

Communicator

THE MINOT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND YOU!

Vol. XIX, Issue No. 4

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April 2015



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Vote Yes April 21 to support quality of life and lower property taxes in Minot

The recently formed Citizens for Minot's Future group is placing its support behind the proposed Minot Aquatics and Recreation Center (MARC) and urges a yes



vote on April 21. The group has representatives from all walks of life and is excited to see a project that will improve the quality of life in Minot, offer amenities that do not exist elsewhere in town, and provide property tax relief in the Magic City.

At a press conference in March, Tawnya Bernsdorf, chair of the Citizens for Minot's Future group said, "We are excited as a group of Minot residents to be able to support a project that our community has been asking for over the past 10 years. The MARC is a real chance to define who we are as a community, in a positive, forward-thinking way that embraces healthy decisions, attracts families and serves the needs of our broader community."

The vote on April 21 would give the Minot Park District a one-cent citywide sales tax, in place of the current property tax, to support its general operations and pay for the bonding associated with building the MARC. For someone with a house valued at \$200,000 in Minot, this represents a \$216.61 annual reduction in property taxes. And for the average property owner, this


will lower overall tax burden, as a person with a \$200,000 house would have to spend more than \$21,661 on taxable items in a year to increase their bottom-line tax burden.

The citizens committee is excited about the many options that this center would place under one roof. An accessible aquatics and recreation center will be great for existing individuals and families, as well as an attractive piece for businesses to use in recruiting new staff to our growing community. The group feels that the MARC will add to a sense of community pride.

The Citizens for Minot's Future supports the Park District's proposal to have certain features of the MARC available to the public at no cost, including the seniors lounge, an indoor accessible playground, and the large indoor track.

The Board of Directors of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce urges a yes vote April 21 to support a higher quality of life in the Minot region and to lower property taxes.

See page 3 for more information




COUNTRY
INNS & SUITES
BY CARLSON™
1900 22nd Ave. SW

Thursday, April 16 • 5 – 7 p.m.

- * Enjoy delicious food, catered by Dakota Daves
- * Door prizes
- * Beer & wine cash bar
- * \$500 in Chamber Bucks drawing

*If winner is not present, \$50 in Chamber Bucks guaranteed.
(Must be present to win) \$5 charge at the door*



APRIL BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

MINOT AREA CHAMBER of COMMERCE COMMUNICATOR

P.O. Box 940 • Minot, ND 58702 • 852-6000
chamber@minotchamber.org
minotchamber.org

Material published in the *Chamber Communicator* expresses the viewpoints or policies of the *Communicator*, the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce and its Board of Directors. The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate with the membership of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce.

PublisherL. John MacMartin,CCE
Editor.....Carla Dolan, IOM
Managing Editor.....Patty Steele

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF

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Carla Dolan, IOM.....Program Director
Cheryl WallenFinance Manager
Lisa MoldenhauerAdministrative Assistant
Carla Vannett.....MVD Manager
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Chad Schmidt (10 North Main)837-1010
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Cathy Tweten (Dakota Square)839-7500
Dusty Wald (Magic City Beverage)852-4031
Shannon Webster (Town & Country
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Jason Zimmerman (First Western Bank
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Project CLEAN prepares to clean up Minot

Now that spring is here and the snow is gone, an unwelcome site has appeared: trash. It's everywhere...in the ditches, on the streets, along fence lines, and it's a real eyesore. The garbage makes for an unimpressive welcome for both residents and visitors. That's why the Project CLEAN Committee (Community Leaders Enhancing Area Neighborhoods) is working to do away with the garbage by holding its annual citywide cleanup Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2.

The group is concentrating on the entrances to the city, to spruce up first impressions before

summer. Stop by the Chamber and sign up for the designated areas and pick up trash bags up until and on May 1. No trash bags or sign ups will be available on Saturday, May 2, but feel free to come in any time, even now, to pick up trash bags. We also have a limited supply of gloves.

Volunteers can help anytime between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have any questions or suggestions, call the Chamber at 852-6000 or email chamber@minotchamber.org.

27th annual International Military Ball set for April 25 at Grand Hotel

The International Military Ball, a formal event with a gourmet meal and entertainment, is Saturday, April 25. ***This year's event will be held at the Grand Hotel.*** The social will begin at 6 p.m.



The formal event will again include a seven-course gourmet meal. Participants will enjoy an elegant evening of dancing, and dignitaries from both the United States and Canada will attend.

Cost is \$70 per person. For more information or to register, please call 852-6000 or email chamber@minotchamber.org.

RENEWALS

The Chamber extends a big "THANK YOU" to our members who have renewed their membership through March 24, 2015. Your continued support helps your Chamber promote the business community and do the work seen in the pages of this newsletter.

Ae2s (Advanced Engineering & Environmental Services)	HD Supply Waterworks	Quality Landscaping, Inc.
All America City Glass	Houston Engineering, Inc.	Reiter Oil & Gas, Inc
BHG-Northern Sentry Advertising	Jobbers Moving & Storage Company	Roosevelt Plaza
Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C.	Knowles Jewelry of Minot	Greg & Pam Simonson
Brock White	Krill Appraisal Services	Simonson's Station Stores
Burger King	KXMC CBS13	Souris River Designs & Home Improvements
Burlington Northern Santa Fe	Judge Gary Lee	Souris Valley Animal Shelter
CDJ Opportunities	Liberty Business Systems, Inc.	SRT Communications, Inc.
Cummins NPower, LLC	McDonald's Restaurants of Minot	Staples, Inc.
Dickeys Barbecue Pit	Mile One Running Shop	Jessica Declercq - State Farm Insurance
Digital Office Centre	Minot Country Club	Sweet & Flour Patisserie
Jessie Seideman - Edward Jones	Muus Lumber and Hardware	TSC Farm Home Auto Store
Dean Rubbelke - Edward Jones	Nite Train Pizza	United Blood Services
Esoterica	North Central Feed & Seed	Souris Valley United Way
Farm Credit Services of North Dakota, ACA	Northwestern Mutual Financial Network	Wal-Mart Super Center
First Assembly of God Church	Odd's Mobile Home Park	Ward Warehousing & Distribution Co.
Food Services of America	Party City	Waste Management of ND - Minot
Mrs. Pat Gagnon	Prairie Supply	The Welcome Table
Graham Construction Services	Pringle & Herigstad, P.C.	Xcel Energy
Grizzly's Grill & Saloon	PUMPCO Services	YWCA of Minot
Hatfield, Wass and Associates	Quality Inn & Suites	

53rd annual Honors Banquet celebrates academic achievements

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce annual event recognizing top area students is set for Wednesday, April 29 at the Holiday Inn. The Honors Banquet is a special evening that recognizes the hard work of graduating seniors from eight schools with a grade point average of 3.75 or higher. More than 120 students from Glenburn, Berthold, Bishop Ryan, Minot, Our Redeemer's, Sawyer, Surrey, and Des Lacs/Burlington are featured during the evening along with staff and teachers from the

schools with 25 years of service.

The Honors Banquet is possible thanks to the generous support of Chamber members. There is still time if you would like to sponsor deserving recipients. Donations will be used to pay for meals for honored student and teachers. Please contact the chamber at 852-6000.



Prairie Warrior Auction raises funds for Minot Air Force Base

TEAM MINOT includes an important part of our community: friends and families at MAFB. National security is as important today as ever before. To show our continued support of the men and women of MAFB, the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee is proud to sponsor the 29th annual Prairie Warrior Association Auction, set for Saturday, April 11 at the Minot Holiday Inn Riverside.

Through the years, this event has raised more than \$390,000 for Minot AFB morale

efforts. Distributed funds are used to support the Base's competition teams, squadron activities, annual awards banquets and Operation Warmheart. The latter is a year-round program providing essentials such as food, clothing, etc., to needy service members and their families, as well as Thanksgiving baskets during the holiday season.

This year's event is scheduled for April 11, 2015, at the Holiday Inn Riverside; admission is \$25 per person.

The evening includes a preview of the mer-

chandise, along with refreshments and hors d'oeuvres beginning at 5:30 p.m. A live and silent auction will take place from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Please consider donating an item to be auctioned. The deadline for submitting items is April 3, 2015. This will allow us time to include your name and item in the printed auction program.

For more information downtown, contact Betty Fedorchak at 838-6680 or the Chamber at 852-6000.

AARP and SB sponsor workshop in Minot which focuses on aspiring entrepreneurs 50+

AARP and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will present a workshop in Minot to help individuals ages 50 and older thinking about starting their own business.

Contrary to popular perception, entrepreneurship is not exclusive to the young. The Kauffman Foundation reports the 55- to 64-year-old age group represented almost one-quarter of new businesses started in 2013, compared to just 14 percent in 1996. Kauffman reports that Americans in the 55-64 age group started new businesses at a higher rate than those in their twenties and thirties

every year from 1996 to 2013.

The two-hour workshop begins at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 14, at Town and Country Credit Union. The purpose of the event is to match these "encore entrepreneurs" with successful business owners and community leaders for advice and assistance. Panelists from a variety of backgrounds will share their stories and insights on starting a business later in life.

Those attending will receive information on the basics of starting a business as well as programs and resources available through SBA and AARP. Participants will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a representative

from SBA or SCORE.

There is no cost to attend the workshop, but registration is required. Lunch will be provided. To register, call toll-free 877-926-8300 or go online to www.aarp.org/nd.

Workshops will also be held April 15 in Bismarck, April 21 in Grafton and Fargo, and April 22 in Grand Forks.

Since the program began in 2012, the AARP-SBA mentoring initiative has served more than 305,000 current or prospective entrepreneurs nationwide.

For more information, visit www.aarp.org/StartABusiness.

Continued from page 1

The Citizens for Minot's Future group feels the Minot Park District has laid out a facility that will truly cover everyone from parents with young children to teenagers on athletic teams, and from young adults looking to work out to seniors who want to stay active and engaged. These features include the following.

- Large multi-sport turf area (soccer field/football practice)
- Water park/lazy river
- 50-meter competition pool
- Warm water therapy pool
- 400-meter walking/jogging track
- Baseball/softball training area
- Seniors lounge
- Golf simulator
- Cardio equipment
- Fitness-class rooms
- Tennis courts
- Basketball courts
- Large indoor accessible playground

Along with these features, there is also rental space set aside for health care partners, a childcare center, event/birthday rooms, and other partners.



EAGLE AWARDS

The Eagle Award winners were recognized in March 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** and **Rainbow Photo Lab** for providing gift certificates for each Eagle recipient.



HAROLD BRAATEN
Dakota Inn



TERESA DUCHSCHERER
*Caribbean Color & Unique
Boutique*



TIFFANY DIXON
Trinity Health Business Office



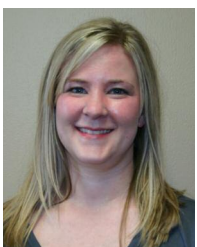
PATRICIA CONE
Homesteaders Restaurant



ADAM WILBER
NoDak Garage Door



ALLEN ELDRIDGE
Wireless Concepts



KARA DOSCH
The Men's Room



GABRIELLE MCMANIGAL
Menards



LARRY HINDS
Magic City Courier



KATHY BENJAMIN
Homesteaders Restaurant

Become a featured member on the Chamber website

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce is an important tool for businesses in Minot. The website is important to those businesses as well, as many look to it to find goods and services from our Chamber members. Your Chamber business could be on the front page of the website, free of charge. Simply provide us with 100 words about your business and a jpg logo, and we will feature your business for two weeks. This is for those companies that have not yet participated in this promotion. Email Carla at carla@minotchamber.org today.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



Thank you to Ackerman-Estvold for sponsoring the March Business After Hours. Those attending enjoyed delicious food from Sweet and Flour, great prizes, as well as the chance to network with the 150 other Chamber members in attendance.

RIBBON CUTTINGS

If you know of a business that's new to town or is having a milestone, like a renovation or addition, contact Carla at 857-8205 to schedule a ribbon cutting.



JL Beers: 2001 22nd Ave. SW • Minot, ND • 838-2337 • jlbeers.com/minot • Owners: Wayne & Jesse Zwak
Ambassadors helped celebrate the much anticipated opening of JL Beers Minot.



Marketplace Foods: 1930 S. Broadway • Minot, ND • 839-7580 • www.marketplacefoods.com
Ambassadors helped celebrate the re-grand opening of Marketplace Foods where the remodel of the main store was completed.



Mattress Firm: 1807 22nd Ave. SW, Suite 102 • Minot, ND • 852-4570 • www.mattressfirm.com • Owner: Jason Sellers
The Ambassadors celebrated the opening of Mattress Firm with a ribbon cutting.

RIBBON CUTTINGS

If you know of a business that's new to town or is having a milestone, like a renovation or addition, contact Carla at 857-8205 to schedule a ribbon cutting.



North Winds Truck Accessories: 2825 South Broadway, Suite 3 • Minot, ND • 838-0444 • www.northwindstruckac.com • Owner: Mike Johnson
North Winds Truck Accessories held a ribbon cutting with Ambassadors to mark their new location.



Northland Community Health Center: 1600 2nd Ave. SW, Suite 19 • Minot, ND • 852-4600 • www.northlandchc.org
The Ambassadors helped Northland CHC celebrate their first year in the community, as well as the addition of a mental health department with Laura Larson, LPCC



Off the Vine: 15 Main St. S • Minot, ND 838-7003 • otvine@srt.com
The Ambassadors cut the ribbon at Off the Vine for their re-grand opening. New owner Mike Johnson has made updates to the decor and the menu, and continues to offer a fine selection of wines.

RIBBON CUTTINGS

If you know of a business that's new to town or is having a milestone, like a renovation or addition, contact Carla at 857-8205 to schedule a ribbon cutting.



Jessica DeClerc - State Farm Insurance: 2151 36th Ave. SW, Unit C • Minot, ND • 839-3436 • www.jessicadeclerc.com
Ambassadors were on hand to cut the ribbon at the new location of State Farm Insurance agent Jessica DeClerc, who offers over 15 years of experience in insurance and financial services.



First Dakota Title: 315 3rd Ave. SW • Minot, ND • 852-6800 • www.thetitleresourcenetwork.com
Ambassadors celebrated the new location of First Dakota Title.

AMBASSADORS SUPPORT SPECIAL OLYMPICS



The Ambassadors escorted honored guests at the 2015 Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament held at Minot State University in March.

Two MAFB wings earn Omaha Trophy

Congratulations to Minot Air Force Base, as both the 5th Bomb Wing and the 91st Missile Wing were named recipients of the 2014 Omaha Trophy.

by Senior Airman Malia Jenkins
Minot Air Force Base Public Affairs

Minot's Warbirds were named the 2014 Omaha Trophy recipient for the fourth time as the command's premier strategic aircraft operations wing, and

The level of sustained mission performance while the 5th Bomb Wing had the runway being rebuilt was pretty outstanding, said Col. Jason Armagost, 5th BW commander.

"I think that contributed greatly to the kind of spectrum of mission accomplished," he added. "Counting operations taking place essentially at actually three different locations at once really allowed leadership to shine at the squadron level and above at the group level. They really tackled the challenges they were faced with and they did it in a very high profile way."

"I think the Omaha Trophy in general is a wonderful accomplishment and a huge testament to everything we accomplished in 2014," said Capt. Margaret Ingerslew, 69th Bomb Squadron radar navigator. "We overcame a lot of obstacles: operating out of Guam as well as Ellsworth Air Force Base in Rapid City, South Dakota, because our runway was closed for the majority of the summer. So, having to pick up and transport everything from Airmen to aircraft to maintenance supplies - that's just a huge feat, and I think we did it relatively seamlessly because the mission went on."

"The big thing is probably it's looked at in its entirety. It's not any singular event, and the Airmen really shined this year," Armagost said.

"It's a fantastic recognition for the Airmen and all of the folks, family and community because really I see it as a very broad level of sustenance of excellence — not just for the mission but for how everything gets done," Armagost said. "It's a 365 kind of award. It's

The Omaha Trophy is awarded annually to four outstanding units that represent USSTRATCOM's mission areas, their role in global operations and USSTRATCOM's continued emphasis on strategic deterrence.

The four awards given are the Global Operations, Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, Submarine Ballistic Missile and Strategic Aircraft Operations trophies. Selections are based on formal evaluations, meritorious achievement, safety and factors such as community involvement and humanitarian actions.

When submitting for this award, wings write packages listing all of the attainments across the various categories depicting how they complete the mission and go above and beyond.

This trophy was first awarded in 1970 by the citizens of Omaha, Nebraska, through the Strategic Air Command Consultation Committee, to the most outstanding SAC wing in honor of the 25th anniversary of the SAC.

In an article written by USSTRATCOM honoring all the recipients for this award, U.S. Navy Adm. Cecil D. Haney, USSTRATCOM commander, praised the organizations for demonstrating "the highest standards of performance in support of USSTRATCOM's diverse missions."

not a singular event and it's how we get after our assigned mission here."

The Rough Riders were named the 2014 Omaha Trophy recipient as the command's premier Intercontinental Ballistic Missile wing, in recognition of outstanding support to U.S. Strategic Command's global strategic deterrence mission over the last year.

This is the fifth time the wing has earned the Omaha Trophy and will be added to the 91st MW having earned the coveted Blanchard Trophy from the Air Force Global Strike Challenge along with the other awards last year.

"The Omaha Trophy is the result of unwavering dedication to mission, leadership at all levels, and a reflection of our outstanding Airmen and their families," said Col. Mike Lutton, 91st MW commander. "Teamwork and integration across the wing and the outstanding mission support the Warbirds provided made this happen—Bully."

"The 91st MW won the Omaha Trophy because all Airmen across the board take their jobs very seriously and preform their job at high levels," said Airman 1st Class Robert Cook, 91st Maintenance Operations Squadron mechanical and pneudraulics section techni-

cian. "It takes every shop working together fluidly to put ICBMs on alert and we demonstrate this daily."

Members of the 91st MW ensured their teammates were prepared to complete their assigned tasks and knew where they needed improvement.

"I spent half my time as a line crew member pulling about six to eight alerts a month," said Capt. Christopher Hall, 91st Operations Group ICBM combat crew flight commander. "During this time, our focus was doing the operational mission. We participated in tests and exercises and made sure we did it to the best of our abilities."

"It feels great to see all the hard work and dedication pay off. Many of the people in our office worked 12 hours or more on a consistent basis to ensure that we were meeting the mission requirements," he added. "This award validates all that hard work and says that it did not go unnoticed."

Members of one unit that contributed to the wing's victory, the mechanical and pneudraulics section, said their crew was excited to hear the news that Minot had won the Omaha Trophy. It was especially nice to be recognized for all of the long hours and dedication they put into doing everyday maintenance.

Save the Date:
Business After Hours:
May 21
Verendrye Electric
Cooperative
1225 Hwy. 2 Bypass East

Chamber Bucks great way to promote your business

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce offers a gift certificate program that members can take advantage of as a promotional tool or as gifts for employees for a job well done. A current list of members who accept Chamber Bucks is printed on the back of the 8 1/2 x 11 certificate, which comes in various denominations from \$5 to \$25. Member businesses accept the certificates as cash, honor them at face value, then either return or collect additional cash for the difference between the purchase price and the Chamber Buck. In turn, the Chamber will mail a check to the member who collected the certificate, on the 15th and 30th of the month, for the full face value.

Be sure to educate your employees on these certificates so that when they are brought into your store, the person using them can do so without hassle. The Chamber believes this program encourages people to shop local. If you would like to participate, contact the Chamber at 852-6000.

MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

Dakota Square Mall plans for multi-million dollar renovation to begin in April

Officials with Dakota Square Mall announced a multi-million dollar renovation of the 815,000 square foot regional shopping center. The project is slated to begin in early April and to be completed by mid-November.

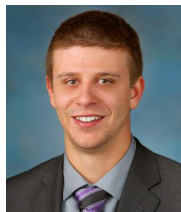
Plans call for multiple enhancements, including a new color palette, new flooring, new lighting, and interior finishes of stone and wood. The food court will also be updated with new furniture and seating configurations designed for family and community dining. New soft seating will replace the mall's wooden benches, creating "conversation" areas perfect for relaxing and chatting. New planters and landscape will complement the exterior upgrades.

"We are committed to keeping Dakota Square Mall fresh and vibrant," said Chuck Massey, general manager. "This is an exciting project which underscores our focus on delivering the premiere destination to shop, dine, and enjoy an outing with family and friends."

A landmark in the region, Dakota Square Mall serves a wide trade area reaching across the Canadian border and into the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The mall was originally built in 1980, and has expanded several times, including the addition of Barnes & Noble in 2008 and a new nine-screen Carmike Cinema.

Ackerman-Estvold welcomes new employees

Austin Becker, EI, and Kyle Lao, EI, have joined the Ackerman-Estvold Minot office as civil engineers.



Austin Becker Becker earned a bachelor of science degree from North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, in December. His previous work experience includes three years as a summer intern and project manager with Brosz Engineering. Becker has joined the transportation division and will be designing a variety of transportation projects throughout western North Dakota.

Lao is a recent graduate from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. Lao has joined the land development team and will



Kyle Lao

focus on the design of residential and commercial developments throughout the region.

Ackerman-Estvold is a professional engineering and architecture firm with corporate headquarters in Minot, ND, and an additional office location in Williston, ND. The firm provides planning, design, and construction services for public and private clients throughout North Dakota and surrounding states. For more information about Ackerman-Estvold, or the services we provide visit us at www.ackerman-estvold.com.

Community Health Foundation Grants exceed \$5.3 million dollars

St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation will award \$500,000.00 in grants and matching grants to area organizations.

St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation is an independent public community foundation set up with proceeds donated by the Sisters of St. Francis from the sale of a local hospital in 1998. Over \$5.3 million dollars will have been granted to area organizations to benefit the residents in the counties of

Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, McLean, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, Rolette, Sheridan, Ward, and Wells. A board of directors governs the Foundation. They are Mark Jantzer, Chair; Rick Beall, Vice Chair; Alan VanDelinder, Treasurer; Myron Feist, Secretary; Marisa Albertson, MD, Al Gust, Teri Hurly, MD, Diane Lutt and Jan Ness all of Minot, and Jill Denning Gackle of Garrison, Margo Helgersen, Westhope; Diane Nelson, Kenmare, and Dennis Wunderlich, Voltaire. Shelly C. Wepler is the President.

St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation grants funds to promote and support the improvement, availability and provision of the mental, physical, spiritual and emotional needs for people residing in the eleven counties served by the Foundation. The Foundation meets this goal by welcoming grant requests from all area agencies committed to meeting the needs of residents in our service area. The Foundation may also identify an area of need in NorthCentral North Dakota and fund an initiative.

Mums For Mums



Fundraiser Benefiting Children's Services at
The Village Family Service Center

How to order:

- Orders will be taken through April 10 by phone (credit card only): 852-3328, online at **TheVillageFamily.org**, or in person at the Minot Village office (cash, credit or check): 20 1st St. SW, Minot
- Choose from three colors: lavender, white, or yellow (will be a splendid cut flower)
- Orders will be available for pick up Thursday, May 7 from Noon to 5 p.m.
- Delivery available May 6 – 8 in city of Minot, free with a \$15 purchase or more.

Just in time for Mother's Day!

3 Mums — \$10 * 5 Mums — \$16.50



20 1st St. S.W., Suite 250
Minot, ND 58701
701-852-3328



MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

Marco, Inc. moves to new location in Minot

Marco, Inc. has moved to a new location in Minot at 515 20th Avenue SE. The facility supports Marco's expanded presence in the Minot area and allows them to better serve their customers.

Marco serves customers nationally with offices in Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Marco specializes in cloud/hosted services, managed services, business IT services, carrier services, copiers/printers, phone systems, document management and audio/video systems.

You can reach Marco at 701.838.8200 or marconet.com.

Marco purchases Minneapolis-based Solbrekk, Inc.

Marco, Inc., a leading technology services provider in the United States, announced that it has purchased Solbrekk, Inc., a business IT services company located in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Solbrekk has been providing their clients with IT services including cloud computing, managed IT services and document management for over 11 years. Their employees have joined the Marco team.

"This acquisition augments our well established managed IT services division and allows us to further expand our hosted/cloud service offerings," said Marco CEO Jeff Gau. "It continues our commitment to provide the types of solutions organizations are evaluating for their businesses today. We look forward to continuing Solbrekk's commitment to satisfying their

clients and providing them with expanded IT services."

Since 2004, Marco has grown from 200 employees to 850 employees, and now has 41 locations nationally. In addition to Solbrekk's office in Minneapolis, Marco also has offices in St. Louis Park, Inver Grove Heights and Plymouth in the Greater Twin Cities area.

"We are excited about joining the Marco team," said Solbrekk President Steve Solbrack. "They have an excellent reputation in the IT community for their commitment to excellence, outstanding customer service and as a great place to work."

Noble Inn Hotel named TripAdvisor winner

The Noble Inn Hotel announced it has been recognized as a winner in the Bargain category of the 2015 TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice® awards for Hotels, ranking 10 out of 25. For the 13th year, TripAdvisor has highlighted the world's top properties based on the millions of reviews and opinions collected in a single year from travelers around the globe. Winners were identified in the categories of Top Hotels, Bargain, B&Bs and Inns, Family, Luxury, Romance, Service and Small Hotels. The hallmarks of Travelers' Choice winners are remarkable service, quality and value.

Dennis Gumke, general manager of the Noble Inn, says, "It is a great honor to receive such an award one day after celebrating our two-year anniversary. Our goal has been to be the "Perfect Place to End Your Day" and our

Employers invited to recruit students at Magic City Campus for summer help

This is your chance to recruit students for summer employment during the Magic City Campus Summer Job Fair

Magic City Campus has tentatively scheduled a summer job fair for our senior class to be held the first part of May. This is a great opportunity to recruit students for summer or permanent employment. We will set the date and time for this event as soon as we see how many business professionals want to participate. All interested parties will be contacted with the details as soon as the date is set. To reserve a table for this event, contact Steve Beutler, career counselor at Magic City Campus, 701-857-4585 or email steve.beutler@minot.k12.nd.us. (There will be no charge for a table).

guest's views are a perfect testament that we are fulfilling our promises. TripAdvisor has extended us some other great awards during this time and they include: 2015 Exceptional Service presented to Dennis Gumke and the 2014 Winner Certificate of Excellence. What makes this award even more special is that we are also the first hotel in North Dakota to receive the Travelers Choice Award."

Noble Inn Hotel has also received these awards since opening two years ago: 2014 - Winner Certificate of Excellence - (TripAdvisor); 2015 - Exceptional Service Award - Dennis Gumke (TripAdvisor); 2015 - Travelers Choice Award - Bargain Hotels (TripAdvisor); 2014 - Great Reviews Award - (Booking.com)

SV United Way announces 2015 officers

Souris Valley United Way announces 2015 officers: Kevin Harmon (Minot State University), President; Todd Jensen (Midcontinent Communications), Vice President; Scott Moum (Minot Public Schools), Treasurer; and Megan Grundstrom (The Preferred Companies), Past President.

Additional board members include Niki Carlson, Mary Keller, Jim Knudsen, Perry Olson, Mike Tornatore, Dr. Krista Kelly, and Ann Rivera.

We mobilize people, organizations and resources in an impactful effort to advance Education, Financial Stability and Health while addressing basic human needs.

For more information visit www.svunited-way.com call 839.2994.

Taube Museum of Art planning birthday celebration

The Taube Museum of Art is turning 45 this year, and to celebrate, will host North Dakota's Largest Painting Party Oct. 17, 2015, with the potential of 450 guests. We want to share the excitement by offering ND artists an opportunity to create a "birthday theme" work of art. The selected artwork will be utilized as the promotional image for our 45th birthday celebration. The winning image will be reproduced, with your name, in all media forms and other promotional materials.

Submission criteria:

- Open to any ND artist 18 yrs and older.
- Deadline for entry is April 30, 2015.
- Birthday theme only, open to your own personal, stylistic interpretation.
- Acrylic painting only, due to the re-creation of image by others during the Painting Party on October 17, 2015.
- Must be no smaller than 12" x 16", vertical or horizontal. If created larger must still maintain 12" x 16" ratio.
- Entries may be dropped off, mailed, or submitted digitally via email.
- Entries will be judged by select members of Taube Museum of Art Board of Directors & staff.
- Winning entry will become property of the Taube Museum of Art and will be included in our historical archives.
- Winner will receive a \$100 honorarium, 25 event posters promoting the image, and an opportunity to have their image re-created by the ND Largest Painting Party participants.



MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

Norwegian ambassador to virtually interact with MSU students

Kåre R. Aas, Norway's ambassador to the United States, will chat live with Minot State University students April 1 in Aleshire Theater, 1-1:50 p.m. The public is also invited to this event. With the new era of digital diplomacy, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C., launched the #VirtualAmbassador Program, a new initiative, which enables university students from across the U.S. to interact live with Aas.

"Ambassador Aas will give a brief presentation via Skype, followed by a question-and-answer period by the American students," said Libby Claerbout, director of international program. I also encourage students to participate in a virtual question-and-answer session with the ambassador via his Twitter handle, @kareraas, where their questions are included in the presentation."

The MSU presentation will cover the following topics:

* "The Arctic" — Changes in the Arctic cause unprecedented challenges and emerging opportunities. Arctic ecosystems and human societies will be most strongly affected, but the Arctic environmental changes have global implications as well. Questions posed may include "How should these challenges be handled?" and "Is managing the Arctic a global task or is it solely the responsibility of the Arctic coastal states?"

* "NATO, the U.S. and Norway" — NATO constitutes the basis for Norway's security. Norway's relations with the U.S. on security and defense represent the fundamental element of the American membership in the alliance. Within the alliance context, Norway collaborates with the U.S. on a wide variety of issues and activities, at both the policy and operational level, and in terms of procurement. Each entity is faced with current and emerging challenges. The international security pattern is being transformed. Norway also has to adapt and will do so in close cooperation and coordination with allies and partners, in particular the U.S. Norway will continue to play an active part in ensuring that NATO remains a viable, effective and relevant alliance.

Aas, a veteran of Norway's foreign ministry, presented his credentials to President Barack Obama Sept. 17, 2013. The United States is the second ambassadorial posting for Aas, with his first posting to Afghanistan in 2008.

For questions, contact Claerbout at libby.claerbout@minotstateu.edu.

Town & Country Credit Union announces new hire and promotions

Brett Fiddler has joined the Town & Country lending team as a business loan officer. Originally from Minot, Fiddler graduated from Minot State University with a double major in finance and international business. Fiddler has past experience in the financial industry as a teller and in his new role, will be responsible for helping businesses gain access to financing.



Brett Fiddler

Kathy Engg has been promoted to vice president business services. Engg has been employed at Town & Country Credit Union for 24 years serving as a financial services officer and most recently as assistant vice president



Kathy Engg

member services. In her new role she will work closely with current and potential business members, fulfilling their financial needs with the full range of products and services offered by the credit union.

Karna Taft has been promoted to assistant vice president member services. Taft has more than 12 years of experience in the financial industry with eight years of those years in management. She has been employed at Town & Country Credit Union for 18 months serving as the member services supervisor. In her new role she will supervise the daily operational activities of member services and plastics while managing processes, procedures and regulatory requirements. Originally from Minot, Taft has a bachelor's degree from Minot State University.



Karna Taft

North Dakota State Fair releases 2015 Grandstand entertainment lineup

Big names will headline the Grandstand during the 50th Annual North Dakota State Fair, July 17-25. Aerosmith, rock's greatest live act, will close out the Fair on July 25 as part of their 2015 Blue Army Tour, while country stars Miranda Lambert, Keith Urban, Chase Rice, Kip Moore, and Kellie Pickler will all be included on the 2015 Grandstand Showpass. Another rock concert, which will take place on July 18, is still in contractual stages and will be released at a later date.

All tickets, including the Aerosmith concert and the Grandstand Showpass, can be purchased on April 15 online at

www.ndstatefair.com, by phone at 852-3247 or 857-7620, or in person from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at the State Fair Center. Dates for the 2015 State Fair are July 17-25. More information is available at www.ndstatefair.com.

Aerosmith — Steven Tyler, Joe Perry, Joey Kramer, Tom Hamilton, and Brad Whitford — will close out the ND State Fair on Saturday, July 25. The band is a living piece of American music history, having sold over 150 million albums worldwide and has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. They are the recipients of countless awards, including four Grammys, eight American Music Awards, six Billboard Awards, and 12 MTV Video Music Awards, among many other honors. Aerosmith tickets will be \$75 for reserved seating and standing room.

The talented country power-house, Miranda Lambert, will be the first act to perform during the 2015 State Fair on Friday, July 17. Recent hits like "Little Red Wagon," "Somethin' Bad," and "Mama's Broken Heart" continue to hold strong on country and national charts alike.

Chase Rice will make the North Dakota State Fair a stop on his upcoming tour on Sunday, July 19. Chase's album "Ignite The Night" has been taking the country world by storm, with hits like "Ready Set Roll," "MMM Girl," and "Gonna Wanna Tonight." Kellie Pickler will perform on Wednesday, July 22. Hits like "Best Days of Your Life" will be accompanied by other fan favorites, including "Red High Heels" and "Someone Somewhere Tonight." Kip Moore, known for songs like "Somethin' Bout A Truck," "Beer Money," and "Hey Pretty Girl," will call the State Fair home on Thursday, July 23.

Keith Urban will close out the Showpass on Friday, July 24. Taking his tour to the ND State Fair will be everything you have heard and more. This American Idol judge and world-renowned country star has a collection of chart topping hits including "Raise 'em Up," "Somewhere In My Car," and "Cop Car."

The Grandstand Country Showpass will be \$110 with the option of standing room or Reserved Seating tickets available.

NPRA Championship Bull Riding will be held on Monday, July 20 & Tuesday, July 21. Tickets will be \$14 for adults, \$6 for ages 7-12 and 6 and under will be free.

Other items available for purchase include: Season and Daily Gate Passes, Mega Ride Carnival Passes, Ranch Rodeo tickets, beer tickets and nine day camping spots.

APRIL 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Military Affairs Committee, Noon, Grand Hotel Ribbon Cutting, 4:30 p.m., Capital RV, 4000 14th Ave. SW	3	4
5	6	7	8 Right Start Presentation, 10 a.m., MAFB	9 Ambassador's Committee, 4:30 p.m., Vegas Motel Ribbon Cutting, 5:30 p.m., DeLisimo Café & Catering, 122 S. Main	10 Infrastructure Committee, 7:30 a.m., Homesteaders Restaurant Ribbon Cutting, 10 a.m., Wild Bill Motorsports, 2305 Elk Drive	11 Legislative Forum, 9 a.m., Norse Room, ND State Fair Center Prairie Warrior Auction, 6 p.m., Holiday Inn
12	13 Right Start Presentation FTAC, 9:30 a.m., MAFB	14 Eagle Awards Presentation, 10 a.m., Chamber office	15 Ribbon Cutting, 4 p.m., Minot Public Library The Makerspace, 516 2nd Ave SW	16 Business After Hours, Sponsored by Country Inn & Suites, 5-7 p.m., 1900 22nd Ave. SW	17 CLI Planning, Noon, Chamber office	18
19	20	21 Board of Directors, 7:30 a.m., Grand Hotel	22 Right Start Presentation, 10 a.m., MAFB	23 Energy Committee, 11:30 a.m., Vegas Motel Ribbon Cutting, 4:30 p.m., First International Bank & Trust, 2150 21st Ave. NW	24	25 International Military Ball, 6 p.m., Grand Hotel
26	27	28	29 Honors Banquet, 6 p.m., Holiday Inn	30		

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