive up to \$15,000 in creative services from the marketing firm.

For the first time, the recipient of KK BOLD's community service project was selected by a public nomination and voting process. Non-profit/not-for-profit organizations in Bismarck, Mandan or Minot, (KK BOLD's key in-state service areas) or that have statewide missions were eligible for the contest. Nominations began Nov. 30, 2013, and voting on KK BOLD's Facebook page ended Dec. 20, 2013.

"We didn't know what to expect when we invited the public to help us select a community service project," said Debra A Anderson, KK BOLD public relations director. "The results have been very rewarding. More than 30 non-profit agencies were nominated, and the six finalists received more than 10,000 votes on our Facebook page.

Designer Genes supports individuals who have Down syndrome and their families across the state of North Dakota.

"Designer Genes of North Dakota is humbled by the outpouring of support from all of our buddies who voted for us in the Step Up! project, and we are so grateful to KK BOLD for giving us this opportunity to get our name and purpose out to more people," said Roxane Romanick, board president. "Today, we are 305 voting members strong. We have lots of growing to do and much work ahead, but we stand firm in teaching everyone about the amazing potential of individuals who have Down syndrome and other disabilities."

In addition to Designer Genes, Step Up! finalists included the Alzheimer's Association, Dreams in Motion, Magic City Discovery Center, RSI and

VSA North Dakota.

KK BOLD is a brand-building agency built for the digital age. With offices in Bismarck and Minot, N.D., and Las Vegas, Nev., the agency provides cutting-edge services in advertising, branding, interactive, media, public relations, marketing and public affairs consulting.

Stewart named president of ND Ready Mix & Concrete Products Association

Sue Stewart, general manager of Souris Valley Ready Mix, was recently elected 2014 president of the North Dakota Ready Mix and Concrete Products Association at their 48th Annual Banquet and Tech Day held in January. She had served as secretary/treasurer in 2013.

Stewart was hired as general manager for SVR in March 2011, bringing with her 20 years of ready mix experience. She began her career as a dispatcher for Concrete Mobile, Inc., in 1990. She and her husband moved to Colorado in 1996, where she continued in the ready mix industry for Metro Mix in the Denver area for the next 15 years.

Also at the awards banquet, the NDRMCPA presented Gold Awards to Souris Valley Ready Mix and Wells Concrete for the Erik Ramstad Middle School construction. This top award in the Governmental Project category is in recognition of "excellence in concrete" in planning, execution, and construction and the quality presentation of the project. In the same category, the Silver Award was granted for Souris Valley Ready Mix's work on the Minot International Airport Snow Equipment Storage Building.

Minot YWCA announces new manager

The Minot YWCA announced the hiring of Gina Gonstad as its new resident manager. The Minot YWCA is the Minot area's only Emergency Homeless Shelter for women and children, providing a 60-day Emergency Homeless Shelter for women and children and permanent supportive housing for homeless single women.

Gonstad has several years of experience in social services and counseling. She has worked with clients in settings, ranging from residential counselor and group home supervisor to probation/parole officer. She has a bachelor of social work degree, with a concentration in psychology and addiction.

Gonstad has a passion for helping people. She considers ability to resolve conflict to be her greatest talent — the driving force in her work. Perseverance has played a critical role in her past success and she looks forward to her new role in helping women take the steps needed to succeed, through recognizing their strengths. Gonstad joins YWCA Executive Director, Dena Penton.

MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

Local Boy Scout district earns national honor two years in a row

Youth and volunteers involved in the Boy Scouts of America, in the Minot area, have a reason to be proud. The Tomahawk District, covering Minot, Burlington, Surrey, Kenmare, Garrison, Harvey, Rugby, Bottineau and Rolla, has earned the Gold Level Journey to Excellence award for the second year in a row. This national recognition from the Boy Scouts of America is the highest possible award for a local Scouting district. The Gold designation means the Tomahawk district is among the top 10 percent of Scouting districts from across the country.

"This is a great honor for our Scouting volunteers, our district and our District Executive Kevin Mehrer," said Tomahawk District chair John MacMartin. MacMartin has volunteered his time leading the district for the past five years. "To earn this award once is difficult in itself. But, to earn it for two years in a row is really a great thing. It really speaks to the quality of hard-working volunteers and what great programs we have in the Minot area."

The Journey to Excellence award measures districts in areas to ensure even and sustained growth among areas such as: youth recruiting, camping, volunteer leadership and fundraising.

The Tomahawk District was fueled to the Gold level by a strong year in growth. Mehrer said the district membership has grown over 12% in the last year. It was spurred on by two new Exploring Posts, one with Trinity Health and the other with

Ackerman-Estvold.

The Exploring program is overseen by Learning for Life, a subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America, and is a career-focused youth program that helps boys and girls see a career field from the inside out.

The Tomahawk District serves over 1,000 youth in the Boy Scout, Cub Scout, and Exploring programs. The 1,000 youth and adult volunteers nearly 2,000 hours of community service to the communities they call home.

To find a Cub Scout Pack, or a Boy Scout Troop near you — or volunteer — go to www.beascout.org, or call District Executive Kevin Mehrer at 839-2260 or email him at kmehrer@nlcbsa.org.



Suzanne Wentz

Wentz named North Dakota Guaranty & Title VP of sales and marketing

Suzanne Wentz, Sales and Marketing Director, has been promoted to vice president of sales and marketing at North Dakota Guaranty & Title Co., Bismarck.

Wentz joined NDGT in June 2013. She brings more than 16 years of sales, business development, and marketing and executive-level management experience to NDGT. Prior to joining NDGT, Wentz was the director of marketing for the Medora Foundation in Medora. Her previous experience includes six years as president of Odyssey Research, Bismarck. She earned a bach-

elor's degree from South Dakota State University.

Known as "The Title Team," North Dakota Guaranty & Title Co. was founded in 1955. NDGT offers complete title services in each of its eight offices in North Dakota and one in Sidney, Mont. To learn more about NDGT, go to www.TheTitleTeam.com.

Gate City Bank donates more than \$3.2M

From October through December, Gate City Bank donated more than \$3.2 million to organizations as part of its ongoing commitment to support local communities and causes. They donated \$3 million to North Dakota's Housing Incentive Fund and more than \$246,000 to charities and organizations across North Dakota and western Minnesota.

The following Minot organizations received donations:

- Hope Village
- Minot Area Homeless Coalition Inc
- Minot Catholic School
- Minot Chamber of Commerce
- MSU 100 Years Celebration – Minot Public Library
- Our Redeemer's Christian School
- Salvation Army
- Scandinavian Heritage Association
- Souris Valley United Way
- Youth of Christ

Gate City Bank also made donations to regional organizations including the Boy Scouts of America Northern Lights Council, March of Dimes, ND Alzheimer's Association, United Way and YMCA.



The Energy Committee heard from Rory Nelson, newly appointed Energy Impact Coordinator for the state of North Dakota, at their meeting in January. Nelson discussed the impact of the oil industry on western North Dakota.

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Ribbon Cutting, 9:30 a.m., Grow With Me, 17B 2nd Ave. SE
2	3 Right Start Presentation FTAC, 12:30 p.m., MAFB	4 First Dollar of Profit Presentations, 10 a.m., Chamber office	5	6 Military Affairs Committee, Noon, Vegas Motel	7 Ambassadors Committee, 7:30 a.m., Homesteaders Restaurant	8
9	10	11 Eagle Awards Presentation, 10 a.m., Chamber office	12 Right Start Presentation, 10 a.m., MAFB	13	14 Infrastructure Committee, 7:30 a.m., Homesteaders	15
16	17 Office Closed - Presidents' Day	18 Board of Directors, 7:30 a.m., Grand Hotel Ribbon Cutting, 10 a.m., Heritage Insurance Services, 2825 S. Bdwy., Suite 1	19	20 Diplomats Committee, 9 a.m., Parker Hotel Business After Hours, 5 – 7 p.m., Best Western Kelly Inn, 1510 26th Ave. SW	21 Governmental Affairs Committee, 11:30 a.m., SRT Communications, Inc.	22
23	24	25	26 Right Start Presentation, 10 a.m., MAFB	27	28	

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