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Chamber chair focuses on economic future

by Duane Poynter

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce is just that — it covers the area, not just Minot. The Chairman's responsibility is going to be challenging and rewarding. I have spent the last 45 years in agriculture and have seen plenty of changes. Agriculture is still Minot's and North Dakota's number one industry and the state is number one in many crops in the nation.

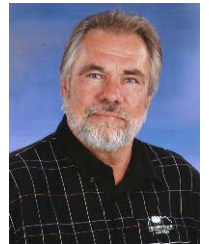
We have seen businesses in the surrounding area start and grow because of the agriculture industry. We have experienced a slight downturn in the oil industry, but are confident it will continue to expand as companies make new strides in making profits in lower oil prices. This little correction can be seen as a positive for our economy to make people and companies think outside the box. For people who want to work, there are many opportunities. Is there a risk? Yes! But it can be very rewarding if you make a plan and follow through.

Being a Chamber member for 23 years has been very rewarding, not only in making friends, but also in networking with business associates. Getting involved

has been one of the keys in making my own businesses successful, allowing me to stay informed on what is happening in the area.

We are still one of the few bright spots in jobs in the United States. While energy and agriculture remain an important part of our economy, we have a hidden gem in Minot Air Force Base. The Air Base has a strong role in our nation's defense with two of the three legs of the Triad, and Minot Air Force Base has proven its excellence with numerous awards of excellence. It has been a privilege to meet a lot of outstanding officers and airmen.

With Minot Air Force Base, agriculture, energy and oil leading in all their respective categories, the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce is very fortunate. I consider it an honor to be your Chairman and look forward to serving in the next year.



Duane Poynter
(Off Broadway
Laundromat)
Chamber Chair

Annual meeting features ag business executive

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its 92nd annual meeting Wednesday, Oct. 7 at the Holiday Inn. Keynote speaker this year will be Troy Johnson, midwest region vice president for Wilbur Ellis Co.

Johnson grew up on a diversified grain and livestock farm in southern Minnesota. He studied agriculture and has been employed in a professional agricultural role for all 24 years of his career. During this time he has had the opportunity to work with a global basic chemical and technology supplier, a mid-sized

regional seed company and most recently, a large privately held retail company. His roles have taken him from an entry level sales and marketing position to his current role as vice president of Midwest Region for Wilbur Ellis Company.

Please RSVP by Friday, Oct. 2. Cost is \$25 per person. Register at www.minotchamber.org. Select October 7 on the Chamber calendar and use your membership login information. For more information call 852-6000.

MINOT Y'S MEN'S RODEO BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

**Wednesday, October 7 • 5 – 7 p.m.
Upper Atrium - ND State Fair Center**

*Enjoy a meal, music, a silent auction, and a drawing for \$500 in Chamber Bucks!
If winner is not present, \$50 in Chamber Bucks 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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Cathy Tweten (Dakota Square)839-7500
Dusty Wald (Magic City Beverage).....852-4031
Shannon Webster (Town & Country
Credit Union)852-2018

NEW MEMBERS.....

The Minot Chamber welcomes new members. Join us in thanking **Small Business Administration (SBA)** and **Big Dipper Housing**. Please let them know how much of a value they are to our community.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA): 657 2nd Ave. N., Room 360 • PO Box 3086 • Fargo, ND 58108
701-239-5131 • Fax: 202-481-4550 • Email: north.dakota@sba.gov • Website: www.sba.gov/nd

Mike Gallagher, District Director

The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides assistance to for-profit small businesses and nascent entrepreneurs through access to capital, federal contracting assistance, and counseling/technical assistance.

BIG DIPPER HOUSING: 1900 72nd St. NW, Lot 1 • Minot, ND • 701-420-0996 • info@bigdipperhousing.com
www.bigdipperhousing.com • Mike & Brenda Harrison, Owners • Sarah Brien, Manager • Marshall Davis, Manager
Big Dipper Housing can provide workforce or family housing needs. The company has three-, four-, and five-bedroom homes available today.

Showcase of Business celebrates television over the years

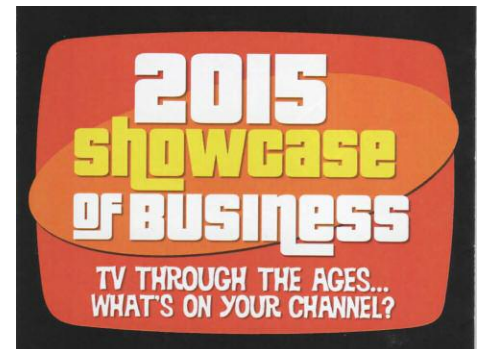
Showcase of Business celebrates Television Through the Ages, "What's on Your Channel?" That's what the 2015 Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Showcase of Business will be asking at the annual trade show Nov. 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the ND State Fair Center Magic Place. This is the 25th year for Showcase and sponsor KXMC CBS13 will have the event center decorated to the theme, as will more than 70 businesses on hand.

"We continue to strive to make this the premiere event of the fall for Chamber members," said Chamber President John MacMartin. "The Showcase is an event not only for businesses, but for the public to see what they have to offer."

Booths are still available. The cost is \$175 for

a 10 X 10 and \$275 for a 15 X 15 for Chamber members.

The cost to attend is just \$10. Expect to see great prizes, food and entertainment. Call the Chamber for more information at 852-6000.



RENEWALS.....

The Chamber extends a big "THANK YOU" to our members who have renewed their membership through Sept. 25, 2015. Your continued support helps your Chamber promote the business community and do the work seen in the pages of this newsletter.

A & R Roofing	Fairfield Inn by Marriott - Minot	North Central Human Service Center
Accounting Solutions	Fire Extinguishing Systems Inc.	North Hill Bowl, Inc.
Aggregate Construction Inc	Flower Box, Inc.	Northern Tier Federal Credit Union
All America City Glass	FMC Technologies Completion Services	Northwest Contracting
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.	Forward Communication, Inc.	Outback Autobody, Inc.
Angels Hands Home Care	Health Care Solutions, LLC	Park University
Big Dipper Housing	Helgeson-Norton Agency	PROCollect Services LLC
Bishop Ryan Catholic School	Hertz Licensee-Minot Rent A Car, Inc.	Quality Landscaping
Black Butte Communications and Consulting	U.S. Senator John Hoeven	Ready Builders, Inc.
Broadway Family Dentistry	Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites	Rehab Services, Inc.
Checkers, Inc.	Inspired Interiors	SCORE Chapter of Minot
CHI St. Alexius Medical Clinic	Investors Real Estate Trust	SHC, Inc.
ChiroCare Family Center, PC	IRET Properties	Souris Valley Apartments
Coca Cola Refreshment	I. Keating, Inc. Furniture World	Stantec
Comfort Suites	Kemper Construction Co.	Star City Golf Course
Concrete Mobile, LLC	KXMC CBS13	State Farm Insurance - Paul Siebert
CTS Properties, LLC	Liechty Homes	Strata Corporation, Ready Mix Division
Dakota Agronomy Partners	Magic City Garage Door & Awning	Super 8 Motel
Dakota College at Bottineau	Mainstream Boutique	Synergy Medical Massage
Dakotah Rose Delights	Mayer Electric	Duane Tollefson
Days Inn	Minot Commission on Aging, Inc.	Town & Country Center
Jerry S. Effertz	Minot Veterinary Clinic Inc.	The UPS Store
Elwood Staffing	ND Asia	West Dakota Fox Minot
Evolution Salon	NewKota Services & Rentals	
Excavating Inc.		

Chamber Chair appoints three new board members

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Chair, Duane Poynter (Off Broadway Laundromat), appointed three new board members to one-year terms as allowed by Chamber bylaws. They are Tonya Harden (First International Bank & Trust), Ryon Boen (Western Agency), and Tige Engelhard (Gooseneck Implement).

Minot native Harden has worked for First International Bank and Trust for ten years, with nearly six of those as loan operations manager. She earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Moorhead State University in 2001. She served with the ND Army National Guard from 1999 to 2008, and did a tour in Iraq with the 142nd out of Fargo from 2003 to 2004.

She served as a member of the Military Affair Committee for a few years, and is an active member in Christ Lutheran Church.

She and her husband Mike, who recently retired from the USAF after 25 years, have a six-year-old and an eight-year-old.

Boen, also a Minot native, is owner and CEO/president of Western Agency. He has served in that position since 2011 and has been with the company since 2007. Prior to that, he

spent 13 years as a software developer, then moved into sales and marketing. While working for a mobile device/application testing company, Boen spent a significant amount of time traveling the U.S., western Europe, Asia, Russia, and India, working with multi-national technology companies. Since returning to Minot and joining Western Agency, the company has almost tripled in size and has expanded to 10 locations. He earned his bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University, and his MBA from Moorhead State. He and his wife Kristen have three children ages 14, 12, and 10.

Carpio native Engelhard serves as store and sales manager of Gooseneck Implement in Minot for the past five years. He worked in sales for Gooseneck since 1994, first at the Kenmare location and now at the Minot location. He was raised on a grain and dairy farm, so he has been involved with the ag industry his whole life. His work history includes grain



Tonya Harden
First International
Bank & Trust



Ryon Boen
Western Agency



Tige Engelhard
Gooseneck
Implement

handling and cleaning, ag fertilizer and chemical handling, and for the last 22 years, ag machinery and equipment. Engelhard is a past member of the Grain Dealers Association and a current member of the North Dakota Implement Dealer Association. He has been involved with the Chamber's Ag Committee as well. He and his wife Ardel enjoy camping and traveling, as well as weekends at the lake with their children. Additionally, they enjoy gardening together and canning the fruits of their labor.

Annual Minot Y's Men's Rodeo Oct. 8 – 11

Nancy Kramer is carrying on her family's legacy. The Minot woman follows in her great-uncle's rodeo footsteps, as she helps with the annual Minot Y's Men's Rodeo in Minot.

Her great-uncle Maurice LaValley produced some of the first rodeos in the area, on the home ranch, south and east of Granville for the Rough Riders Rodeo Association. She remembers him, dressed as a cowboy, with his leather cuffs, his initials and brand on them.

Kramer's dad, Lannie Kunkel, took her and her sister to the Minot Y's Men's Rodeo when they were kids, and when she was in high school, she worked as an usher at the rodeo.

Now she works as secretary for the Y's Men, who put on the annual event, which hosts the Badlands Circuit Finals, pro rodeo's championship for North and South Dakota.

She's worked as secretary for the past 23 years, taking care of accounts receivable, and helping with the program and ticket sales. At the rodeo, she helps organize the sponsor flags the queens carry around the arena on horseback.

It's a way to stay connected to the rodeo world and the horse world, in which her daughter showed and competed. "It keeps me involved in horses and

rodeo," she said. She also loves seeing the rodeo people and families she sees only once a year, at the Y's Men's Rodeo.

Profits from the rodeo go to fund the Triangle Y Camp at Lake Sakakawea at Garrison, and since the rodeo began hosting the Badlands Circuit Finals in 2007, "it has changed everything," Nancy said, "from the number of contestants to the dollars we are able to send to camp." And it's changed the amount of work as well. For the rodeo committee men, no longer is rodeo something to work on a few months out of the year. "For the guys, it's a year-round thing. It's not just, oh, yes, it's August, let's hurry up and get this thing going."

She estimates she's rarely, if ever, missed a year of the rodeo. And the hardest day is the final day of the rodeo, the Sunday performance. "The worst day is the last day," she said. "I'm sad it's over."

She credits the Y's Men with the work they do and how well they treat her. "They've treated me very well all these years. They're like my family, and they're a big part of the rodeo, and they deserve credit, too. They're the main reason for the rodeo and why it's been so successful."

This year's Y's Men's Rodeo is Oct. 8-11 at the North Dakota State Fair Center in Minot.

Performances begin at 6:30 p.m. for Oct. 8 to 10 performances, and at 1:30 pm on Oct. 11. Tickets can be purchased online, and more information can be found at MinotYsMensRodeo.com.



Nancy Kramer and rodeo volunteer Sargay Kalamaha, Jr. pose at a Y's Men's Rodeo. The Minot woman works as secretary for the rodeo and loves her job. "It keeps me involved in horses and rodeo."

EAGLE AWARDS

The Eagle Award winners were recognized in September 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.



TERRY HOKENSON
Don Bessette Motors



HEATHER WHALEY
Sears



JASON FOREID
SRT Help Desk



MAHALIA ORTIZ
Longhorn Steakhouse



JOY STEVENS
Trinity Health



CHRIS STEIER
Minot Nutrition Addiction

Minot Young Professionals hosts kick-off luncheon

Please join the Minot Young Professionals 2015-2016 Kick-Off Luncheon to meet new Young Professionals Leadership Team. The event will feature author and speaker, V.J. Smith, and will also have a brief recap of the accomplishments of Minot YP.

V.J. Smith is a professional speaker and published author. He is the author of the best-selling book, *The Richest Man in Town*. The book details

Smith's relationship with a little old man who ran a cash register at a local Wal-Mart. "That guy changed my life," Smith says.

Smith is a two-time finalist in Toastmasters' International's "World Championship of Public Speaking." In March 2014, Meeting and Conventions Magazine named V.J. as one of the favorite speakers of meeting planners throughout the country. He is also the author of *Can You Hear*

What I See and Jackrabbit Tales. He is the president of Life's Great Moments and resides in Brookings, SD.

All Minot Area Chamber of Commerce members are invited to attend this great event Thursday, Oct. 22 from Noon to 1:30 pm at the Grand Hotel. Cost to attend is \$20 per person. Please RSVP by Friday, Oct. 16 by visiting www.ypminot.com/events/detail.asp?eventID=935

GROUNDBREAKING



Sunset Ridge Apartments: 3524 Kodiak Street NW • Minot, ND • Managed by Minot Housing Authority: 852-0485
The Ambassadors helped celebrate the beginning of construction on phase one of a 35-unit apartment complex. The complex will include one-, two-, and three-bedroom units, with a number of those being fully accessible. Completion is expected in the summer of 2016.

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.



Goldstars Chem-Dry: PO Box 3279 • Minot, ND 58702 • 721-6115 • Jason & Amy Peterson
goldstarschemdry@gmail.com • www.goldstarschemdry.com

Chem-Dry uses a green certified solution and unique hot carbonating extraction process for a deeper clean, faster drying carpets and a healthier home.



Oak Park Amphitheater: 11th - 14th Street 4th Avenue • Minot, ND • 857-4136 • Minot Park District

Ambassadors helped celebrate the opening of a newly-constructed amphitheater in Oak Park, which was christened with its first concert by the distinctive musical voices of sisters Kendra and Krista, who make up the band Tigirlily.



Rubber Duck River Race: Sponsored by Companions for Children, Dakota Hope Clinic, Independence Inc., Souris Valley Animal Shelter, and Minot Public Schools Foundation • www.minotrubberduckrace.com

The Ambassadors helped cut the ribbon as five local non-profit organizations concluded their collaborative fundraiser with the Rubber Duck Race.

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.



CHI St. Alexius Medical Plaza - Minot: 2111 Landmark Circle • Minot, ND • 857-8055 • www.st.alexius.org
CHI St. Alexius Health Medical Plaza in Minot opened a new state-of-the-art facility in September and held a blessing, ribbon cutting, and open house later that month. The plaza features primary and specialty care exam rooms with the added convenience of having clinical services under one roof. First Choice Therapy is located on the second floor, and North Hill Pharmacy will open in January 2016.



Headquarters Styling Salon: 2311 Elk Drive • Minot, ND • 838-8117 • hq@hqstyling.com • www.headquartersstyling.com
Ambassadors cut the ribbon at Headquarters to celebrate with new owners, Brittany Dahl and Erica Dahl.



Kemmet Dental Design: 1015 South Broadway • Minot, ND • 852-4789 • <http://www.kemmetdental.com>
Dr. Lindell and Keisha Kemmet are happy to be part of the Minot community's future, and Ambassadors helped them celebrate the expansion of their office in Town & Country Center with a ribbon cutting.

MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

Kiwanis Pancake Day October 17

Are you ready to eat some pancakes? Well, the Kiwanis Club of Minot is ready to make them, and they hope to feed a lot of people and make some money for children's groups in Minot.

The 56th Annual Kiwanis Pancake Day is set for Oct. 17 from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Minot Auditorium. The breakfast features sausage, coffee and all the pancakes you can eat.

"We enjoy this event because we are grateful to see so many of the same people year after year helping us raise funds," said Pancake Chair, Zach Burdick (American Bank Center). "This is our largest fundraiser and the money raised goes to projects in Minot to support so many worthy organizations."

Tickets are just \$5 from any Kiwanis member or at the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce. You can purchase them the day of the event for \$6 per person, kids under six eat free.

New providers join Trinity Health

Trinity Health announces the addition of several new providers to its medical staff.

Philip Karuman, MD, PhD, is a general surgeon with special expertise in liver surgery and surgical oncology. He received his medical degree from National University of Singapore and a PhD in Molecular Biology from Harvard University. He completed a fellowship in multi-organ transplant surgery at the University of Pittsburgh and remained on the faculty there in the Transplant Division. Dr. Karuman completed his General Surgery residency at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.



Philip Karuman, MD, PhD

A Minot native and Minot High School graduate, Doctor of Audiology Laura E. Greer, AuD, received both her undergraduate and Doctor of Audiology degrees from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She completed her 4th year externship at the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital and the University of Minnesota Medical Center.



Laura E. Greer, AuD

A family nurse practitioner, Rachel Gruenberg, FNP-C, provides consultation and follow-up care for patients receiving radiation therapy as part of their treatment at the Trinity CancerCare Center. Originally from Granville, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing

from Minot State University and her Master of Science as a Family Nurse Practitioner through Frontier Nursing University, Hyden, KY.

John Nwankwo, MD, and Tanya D. Schnell, DO, are anesthesiologists. Dr. Nwankwo received his

Doctor of Medicine degree from the American University of Antigua College of Medicine in the Caribbean and completed his four-year

Anesthesiology residency at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. Dr. Schnell attended the University of Jamestown in North Dakota for two years as a biology major before transferring to

Michigan State University, Lansing, where she received her Doctor of Osteopathy degree and completed her Anesthesia residency. Prior to joining Trinity Health Dr. Schnell provided anesthesia services at King's Daughters Health in Madison, Indiana, for eight years. She is board certified in Anesthesiology.

Jessica Delorme, FNP-C, is a family nurse practitioner and a member of Trinity's inpatient behavioral health team. A Minot native, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Mary, Bismarck, and completed her Master's/Family Nurse Practitioner degree from Concordia University Wisconsin.



Rachel Gruenberg, FNP-C



John Nwankwo, MD



Jessica Delorme, FNP-C

Trinity Cancer Program earns "Accreditation with Commendation"

The Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons has awarded Trinity Health's cancer program "Accreditation with Commendation" following an on-site survey.

Accreditation with Commendation is awarded when a cancer program complies with all CoC standards and additionally demonstrates a high level of compliance with one or more of the seven standards that comprise the full scope of cancer care. Shane Jordan, BSRT (R)(T), CMD, director of Trinity's CancerCare Center, says zero areas of deficiency were turned up during the survey, and Trinity was granted commendation in five of the seven standard areas.

"We're very excited to have received com-

mendation in five of the seven specific standards; it demonstrates the professionalism and dedication that exemplify Trinity's oncology team," Jordan said, adding, "This award isn't just for the CancerCare Center alone but for Trinity Health as an institution. It's truly a multi-disciplinary effort that enables us to achieve this recognition."

Just 30 percent of cancer programs in the U.S. are accredited by the CoC, according to the commission, and only half of those earn commendation. Trinity was accredited as a Comprehensive Community Cancer Program, a classification given to a facility that sees more than 500 newly diagnosed cancer cases each year. Jordan says classification as a Comprehensive Community Cancer Program is an upgrade from previous survey periods.

"In 2012, we were surveyed as a Community Cancer Program due to our number of diagnosed cases each year being less than 500," he said. "We are seeing more patients come to our center now and the ability to provide top-notch care is very rewarding and beneficial to the community of Minot and the region at large."

For more information, contact Mary Muhlbradt, at 857-5116 or 833-3341.

Michael A. Steele joins AE2S operations

AE2S Operations has hired Michael A. Steele as a Water Treatment Specialist in the firm's Minot, ND, office. He is focused on water treatment chemistry, flowback and produced water and re-use for oil and gas clients, and various other water infrastructure projects in North Dakota and beyond.



Michael A. Steele

Steele brings more than six years of professional experience in the oil and gas hydraulic fracturing industry. Before joining AE2S Operations, he was a laboratory manager for Frac Tech Service International, and designed the down-hole chemistry for approximately 100 wells for various energy and petroleum companies throughout North Dakota.

"Michael is very knowledgeable in water chemistry, and our clients will benefit from his extensive background in designing, building and managing chemical treatment operations," said Grant Slick, PE, AE2S Operations Project Manager.

Originally from McCall, ID, Steele holds a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Boise State University in Boise, ID; and a master of science degree in chemical engineering from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ryan Chevrolet sponsors pancake feed to make strides against breast cancer

Join Ryan Chevrolet Saturday, Oct. 3, for the 2nd annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Pancake Feed. Enjoy all you can eat pancakes along with delicious sausage, coffee and juice at no charge. All we ask is that you make a donation to help the fight against breast cancer. Ryan Chevrolet will match the money donated and give it to local cancer programs. Join us Oct. 3 at Ryan Chevrolet, 1800 S. Broadway, from 8 until 11 a.m. for all the pancakes you can eat!



Minot Symphony Orchestra welcomes new conductor

The Minot Symphony Orchestra will host a "Meet the Maestro" open house, welcoming its new conductor Efraín Amaya, Oct. 6 in the Conference Center (Student Center, third floor), from 5 to 7 p.m. This is an opportunity for the community to meet Amaya prior to the season opener concert that will take place Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall. There will be live music, appetizers, and a cash bar. Parking is unrestricted after 5 p.m.

"Though one can easily say he is a consummately well rounded and seasoned musician," said Kenneth Bowles, music division chair, "we here at MSU are impressed that his warmth and affable personality will open many doors for our students and audiences."



Efraín Amaya

Amaya, American conductor, composer and pianist, brings a wealth of talent and experience to MSU with distinct international credentials. He was most recently the founder and conductor of the Pennsylvania-based Point Chamber Orchestra, which he led in concert tour throughout Italy. Prior to that, he was the resident orchestra conductor at the prestigious Carnegie Mellon University, the Greensburg American Opera and the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra, among others. His work as a conductor ranges from contemporary music ensembles to youth orchestras.

Amaya's compositions have been performed

at major international festivals from Seattle to his home country of Venezuela. With scores of compositions to his credit, his works have been recorded and performed by a long list orchestras, ensembles and artists. A cursory YouTube search will bring up a lengthy representation of performances of his operas, orchestral and chamber music as well as his own performances as both conductor and pianist.

Amaya began his musical training in Venezuela, where he was born, and continued his studies in the U.S., earning two bachelor's degrees in composition and piano from Indiana University and a master's degree in orchestra conducting from Rice University, Houston.

For questions, contact minotsymphony@minotstateu.edu or 858-4228.

Prairie Business magazine announces 50 Best Places to Work

The September issue of *Prairie Business* magazine will celebrate the 50 Best Places to Work in the northern Plains. Companies were nominated through an anonymous employee satisfaction survey and rated in areas including work environment, employee benefits and employee happiness. Consideration was also given to the number of nominations received per company. The top 25 small for-profit companies (99 or fewer full-time employees) and the top 25 large for-profit companies (100+ employees) will be honored in the magazine, which is available today on www.prairiebizmag.com.

"*Prairie Business* is proud to present the 50 Best Places to Work. These businesses are showing their commitment to being great and we're happy to tell you about it," Wenzel said. "Also, we're proud to report that there are many, many other companies in our region that are not as heralded, but still understand that employees are their greatest asset. What does that tell us? It tells us that it's a great time to work in the Dakotas and western Minnesota."

This year's top **25 large employers** include (listed in alphabetical order):

Arvig Enterprises, Inc.
Border States Electric
Digi-Key Electronics
EAPC Architects Engineers
First International Bank & Trust
Fisher Industries
Gate City Bank
Houston Engineering Inc.
Intelligent InSites
JLG Architects
John Deere
Electronic Solutions Inc.
KLJ
Kupper Automotive
Lloyd Companies
Marco Inc.

MetroPlains Managaement LLC
Midcontinent Communications
Mortenson Construction
National Information Solutions Cooperative
North Dakota Guaranty & Title Co.
RDO Equipment Co.
Schuneman Equipment Co.
Steffes Corporation
WCCO Belting Inc.
3M Brookings

"People want to be happy at work. It's just that simple," said Korrie Wenzel, publisher. "The businesses that truly care — about their people as well as the future of the business itself — need to understand that. As the region's unemployment level plunges, businesses are quickly realizing that they have to work harder to recruit and retain the best workers."

Now in the second year of hosting the Best Places to Work contest, *Prairie Business* received nearly 2,500 surveys nominating more than 140 companies.

This year's top **25 small companies** include (listed in alphabetical order):

Ackerman-Estvold
All-Terrain Grounds Maintenance Inc.
Applied Engineering Inc.
Blend Interactive
Bismarck Aero Center
Click Rain
DFC Consultants Ltd.
Epicosity
H2M
High Point Networks
ICON Architectural Group
Karvacko Engineering
Liberty Business Systems Inc.
Midwest Bank
Midwest Fire Equipment & Repair Co.
Network Center Inc.
Nexus Innovations Inc.
Norby's Work Perks
Odney
Posi Lock Puller Inc.
Preference Personnel
RealTruck Inc.
Spectrum Aeromed
Stoneridge Software
Strider Sports International Inc.

For more than 15 years, *Prairie Business* magazine has served as the only business-to-business magazine dedicated to the northern Plains region. More than 21,000 print and digital copies are distributed monthly. The magazine focuses on the success and opportunities in the northern Plains states of North Dakota, South Dakota and western Minnesota and covers a variety of business topics including higher education, finance, architecture and engineering, agribusiness, energy, health care, economic development, tourism, technology and construction.

MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

Women's Auxiliary of American Legion awards money to Veterans Center

The Minot American Legion Post Unit 26 Women's Auxiliary presented a check to the Minot State University Veterans Center for two \$500 scholarships for the 2016-17 school year, at its monthly meeting on Sept. 9. They established and awarded a scholarship for the 2015-16 school year.



Members attending the meeting included, left to right, Alicia Ramon, Jane Bjork, Arlene Ritzke, Delores Walhood, Phyllis Allen, Darleen Rust, Mavis Holte, Mildred Aipperspach, Jean Berdini, Carroll Wallace and Edith Christenson.

CHI St. Alexius Health implements electronic health record system

On September 12, 2015, the hospitals and clinics that comprise CHI St. Alexius Health implemented a new computerized patient chart, or an electronic health record (EHR). Epic computer software has thorough security standards to ensure that patients' medical information is maintained with a high degree of confidentiality.

CHI St. Alexius Health's President Kurt Schley said, "The new system is designed to improve patient safety and provide physicians, advanced practice clinicians, nurses and caregivers with more complete, timely information, all in an effort to provide a better patient experience."

"Throughout this summer, associates from our organization completed extensive training to learn this new system," said Dr. Brandon Price, family medicine physician and chief medical information officer at CHI St. Alexius Health. "Many received additional training and will serve as 'super users,' which means they are side-by-side with caregivers in the hospitals and clinics, especially during the first few weeks following implementation."

CHI St. Alexius Health's hospitals in Bismarck, Garrison and Turtle Lake participated in the Epic electronic health record project. Participating clinics include: Archway Mental Health Services, Arthritis Clinic, Garrison Family Clinic, Heart & Lung Clinic, Heart & Vascular Center, Human Performance Center, Interventional Radiology Clinic, Medical Plazas in Mandan and Minot, Neonatal Clinic, Nephrology Clinic, Neurology Clinic,

Neurosurgery Clinic, Pain Clinic, Pediatric Cardiology, Physical Medicine Clinic, Urology Clinic, Washburn Family Clinic. Although CHI St. Alexius Health works closely with Mid Dakota Clinic and The Bone & Joint Center, these two facilities were not part of this project.

CHI St. Alexius Health is a 306-bed, full-service healthcare system offering a comprehensive line of inpatient and outpatient medical services, including: a Level II Emergency and Trauma Center, primary and specialty physician clinics, durable medical equipment services and ancillary services throughout western and central North Dakota. Since its founding in 1885, CHI St. Alexius Health has been recognized with numerous accreditations and awards including: The Joint Commission, Blue Cross Blue Shield Centers of Excellence Awards and ranked the Best Hospital in North Dakota by U.S. News & World Report for three consecutive years beginning in 2013-2014. In 2012, CHI St. Alexius Health proudly became a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, one of a group of organizations that share, with Mayo Clinic, a common commitment to improving the delivery of health care. In 2014, St. Alexius became a direct affiliation of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI).

NDGT acquires Emmons County Abstract Co.

North Dakota Guaranty & Title Co. announced it has completed the acquisition of Emmons County Abstract Co., the leading title company in Emmons County. With the close of this acquisition, NDGT will provide a full range of title insurance, closing and escrow services, 1031 exchange services, tax and lien searches and title reports throughout North Dakota.

"This is an exciting time of growth for our company," said Nick Hacker, President of NDGT. "Mercedes Goetz has built a wonderful company that is committed to the needs of its customers. We are proud to welcome Emmons County Abstract Co. as part of The Title Team® and we are excited to continue providing outstanding service across Emmons County and North Dakota."

The Emmons county abstract drop location is located at 101 N. Broadway, Linton, ND 58552. Orders can be emailed to ndgt@thetitleteam.com.

Known as "The Title Team," North Dakota Guaranty & Title Co. was founded in 1955. NDGT offers complete residential and commercial title and real estate closing services in each of its thirteen offices throughout North Dakota and Minnesota. For more information about our Linton location please call 701-663-5362 or visit www.thetitleteam.com.

Kirby joins Houston Engineering, Inc.

Kenneth Kirby joins Houston Engineering, Inc.'s (HEI) Minot office as survey technician. Kirby is originally from Moab, Utah, and previously worked in oil and gas exploration as a field hand.



Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) provides engineering, surveying, and environmental consulting services. Established in Fargo in 1968, our company also has offices in Bismarck, Dickinson, Grand Forks, and Minot, ND, as well as Maple Grove and Thief River Falls, MN.

Langemo named MSU Major Gifts Officer

Dan Langemo has been named the new major gifts officer at Minot State University.

Langemo was previously employed by First Western Bank for 16 years and retired as its vice president and trust officer July 31. Tuesday (Sept. 1), he will assume his new duties at MSU.



"Mr. Langemo possesses an impressive background in business, community service and a genuine commitment to the people in our community and to Minot State," said Marv Semrau, vice president for advancement. "Dan works so well with people and will bring those abilities to MSU."

Semrau said he is impressed by Langemo's understanding of the critical role the university plays in Minot and in the region.

"My wife, Jerlyn, and daughter, Katie, are graduates, and Karen, our youngest daughter, is a senior at MSU. The Minot community is proud of its university, and I'm pleased to have the opportunity to build on that pride and strong tradition of support," Langemo said. "I look forward to working with President Shirley, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of Minot State."

A Valley City native, Langemo attended Valley City State University and is a 1975 graduate of the University of North Dakota. He is a past president of the Rotary Club of Minot and a past chair of the Ambassadors Committee of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce. He currently serves as fund manager for the Minot Symphony Association Endowment Fund and serves on the board of the Minot Public School Foundation. Langemo belongs to the MSU Beaver Boosters Club and is chair-elect of the MSU Board of Regents.

For question, contact Langemo at dan.langemo@minotstateu.edu.

MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

JLG Architects recognized
JLG Architects named to Inc. 5000 again

JLG Architects has been named #1316 on the Inc. Magazine 5000 list, which ranks the fastest-growing private companies in America. JLG is #1 on the list of all North Dakota companies, and is the highest-ranked architecture firm on the entire list. JLG was #2547 in 2014.

JLG has been named to several national business rankings in 2015 in addition to the Inc. 5000 list, including #38 of the Building Design+Construction Giants 300 Design Firms, #5 of the Zweig Group Hot Firms, #5 of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal Top 25 Architecture Firms, #89 of the Architectural Record Top 300 Architecture Firms and #386 of the Engineering News-Record Top 500 Design Firms. JLG has also been selected as a Best Place to Work by Prairie Business and the Zweig Group.

JLG Architects was also ranked #19 of the “Top 50 US Architecture Firms in Business” by *Architect Magazine*. JLG is the only firm in North Dakota to have ever made the list.

Architect Magazine is the publication of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the national professional association of architects. The “Top 50 US Architecture Firms” is the magazine’s annual ranking. More information is available at www.architectmagazine.com/architect-50/2015.

Marco named to CRN Fast Growth 150 list

Marco, Inc. has been named #79 on The Channel Company’s 2015 CRN Fast Growth 150 list. Based on gross revenue over the two-year period from 2012 to 2014, The Fast Growth 150 list ranks solution providers based in North

America with significant economic growth. These companies have excelled in growing their operations and constantly providing essential services to their customers.

“Cloud computing, mobile and big data technologies are making the industry both more exciting and more challenging than it’s ever been,” says Robert Faletra, CEO of The Channel Company. “Solution providers recognized in CRN’s Fast Growth 150 list are rising to meet the challenge and are thriving as a result. We are pleased to recognize these firms as leaders in today’s IT channel.”

The Fast Growth 150 list is highlighted in the October issue of CRN and can be viewed online at <http://crn.com/fastgrowth>.

Menards opens new stores

The new Williston Menards Mega Store and the new Jamestown Menards Mega Store both opened for business Sept. 9, 2015. With the opening of these new stores, Williston, Jamestown, and the surrounding areas can enjoy all of the great services, low prices and shopping convenience that Menards has to offer.

Jeff Abbott, Menards Spokesperson says, “We appreciate all the hard work and dedication from everyone. Homeowners, tenants, business owners and contractors will now have greater access to a full-line of building materials and supplies at the lowest prices in the area.”

Menards is well known throughout the Midwest for its complete selection of high-quality, name brand merchandise, tools for any job and state-of-the-art in-store computers to help guests design their special projects. Menards carries the materials and tools for all of your home improvement

projects from just needing a light bulb, gallon of paint or household supplies to building a deck, fence or new home! Plus, the new stores will also carry name brand appliances, pet products, lawn and garden supplies and even a line of convenience groceries as a one-stop shopping experience.

With home improvement at the forefront of today’s do-it-yourself market, Menards provides a valuable resource for entire communities. Menards creates employment opportunities and economic growth while fulfilling the various home improvement needs of local homeowners, tenants, and business owners. A family-owned company started in 1958, Menards currently operates 289 home improvement stores located throughout 14 Midwestern states, including six other stores in North Dakota. Menards is known throughout the home improvement industry as the low price leader; it’s no wonder the slogan, “Save big money,” is so widely known and easy to remember.

Sanford now offers OccMed services 24/7

Sanford Health now provides a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week phone triage care system enterprise-wide for occupational medicine services – OccMed 24/7. This program benefits businesses by helping to lower medical costs and reduce lost time away from work.

“This service fills a gap in care for businesses and employees who may not be close to occupational medicine care due to their rural locations,” says Stephanie Murdock, vice president of occupational medicine. “Phone triage gives businesses access to expertise in occupational medicine care after normal business hours.”

Through OccMed 24/7, Sanford’s occupational medicine expert clinicians will provide triage care over the phone for various on-the-job injuries including muscle injuries, cuts, inhalations, chemical exposures, cold injuries, thermal burns and more.

Sanford’s experts will evaluate the injury and provide recommendations on the best course of action to care for the injury. This may mean making an appointment and being treated the next day or taking the injured employee for immediate care in urgent situations. Case management for ongoing treatments will also be provided. Businesses contracting for this service will only pay when the service is used.

OccMed 24/7 is available as part of our large network of occupational medicine clinics, with locations in Bemidji, Minnesota; Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo, and Minot, North Dakota; and Aberdeen and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as well as a network of specialty physicians at Sanford Health, one of the largest systems in the nation.

For more information, call (888) 600-2378 or visit sanfordocmed.com.

Job Service ND to host multi-industry job fair Oct. 20

Job Service North Dakota will host a multi-industry job fair on Oct. 20, 2015 from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Vegas Motel Ballroom.

You may recruit and interview as many individuals as you like. Job Service will provide generic applications as requested. Set-up starts at 3:30 p.m. for employers participating; the Job Fair will start at 4 p.m. for veterans and at 4:30 p.m. for the general public.

The cost to participate is \$100 per table, check or money order, payable to Minot Job Service; we are unable to process credit cards. Availability is limited. Please complete the following information and mail along with your check by Friday, Oct. 16 to the Minot Job Service, PO Box 1727, Minot, ND 58702-1727. Your company/business must have jobs listed on jobsnd.com prior to attending.

Company Name _____

Contact Person _____

Phone _____ Number of tables requested @\$100/each table _____

Name(s) of Interviewer(s) _____

Position(s) to be filled _____

Mail to: Multi-Industry Job Fair, Job Service North Dakota, Att: Darley or Rose, PO Box 1727, Minot, ND 58702-1727. For more information, contact Rose at 857-7521 or rkrukenb@nd.gov; or Darley at 857-7525 or dwilliams@nd.gov

MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

Taube Museum of Art Stayin' Alive for 45!

Artfest 2015 has changed its name in honor of celebrating 45 years of art in the community. This year we are hosting a 1970's Costume Party: Stayin' Alive for 45. Our exciting two-day event will be held in the FFA Hall at the North Dakota State Center Oct. 16 and 17.

The Premiere Birthday Party Celebration with a 1970s Costume Party - Stayin' Alive for 45 will be held Friday, Oct. 16, from 7 to 10 p.m. This promises to be a fantastic time visiting with local and regional artists, a costume contest, silent auction, music from the '70s, birthday cake, appetizers, and complimentary cocktails, all in a fun 1970s party atmosphere. Must be 21 to attend. Tickets are also going back in time and will be \$30 for non-members and \$25 for members. They are available at the Taube Museum of Art, Artmain, Visit Minot, and www.taubemuseum.org/birthday_bash.htm.

The party continues on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with local and regional artists' booths, silent auction, live music by local musicians, and North Dakota's Largest Painting Party. General admission is \$2, with 10 and younger free. There is something for everyone. The children will have a great time painting on a large canvas mural, adults can watch artist demonstrations, browse for that special artwork, and bid on the silent auction.

New this year is North Dakota's Largest Painting Party. You will not want to miss this exciting opportunity to be a part of history in the making. Each paid participant will recreate a birthday themed artwork on a 9" x 12" stretched canvas in the style of Wendy Kimble's winning "Cupcake" image. Admission for all ages is \$25 per person, and all supplies are provided. Saturday admission is included with a \$25 Largest Painting Party Ticket.

For more information, please contact Nancy F. Walter, executive director, at 838-4445, or visit www.taubemuseum.org/birthday_bash.htm.



Taube Museum of Art receives water damage

The lower level of the Taube Museum of Art was flooded on three different occasions due to a combination of the downtown construction on Central Avenue and heavy summer rains. Insurance covered a portion of the clean-up costs but did not cover any of the restoration work needed to bring the lower level back from the brink.

As a nonprofit organization, the museum is looking for contributions to help restore the two art education classrooms, the lower gallery, and the public restrooms to help continue the mission of enriching lives through the visual arts.

The two art education classrooms are the life center for the Taube's art education programming, and the lower gallery is vital exhibition space for local and regional artists. If your child has participated in A Start in Art, Goodnight Art!, Art All Around, Paint A Purple Cow, Art Camp, Summer

Artventures, or Homeschool Group, or if you have seen a memorable exhibition in the lower gallery, please consider a contribution towards the restoration project. All contributions are tax deductible and will be directly applied to replacing drywall, paint, doors, trim, and flooring.

The Taube Museum of Art has been in existence in some form for 45 years, and has been at the 2 North Main Street location for 18 years. The Taube Museum of Art has been a vital part of the Minot community and downtown scene with plans to continue this tradition. Your contributions will help bring the Taube back from the brink.

Contributions may be made at www.taubemuseum.org/back_from_the_brink.htm or mailed to the Taube at 2 N. Main St., Minot, ND 58703, or stop by the Taube Museum and drop off your contribution in the special contribution jar.

The Taube Museum of Art is proud to be able to bring the rich variety of programming and exhibitions to the Minot community, and with your assistance that tradition will continue.

If you have questions, please contact Nancy F. Walter, executive director, at 838-4445, visit www.taubemuseum.org or Facebook.



MEMBER BUSINESS BRIEFS

St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation to award grants for quality of life

St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation will award \$500,000 for quality of life projects. The deadline for Letters of Intent for grants from St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation is set for October 15.

St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) public charity community foundation formed in June of 1998. The Foundation has awarded over \$5.3 million in grants to organizations for many worthwhile projects to assist with programs that address quality of life issues in their communities.

This year \$500,000.00 in grant funds are available to organizations for projects and initiatives that address the mental, physical, emotional and/or spiritual needs of residents in the counties of Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, McLean, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, Rolette, Sheridan, Ward and Wells.

Forms are available on-line at www.community-healthfoundationnd.com or by contacting Shelly Weppner, president, St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation, 308 2nd Ave SW, Minot, ND 58701, 837-1726 or e-mail sjchf@minot.com.

Prairie Business magazine opens 40 Under 40 nomination window

Prairie Business magazine is now accepting nominations for its annual 40 under 40 list, which recognizes 40 of the top business professionals under the age of 40 in the Dakotas and western Minnesota. Submissions will be accepted through the magazine's website - prairiebizmag.com - through Oct. 16. Results will be published in the December issue of the magazine.

Prairie Business is looking for young professionals in the region who are making significant impacts in their chosen profession, industry and communities. Nominees can be entrepreneurs, industry experts, executives or nonprofit or community leaders. Previous honorees have included business owners, patent holders, venture capital-

ists, corporate executives, economic developers and community trendsetters.

To be eligible for the award, nominees must be 39 years old or younger on Dec. 31, 2015. Past winners of the award are not eligible. Nomination submissions must include a brief biography of the candidate's accomplishments and career history.

To submit nominations for the list, visit <http://www.prairiebizmag.com/pages/40under40form>. Nominations are currently being accepted and can be submitted through Oct. 16.

Western Agency featured in industry magazine

Western Agency was featured in an agent magazine for *Acuity*, a nationally recognized insurance carrier specializing in property and casualty coverage, for its growth in commercial business. Insuring farms and businesses throughout North Dakota and South Dakota, Western Agency's 40-member team includes in-house claim and underwriting expertise as well as agents with more than 200 collective years of industry experience. One of the largest independent insurance agencies in the upper Midwest, Western Agency has North Dakota offices in Bottineau, Dickinson, Garrison, Glenburn, Minot, Oakes and Towner, and South Dakota offices in Aberdeen, Britton and Eden. Specializing in farm, crop, commercial, and contract bond insurances, Western Agency also covers personal lines such as home, auto and life.

The following is an excerpt from the magazine:

For nearly 40 years, North Dakota's Western Agency has lived by the motto, "25 hours per day insur-

ance service." Although the family-owned agency hasn't actually been able to add an extra hour to the day, its motto reflects a steadfast commitment to providing the best service around the clock.

"We are there when people need us," said Coiya Tompkins, vice president of operations and marketing "We've had several claims during our history. It's not uncommon for us to be on site at the time of the claim. Recently, we arrived at a customer's property in tandem with the fire truck, even before the client arrived."

The agency also takes a highly consultative approach to the insurance process. "We have an unwavering desire to fight for our clients," said Ryon Boen, CEO. "We are dedicated to making sure our customers are served, and served in the right way."

Western Agency digs deep to uncover exposures throughout customers' operations and the challenges and pressure points clients face. "There are many times we've convinced customers to take on coverage that really mattered when they did have a claim," Coiya said.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



Thank you to CHS SunPrairie for sponsoring the first Business After Hours of the season September 24. Around 100 people were on hand to celebrate their Centennial.

Registered employers can verify social security of newly hired on line

Now is the time to register for Social Security Business Services Online (BSO).

A registered employer can verify the Social Security number (SSN) of newly hired and existing employees online or overnight, without seeing the paper SSN card.

Verifying now that you have the correct SSN prevents future reporting problems due to having a wrong SSN or name. If an employee's name and SSN does not verify, have him or her contact Social Security to correct the problem. This is especially useful if your business has high employee turnover,

such as the hospitality industry.

Another BSO service provides for electronic transmission of your W-2 information at the end of the year, with incentive to do so.

Firms providing payroll services register once to use these Business Services for all their clients.

There is no charge to use Social Security Business Services Online.

Business Service Online details are at www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty/business.html. Registration instructions and tutorials are in the Employer section, as is customer support infor-

mation that is dedicated to BSO related questions. Local Social Security office staff generally cannot answer BSO questions.

Note that the employee registering to use these Business Services on behalf of an employer is asked for some personal information as a security feature. Before allowing the registration to be completed, the employee work record is checked to verify employment with the employer. Newly hired employees can register for Business Services Online through customer support.

OCTOBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Ambassadors Committee , 7:30 a.m., Homesteader's Restaurant	3
4	5 Right Start FTAC Presentation , 9:30 a.m., MAFB	6	7 Annual Meeting 11:30 a.m., Holiday Inn Ribbon Cutting , 2 p.m., Northland Place, 2700 8th St. NW Business After Hours , 5 to 7 p.m., Y's Men's Rodeo, ND State Fair Center	8 CLI , 8:30 a.m., MAFB Ribbon Cutting , 2 p.m., Woodland Trail	9 Infrastructure Committee , 7:30 a.m., Homesteaders Restaurant Junior Achievement Committee , Noon, Chamber office	10
11	12	13 Eagle Awards Presentation , 10 a.m., Chamber office	14 Right Start Presentation , 10 a.m., MAFB Ambassadors decorating cakes , 3 p.m., Marketplace Foods Ribbon Cutting , 4 p.m., Gooseneck Implement, Velva	15 CLI Economic Development Session , 8 a.m., Verendrye Electric Cooperative Military Affairs Committee , Noon, Grand Hotel	16 Agribusiness Committee , 7:30 a.m., Homesteaders Restaurant Governmental Affairs Committee , 11:30 a.m., Vegas Motel	17
18	19 Right Start FTAC Presentation , 9:30 a.m., MAFB Ribbon Cutting , 1:30 p.m., Freedom Financial Group, 701 31st Ave. SW	20 Board of Directors , 7:30 a.m., Grand Hotel	21 Ribbon Cutting , 2 p.m., Roosevelt Park Zoo Aviary	22 CLI Media Session , 8 a.m., Chamber office Energy Committee , 11:30 a.m., Vegas Motel	23	24
25	26	27	28 Right Start Presentation , 10 a.m., MAFB	29 CLI Education Session , 8 a.m., Burdick Job Corps Center	30	31

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