

Communicator

THE MINOT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND YOU!

Vol. XXXIX, Issue No. 12

www.minotchamber.org

Dec. 2016

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**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from the staff and management of the
Minot Area Chamber of Commerce and
the Minot Motor Vehicle Department**



Airman Cookie Drive

Benefiting the Minot AFB airmen

Sponsored by the Minot Officer Spouses' Club

How can you help? Bake & donate cookies

Minot AFB Cookie Drop Off

Jimmy Doolittle Center

Dec. 8: 1 - 3 p.m.

Dec. 9: 8 a.m. - Noon

In-town Cookie Drop Off

Minot Area Chamber of Commerce

Dec. 5 - 8: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information: Summer Cisneros * 406-781-5785

airmencookiedrive@gmail.com

**\$500 IN CHAMBER
BUCKS WILL BE
GIVEN AWAY! MUST
BE PRESENT TO WIN!
\$50 IN CHAMBER
BUCKS IS GURANTEED**

**PLUS MANY OTHER
GREAT PRIZES FROM
ELEVATION!**

ELEVATION

1912 VALLEY BLUFF DRIVE

**JOIN US FOR BUSINESS
AFTER HOURS ON
THURSDAY
DECEMBER 1
5-7PM!**

**\$5 CHARGE AT
THE DOOR
CASH BAR AND
HOR D'OEUVRES**



MINOT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMERCE

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
EditorCarla Dolan, IOM
Managing EditorPatty Steele

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L. John MacMartin, CCEPresident
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Cheryl WallenFinance Manager
Lisa MoldenhauerAdministrative Assistant
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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 the **Vision Systems**. Please let them know how much of a value they are to our community.

VISION SYSTEMS

2000 6th St. SE, Ste. B • P.O. Box 1728 • Minot, ND • 838-5776 • Fax: 839-8842
Donelda Koble, Acctg. • Email: doneldak@visionsystems.tv

Vision Systems is a private telecommunications company providing security surveillance, cable, data, and telecommunications to the hospitality, multi-family homes, school, retail, commercial, and assisted living environments for 30 years.

Renewals

The Chamber extends a big "THANK YOU" to our members who have renewed their membership through Nov. 23, 2016. Your continued support helps your Chamber promote the business community and do the work seen in the pages of this newsletter.

A & R Roofing	4 Bears Casino and Lodge	Park South Holdings, LLC
Ackerman-Estvold	Harley's Arrowhead	Pinnacle Financial Group
AFLAC - Cassie Loard	Hess Corporation	The Prairie Bistro
Aggregate Construction Inc	HighAir Ground	Probitas Promotions
Alliance Real Estate	Howard & Associates, P.C	Quality Health Associates of North Dakota
American Family Agency	Independence, Inc.	Ready Builders, Inc.
Anytime Fitness	Indigo Signworks	American Red Cross Mid- Dakota Chapter
Artistic Floors & Lights Inc.	Inspired Interiors	Refrigeration Equipment, Inc.
Ask Performance & Fitness, Inc.	Integrity Viking Funds	Ritter Family Dentistry
Batteries Plus Bulbs	Investors Real Estate Trust	Rockin' Horse
Baymont Inn & Suites	IRET Properties	Ryan Nissan
Dawn Berg	Jeff Stremick - Signal Realtors	Salon 18
Black Butte Communications and Consulting	Johnson Eyecare P.C	Satori Skin & Body Center
Boppre Law Firm	Kemmet Dental Design	Satrom Travel
Braun Intertec Corporation	Kemper Construction Co.	Scherr's Cabinet & Doors, Inc.
Bray's Saddlery	Blake Krabseth Comedian/Magician	SecurScreen
Broadway Family Dentistry	KXMC CBS13	Shoe Carnival
Buffalo Wild Wings	Landing Bar & Bottle Shop	Souris Valley Apartments
Candlewood Suites	Longhorn Steakhouse	Souris Valley Dental Group
Capital Financial Holdings, Inc.	Maintenance Plus Inc.	SpartanNash
Chiropractic Health & Wellness	Margie's Art Glass Studio	Spicy Pie MSU
Circle Sanitation, Inc.	Mattress Firm	St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation
Clean Harbors Environmental Services	McDonald's Restaurants of Minot	Michael E Braun - State Farm Insurance
Clean Tech	Minot Commission on Aging, Inc.	Strata Corporation
CompuTech, Inc.	Minot Hockey Boosters	Strengthen ND
Concrete Mobile, LLC	Minot Public School Foundation	Success Depot LLC
Cool Fish Services Inc.	Minot Symphony Association	SureID, Inc.
CornerStone Chiropractic	Minot Winnelson Co.	Swenson RV & Equipment
Cornerstone Mortgage	Moore Engineering, Inc.	Taylor Motors, Inc.
Credence Energy Service	MSI Service & Solutions	Thrivent Financial
Cricket Wireless	North Central Human Service Center	Town & Country Insurance Agency, LLC
CTS Properties, LLC	North Country Mercantile	United Blood Services
Dakota College at Bottineau	North Dakota Living	United Community Bank of ND
Dakota Outdoor Advertising	North Dakota Society of CPAs	United Mailing Services Inc.
Dufner Construction, Inc.	North Hill Bowl, Inc.	Vardon Golf Club
Ebenezer's Eatery & Irish Pub	Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center	The Vegas Motel & Casino
Elevation Restaurant	Northern Plains Equipment	The View on Elk Drive
Embry - Riddle Aeronautical University	Northland PACE	Vision Source-Minot
EZ PARK	Olson & Burns, P.C.	The Wellington Assisted Living
Fastlane Car Wash	Our Redeemer's Christian School	The WriteDesign
Fiancee'		Zaderaka Transport, Inc.
Firehouse Subs		

Minot AFB missile display models complete

The Minot community and the Military Affairs Committee of the Minot Chamber of Commerce are extremely proud of Minot Air Force Base and its position as the only military installation with two nuclear missions.

Several years ago, a model of the B-52 was placed at the main intersection of the base to show support for the 5th Bomb Wing. Now, the 1/4 scale model of the ICBM MM III pictured at right will occupy an empty corner just across the street from that main intersection, demonstrating the Minot community's support for the 91st Missile Wing.

Thanks to support of members of the community, the project is complete. The cost of the project was \$25,000, with the Base taking responsibility for lighting, the decorative brick work, and the foundation upon which the model is placed.



Saturday Legislative Forums

Jan. 14 & 28

Feb. 4 & 18

March 4 & 18

April 1

9 – 11 a.m.

ND State Fair Center

Eagle Awards

The Eagle Award winners were recognized in November 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.



MIKE TROWBRIDGE
Hirshfield's Paint



JEAN FREDRICKSON
The View



BILL HOUM
Magic City Harley Davidson



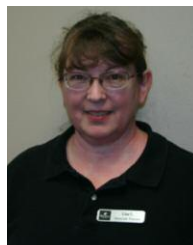
TANYA COWART
Magic City Harley Davidson



BILL UPHAM
Magic City Harley Davidson



JERRICA MAXSON
Trinity Medical Group



LISA LAIB
Panera Bread



JOEY BRATVOLD
Main Electric



BRITTANY BOECHLER
Broadway Family Dentistry



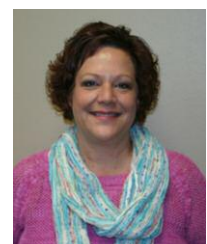
JHORDANA JIMENEZ
Mi Mexico



KELLY DUCHSHERER
Affinity First Federal Credit Union



VICKY CAMPBELL
First Western Bank & Trust



BECKY BISCHOF-BRIGGS
Easter Seals Goodwill of ND

Young Professionals offer membership news and updates

Minot Young Professionals invites all young professionals ages 21 to 39 to join by visiting ypminot.com.

The Marketing Team has been getting the new YP website ready. YP members are invited to the next meeting for the Marketing Team is set for Wednesday, Dec. 7.

The Social Team hosted a great network-

ing social in October at the Pour House. Thank you to all who attended. This group is planning the next event and in the beginning planning stages of the YP golf tournament.

The next power hour for the Professional Development Team will be Dec. 14 at noon at CHS SunPrairie Grain. Stephanie Hoffart, MADC president, will

discuss exciting new developments in the Minot area.

YP members deliver Meals on Wheels every Tuesday. Volunteers are always needed. If interested, please contact Jessica Henderson at Jessica.Henderson@fwbt.com.

Save the Date: January Business After Hours

Jan. 19 | 5 to 7 p.m. | Kellie Thorman - State Farm Insurance
500 20th Ave. SW, Ste. B



Cost of living 3.6% higher than national average

Minot's cost of living measured at 103.6%, or 3.6% higher than the national average in the third quarter of 2016, according to the Cost of Living Index, published by the Council for Community and Economic Research.

The ACCRA Cost of Living Index measures differences between areas in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures. It is based on more than 90,000 prices covering 60 different items, for which prices are collected quarterly by the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce and other urban areas across the nation.

Cost of Living Index: 3rd Quarter 2016

U.S. Average Composite Index: 100%

	Minot ND	Bismarck ND	Fargo/Moorhead Metro	Grand Forks ND	Minneapolis MN	Pierre, SD
COMPOSITE INDEX	103.6	99.6	98.4	96.0	104.8	103.7
GROCERY ITEMS	104.9	102.9	105.1	101.4	106.6	101.1
HOUSING	100.5	94.0	93.7	93.4	107.7	120.1
UTILITIES	81.4	87.7	95.4	85.2	93.8	99.6
TRANSPORTATION	116.6	113.2	98.3	104.6	101.5	101.2
HEALTH CARE	114.9	114.0	111.0	105.2	106.8	97.0
MISC. GOODS	106.7	100.3	99.1	95.4	106.0	93.9

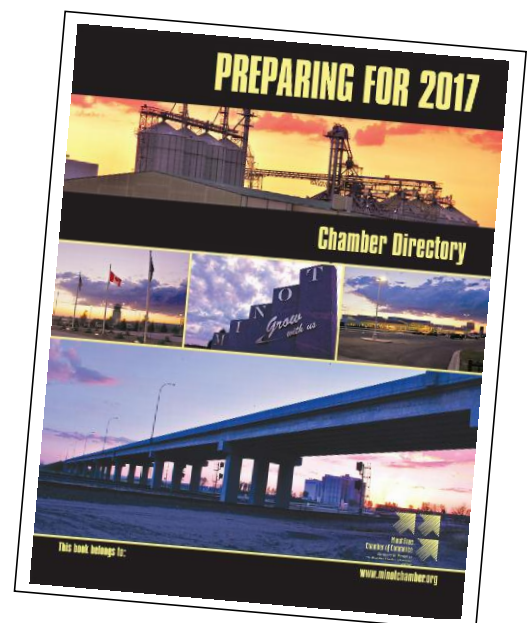
Showcase of Business brings fairytales to life



The 2016 Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Showcase of Business was a success. Nine hundred people stopped by 70 booths of Chamber members at the ND State Fair Center's Magic Place on Nov. 17. Those attending enjoyed delicious food from six area restaurants.

The theme of "Fairytale Favorites, Our Childhood Stories" brought out great decorating skills from participants. The top booths this year were First International Bank & Trust, followed by WGO and Century 21. The big screen TV went to Joan Varty of Minot and the trip from Delta Vacations went to Diane Walker. Congratulations to all who won and thanks to all who participated! Thank you to our sponsors, KMOT-TV, WGO/The Zoo, Delta Vacations, Ackerman-Estvold, Burdick Job Corps Center, CHS SunPrairie, EAPC Architects Engineers, First Western Bank & Trust, ND Guaranty & Title, and SRT Communications, Inc. We hope to see you at next year's show!

*Look for delivery of your 2017 Chamber
Membership Directory during Operation Thank
You from Dec. 5 through 9.*



Annual Sportsmen's Feed brings groups together

The 52nd annual Sportsmen's Feed is set for Sunday, Jan. 22 at MAFB. The event provides Air Force personnel with a place to watch the NFC/AFC football playoffs, win some prizes and eat some great food.

The day will be filled with delicious food ranging from venison to rocky mountain oysters along with all the trimmings. Tickets are \$30 each and allow an airman in for free. Your support is needed to make this event a success and to provide a fun, relaxing day for air-

men who may otherwise be sitting in the dorms alone. The day starts at noon with appetizers and games throughout the day with supper around 6 p.m. For more information, contact the Chamber at 852-6000.



Class raises money, collects food for Backpack Buddies program

Twenty-five Chamber members graduated from the 2016 Community Leadership Institute Nov. 3. The class attended a nine-week course to learn about the community with a look at economic development, education, media, Minot Air Force Base and more. Those attending had a group project, to raise money for the Souris Valley United Way Backpack Buddies, which provides food to students who may not otherwise have it on the weekends. The group raised more than \$6,000 in money and gro-



cery gift cards and 400 pounds in food. Way to go class of 2016! If you are interested in becoming a part of the 2017 class, it is over half full and caps at 25. Call the Chamber today to reserve your spot at 852-6000



Jason Zimmerman
Business Banking Officer



Bob Mongeon
Vice President Commercial Lending



Nancy Wegenast
Vice President Consumer Lending

People you know, relationships you trust

As a bank, you may be surprised to hear that we believe that life is so much more than money. It's about building lasting relationships – relationships that guide you to the best choices in financing a new home, car, college education, new business, or retirement. Let's build something special. First Western Bank & Trust. You can bank on us.



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Minot Area Chamber of Commerce

December 2016

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First Dollar of Profit Awards

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.



52 West Trading Company: 2815 S. Broadway • Minot, ND • 838-4550

www.52westtrading.com • Amynda Pietsch-Behm, Owner

52 West Trading Company has the latest in ladies' western wear, including jeans, handbags, hats, boots, belts, and more. Check them out today at 2815 S. Broadway.



Firehouse Subs: 3112 16th St. SW, Ste. D • Minot, ND • 852-7827 • Denise Pardon • www.firehousesubs.com

Firehouse Subs is a U.S.-based, fast casual food restaurant chain that specializes in hot subs. Founded in 1994 in Jacksonville, Florida, by former firefighter brothers Robin and Chris Sorensen, Firehouse Subs serves sandwiches with meats and cheeses, "steamed" hot and placed on a toasted sub roll.



Cricket Wireless: 1700 South Broadway • Minot, ND • 701-441-0882 • www.cricketwireless.com • Owners: PQH Wireless

Cricket is a "great, big network" that covers 99% of all Americans and their wireless needs.

First Dollar of Profit Awards

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.



POEM (People of Earth Matter): 36 3rd St. NE • Minot, ND • 837-8387 • Mandaree Enterprises, LLC
Clarence O'Berry, CEO • www.poem.world

POEM, which is creating an online platform that promotes arts, artists, and artisans around the world, manages a gallery/event space and production facility in downtown Minot.



Magic City Indian Motorcycle: 6701 Hwy. 83 South • Minot, ND • 701-852-RIDE (7433)
www.magiccityindianmotorcycle.com • Owners: Bill & Brenda Houim

Magic City Indian Motorcycle enjoys a spacious 7,000 square foot showroom with brands that include Indian Motorcycle, Victory motorcycles, and Polaris Slingshot.

Ribbon Cutting

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.



Premier Chiropractic: 300 3rd Ave. SW, Suite F • Minot, ND 58701 • 701-838-0090 • Website: premierchiropracticnd.com
Owner(s): Dr. Becky Perry-Domres & Dr. Kirk Mason

Ambassadors welcomed Premier Chiropractic, a new chiropractic business in Minot, with a ribbon cutting. Premier Chiropractic is driven to provide patients with the best results possible through the most cutting-edge advances in natural health care today. Dr. Becky specializes in seeing pediatric patients (ages 0-18 years) and pregnant patients, while Dr. Kirk sees a wide variety of patient populations. Both combine traditional chiropractic with functional rehabilitation, acupuncture, soft tissue techniques, and nutrition. The primary goal is to improve the movement, function, and health of the Minot community.



The Market on 4th: 1900 4th Ave. NW • Minot, ND • themarketon4th@yahoo.com.

For lovers of repurposed furniture, home decor, handmade crafts, and vintage goods, The Market on 4th is the newest and most unique shopping experience to hit Minot. Ambassadors helped them celebrate their one-year anniversary.

Ribbon Cutting

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.



MAYSA Arena Rink 3: 2501 W. Burdick Expy. • Minot, ND • 852-6214 • Minot Park District • minotparks.com/maysa-arena
Minot Chamber Ambassadors celebrated Minot's newest ice rink to the existing MAYSA facilities. This third sheet of ice, called the Pepsi Rink, seats 1,800 fans, with room for an additional 250.



Carter's | OshKosh B'gosh: Dakota Square Mall • 2400 10th St. SW • 852-1062 • www.carters.com
Minot Chamber Ambassadors celebrated the opening of Carter's Inc., the largest branded marketer in the United States and Canada of apparel and related products exclusively for babies and young children. The Company owns the Carter's and OshKosh B'gosh brands, two of the most recognized brands in the marketplace.



Cornerstone Mortgage: 300 3rd Ave. SW, Suite E • Minot, ND • 420-8500 • Cornerstone Holding Company
Minot Chamber Ambassadors celebrated the new location of Cornerstone Mortgage, which gives homebuyers straight answers and the best possible financial options to help achieve home ownership dreams.

Ribbon Cutting

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.



Donation Station: Minot Area Community Foundation • 852-0646

Minot Chamber Ambassadors celebrated the Donation Station launching, which offers a collection point and delivery method for agencies to use for donated items, like good, clothing or toys.



Magic City Discovery Center: 100 34th Ave NE (inside the Dakota Territory Air Museum) • Minot, ND

Minot Chamber Ambassadors were on hand to kick off the third season of the Magic City Discovery Center. This year will feature the "Science of an Amusement Park" exhibit, designed so visitors with eager minds of all ages can explore the science behind traditional amusement park rides thorough hands-on activities



KJ's Fresh Market: 1024 24th Ave. SW • Minot, ND • 838-8919 • www.kjsfreshmarket.com

Minot Chamber Ambassadors cut the ribbon at KJ's Fresh Market to officially open west Dakota's only destination for organic, natural, and local products, and so much more.

Ribbon Cutting

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.



Minot AFB Homes: 256 Spruce Street • Minot AFB • 727-0007 • Balfour Beatty Communities

Minot Chamber Ambassadors helped cut the ribbon on the new Community Center. The Community Center is the new hub of the Minot AFB community, offering leasing services, an indoor playground, and an indoor splash pad with a club room and an indoor/outdoor patio.



HighAir Ground: 1210 4th Ave. NW • Minot, ND • 837-58767 • www.highairground.com

The Minot Chamber Ambassadors cut the ribbon to officially open HighAir Ground. HighAir Ground will be the area's premiere entertainment venue with 10,000 square feet of wall-to-wall trampolines, parties, dodgeball, basketball, and more!



Downtown Infrastructure Improvements Project, Phase 2: Downtown Minot • www.downtownminotisopen.com

A ribbon cutting with the Minot Chamber Ambassadors, downtown business owners, and city representatives marked the completion of 2016 work on the Downtown Infrastructure Improvements Project Phase II. Nearly seven months of construction work ended with this event, as general contractor, Keller Paving and Landscaping, completed underground and above-ground work in 13 blocks and six intersections this year.

Kiwanis members carol to raise money for those in need

Kiwanis Karolers will be out and about in Minot Friday, Dec. 9 singing a bit off key. But that's okay! They are raising money for a good cause — kids in need this Christmas season. The Kiwanis Club of Minot will be wearing Santa and elf suits and singing Christmas Carols at area restaurants and bars. The businesses know they are coming ahead of time but customers don't always know and are pleasantly surprised. Of course, with the singing being a bit off key, the group promises to head out, but only after pulling out their hats for a donation. Minot has been supportive of these efforts as the group has raised \$2,500 each year! The money raised benefits the Salvation Army at Community Action Opportunities. Please, if you see the group Friday, Dec. 9 from 6 to 10 p.m., be sure to give a little to help a lot!

Enerbase Cooperative Resources announces employee updates

Warren Boehler has accepted the position of Wholesale and Sales Distributor with Agrabase (owned and operated by Enerbase Cooperative Resources). Boehler previously was in equipment sales on the Enerbase side of the cooperative since 2012. He will be responsible for retail sales as well as business development on the wholesale side of the company. His transition to this position took place Oct. 3. Boehler is originally from Hazen and has lived in Minot since 2010.



Warren Boehler

Jeremy Benjamin has accepted the position of equipment sales for Enerbase Cooperative Resources. Jeremy previously worked in the Enerbase hardware department since August 2015. He will be



Jeremy Benjamin

responsible for machinery sales and tradeshow support. His transition took place on October 3, 2016 as well. Jeremy is originally from Minot.

Minot Park District awarded Community Wish List Grant

United Community Bank of ND (UCB) announced that the Minot Park District has been awarded the Community Wish List Grant, which will provide them with \$2,500 to assist in purchasing hockey sleds for the newly developed organization, Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports.

The Community Wish List Grant provided non-profit organizations the opportunity to apply throughout the month of September with a requirement set to focus on a new program or event that will benefit Minot and the surrounding communities. Three organizations were chosen as finalists by UCB and Minot Area Community Foundation staff: Minot Park District – Sled Hockey; Companions for Children – Lunch Pals; and Make a Scene Kids Theatre – 2017 Production.

The finalists were then voted on by the community through the UCB Facebook page. It was a close race but the Minot Park District pulled ahead in the end.

“Our goal at the Minot Park District is to provide quality of life for people of all ages and abilities,” said Elly DesLauriers, director of marketing and development, Minot Park District. “We extend a special thank you to United Community Bank and the Minot Area Community Foundation for this opportunity to purchase more hockey sleds for our community.”

In addition, the Minot Area Community Foundation will be awarding the remaining finalists with funding. The runner up of the contest, Companions for Children - Lunch Pals, will receive \$1,500, and third place, Make a Scene Kids Theatre, will receive \$1,000.

For more information contact Jennifer Hubrig with United Community Bank at 839-3500 or jhubrig@ucbnd.com.

Soltis joins Brokers 12, Inc.

Brokers 12, Inc. welcomes Lori Soltis to its ranks. Soltis was born and raised in Valley City, ND, then earned her a bachelor of science degree in special education from Minot State University.

She and her husband have two sons and two Yorkshire Terriers. When her youngest son recently moved to Fargo to attend NDSU, a quiet household became

the impetus for Soltis to pursue the exciting world of real estate. Her background and career choices have laid a foundation for this next journey. Soltis is identified as a very dedicated, honest, and hard-working person who will go above and beyond to assist consumers in the buying and selling process of homes. Call or text Soltis if you are looking to buy or sell a home: 721-6455 (cell) or 852-3757. Or visit her on Facebook at “Lori Soltis, Realtor.”



Lori Soltis

Sertoma sponsors Christmas in the Park

The Minot Sertoma Club will bring light once again to Oak Park through its display of Christmas-themed lights. The Christmas lights are displayed through Dec. 31 from 6 to 10 every evening. The cost for viewing is \$5 per car with a rate for limos and buses. Christmas in the Park is a way for Sertoma to earn money and give back to the community by supporting local businesses with beautifully lighted Christmas displays.

If you pre-purchase tickets you will receive five tickets for \$20. The tickets make great recognition gifts and stocking stuffers for your employees, friends and family. Tickets can be purchased through Visit Minot or by contacting Kathleen White at kathleen.white@trinityhealth.org or 240-4458.

Minot Sertoma serves the Minot community in a variety of ways, including support for speech and hearing disorders and youth-related activities. Sertoma supports local education through scholarships, Dream Catchers, Minot Family YMCA and MAYSA Arena, the ND Center for Persons with Disabilities, Hands & Voices, and the Induction Looping at Ann Nicole Nelson Hall at Minot State University; and provides assistance to those with very specific needs.

For more information about pre-purchasing tickets, please call Kathleen White at 240-4458.

Give360 Giving Circle grants funding to local projects

The Minot Area Community Foundation's Give360 Giving Circle held the Fall Grant Meeting in October and selected two organizations to receive grant dollars. The Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch received \$4,000 and The Children's Museum of Minot received \$10,000.

Give360 is a giving circle under the Minot Area Community Foundation. Members pay \$360 each year to be a part of the organization. These funds are pooled with the other members of the group and the money is donated to local non-profit organizations of the membership's choosing.

What makes Give360 different is that the members themselves must sponsor the grants. This means that members truly have an opportunity to benefit an organization that they feel a strong connection towards.

This year's recipients were presented with checks for their projects on Nov. 17. The Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch received funding to purchase supplies for their Greenhouse Program, which allows students the opportunity to learn about growing plants and flowers. The fruits of their labor are then sold at the Ranch's annual "BLT Day" in May each year. The Children's Museum of Minot, which is currently operating on a temporary basis out of the Dakota Territory Air Museum, will use their grant money towards Phase

II of their Strategic Planning. This will give them the opportunity to develop a conceptual exhibit plan for a full-scale museum in Minot.

For more information, please contact the Minot Area Community Foundation at 852-0646 or visit the group's Facebook page at facebook.com/give360minot.

"Mittens for Munchkins" seeks warm wear items for school kids

"Mittens for Munchkins" is a great way to help out kids in the school system this winter. The purpose of this glove drive is to help out the lower income elementary schools in the Minot Public School District. The gloves collected will be kept by the office staff of the school and will be used for ANY child who ends up gloveless during recess this winter. Gloves will be returned to the office and reused throughout the winter so that no child has to stay inside simply because they find themselves "gloveless" without mittens.

Drop off your donated items to any of the three drop off points: Wild Bill's Motorsports, Magic City Harley-Davidson, or Magic City Indian Motorcycle. Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves are needed. Let's keep EVERY child warm this winter!

For more information about this topic, please contact Heidi Newbury at 839-6330 or email at heidi.newbury@wild-billsmotorsports.com.

Rotary Club completes restoration of Soo Line Locomotive No. 735

The Rotary Club of Minot has completed the restoration of the Soo Line Locomotive No. 735 near the entrance to Roosevelt Park Zoo. This engine has been a community landmark since 1956 and was heavily damaged during the flood of 2011. The engine was built in 1913 by Schenectady Works in New York, and was in operation until 1956. It was called a 4-6-2 due to its wheel configuration, and was built to be fast. The locomotive measures 85 feet long and weighs more than 158 tons; it could carry 7,500 gallons of water and 12 tons of coal. The locomotive has a "twin sister", the No. 736, which is on display in Appleton, Wisconsin. Rotary was the original sponsor in 1956 when the Soo Line donated this engine. In Summer 2016, the Rotary Club of Minot took on the project to restore the engine and coal car from damages made from the 2011 flood. Restoration included cleaning, sandblasting, and painting the engine, as well as installing new signage and decals. With the help of Rotarians who provided the work at cost, and community partners such as the Minot Area Community Foundation, and the Minot Park District, the engine restoration is now complete.

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Ribbon cutting on Main Street marks end of 2016 work downtown

Downtown business owners and city representatives joined the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors in cutting the ribbon on Main Street to mark the completion of 2016 work on the Downtown Infrastructure Improvements Project Phase II. Nearly seven months of construction work nears an end with this event, as the general contractor, Keller Paving and Landscaping, completed underground and aboveground work in 13 blocks and 6 intersections this year.

"The impact and size of this year's phase on Main Street and surrounding streets was substantial, to say the least," said Lance Meyer, city engineer. "The high-quality final product, both below ground in the form of new water, sanitary sewer and storm water mains and aboveground, with new concrete roads, street lights, streetscape elements, and sidewalks will serve our community well for decades to come."

The amount of new, shared city infrastructure is a critical component of the overall Downtown Improvements Project. The work accomplished on Phase II in 2016 included the following items:

- 4,000 linear feet of water main
- 2,600 linear feet of sanitary sewer main
- 2,600 linear feet of storm sewer main
- 4,000 cubic yards of concrete street pavement (approx. 450 truckloads)

- 1,000 cubic yards of concrete sidewalk (approx. 110 truckloads)
- 6,900 linear feet of concrete curb & gutter
- 18,000 linear feet of electrical conduit
- 56,000 linear feet of copper wire
- 75 LED street lights

Connect more than 100 separate domestic water and sanitary sewer service lines

The Phase II construction portion of the project was awarded to Keller Paving and Landscaping at a cost of \$8.88 million. In total, the three years of construction will likely cost between \$28 million and \$32 million. The three-year project is being funded by multiple sources, including the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) in the form of an \$18 million disaster recovery grant, storm sewer and street lighting district special assessments, Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds, utility bonds, the State Water Commission, sales tax flood control and general obligation bonds.

Two blocks of work that were scheduled to be completed under the Phase II (2016) contract on North Main Street and one block of First Avenue SW, by Bremer Bank and the Federal Courthouse, are being delayed until 2017 due to uncertainty of whether the project could be completed before the winter weather arrives.

The final phase of the Downtown Infrastructure Improvements Project is scheduled to be bid out in early 2017, with a contractor in place prior to the spring start for construction. That work in 2017 will focus primarily on First Street SW and Third Avenue SE/SW.

Stay aware of the latest information by following the project's Facebook page or by receiving emails through the website www.downtownminotisopen.com. Businesses and the public can also contact the public information team for the project at 857-7205, and ask for Mark Lyman or Bryan Obenchain.

Holtan joins Western Agency

Licensed agent Ryan Holtan has joined Western Agency's crop/farm sales team, serving Minot and surrounding rural markets such as Washburn and Underwood. With an extensive background in banking and accounting, Ryan began his post-collegiate career as an accountant at Widmer Roel. He later held several banking positions, first as a loan officer for The Bank of Glen Ullin, then as assistant vice president of The Union Bank in Beulah and finally, American Bank Center/North Country Bank in Underwood. His banking experience afforded him the opportunity to provide loans for several agricultural and commercial clients in multiple rural markets.



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Member Business Briefs

Berg family announces \$110,000 gift benefitting Sanford POWER

The family of Benjamin Berg announced a \$110,000 donation to the Sanford Health Foundation. The generous donation will benefit the Sanford POWER Baseball Academy, a camp held for three months in the winter to help young athletes improve their baseball mechanics and hitting. In addition to benefitting the baseball academy, a scholarship will be created for children who need assistance paying for their Sanford POWER membership.



The family of Benjamin Berg donated to the Sanford Health Power Baseball Academy.

"Ben loved the outdoors, but he also had a passion for sports, especially baseball," said Ben's mother Carrie Berg. "Since he was 12 years old, Ben had his own lawn mowing service and other part-time jobs. He saved all of his money from working and put it in a college education account. A majority of this donation comes from Ben's college savings."

Ben passed away in October while duck hunting near Arena Lake. His family was inspired by Sanford POWER and the work it does to enhance young athletes.

"Ben loved sports and he had great coaches and trainers that helped shape him into the dedicated athlete he was," said Ben's father James Berg. "I know Ben would want his college savings to go toward helping young athletes achieve their athletic dreams."

The Berg's gift supports the Sanford Health Foundation's Builders of Excellence campaign. Through this campaign, Sanford matches each donation dollar-for-dollar, which means a total of \$220,000 will be given to support Sanford POWER. Since the Builders of Excellence campaign began in 2012, more than \$4 million has been donated, creating more than \$8 million in endowment funds to benefit central and western North Dakota.

To make a donation in Ben's memory

to either the Ben Berg Baseball Academy fund or the Ben Berg Scholarship fund, call the Sanford Health Foundation at 323-8450.

To learn more about Sanford POWER, visit sanfordpower.com.

Taube features upcoming events Festival of the Season Art Sale runs through Dec. 23

The Taube Museum of Art will hold the Annual Festival of the Season Art Sale through Dec. 23, 2016. Artists have submitted works in various mediums and sizes, including photography, jewelry, prints, cards, ornaments, etc. The Taube's Main Gallery has been turned into an exclusive art venue.

Local and regional artists showcase their art, which can make great gifts for the holiday season. Here is your chance to purchase original art from established and emerging artists in one convenient location.

Taube's "Pop Your Pet" painting party is as easy as 1-2-3!

Minot's original paint and wine class, Paint the Town Red offered through the Taube Museum of Art, is thrilled to announce a very special "Pop Your Pet" Painting Party. This epic party will be held Thursday, Dec. 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and you will be painting your own pet in 'pop art' style, like iconic artist Andy Warhol. Instructor Tonya Stuart-Melland will guide you through the process of capturing your pooch or feline in paint on a stretched canvas. In two hours you will paint a masterpiece of your pet, and no experience is necessary. This is a perfect gift idea for the pet lovers in your life.

The cost for the class is \$45 for non-members and \$40 for members. Pre-registration is required, and your pet's photo must be submitted by Dec. 1 via email or dropped off at the Taube to allow the artist time to pre-sketch images on to each canvas. Appetizers and cocktails are included in the ticket price. This class also counts towards the Paint Perfect Rewards Program. For every seven Paint the Town Red classes you take, your eighth one is free. Class size is limited, so

register early at www.taubemuseum.org and click on Paint the Town Red link.

In addition to the monthly Paint the Town Red classes, the museum is offering a Christmas themed series of adult classes:

Nov. 16 – Zentangle Class

Nov. 19 – Make your own Christmas cards with Gelli Plates

Nov. 30 – Christmas Swag Class

Dec. 14 – Into Christmas themed water color class.

Fees and times vary for these classes. For more information visit www.taubemuseum.org, Facebook or call 838-4445.

The proceeds from this event will support the Taube Museum of Art, a non-profit organization.

Museum and gift shop hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by special appointment. Contributions are accepted to help the Taube Museum fulfill the mission of enriching lives through the visual arts.

For more information, call Nancy F. Walter, executive director, or Doug Pfliger, gallery manager, at 838-4445.

Lowe's hosts Donation Station for food drive Dec. 2 – 4

Lowe's Floral and Garden Center will host the Donation Station at a non-perishable food drive Dec. 2 – 4, 2016. Bring five (5) or more non-perishable food items to Lowe's and take 50% off your Christmas ornaments purchase. Donations will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Canned goods, foods in jars, dried goods, cereal, baby food, and diapers are on many area food pantries lists this year. Donated items will be divided between the Domestic Violence Crisis Center of Minot and the food pantry at Our Lady of Grace Church. For more information, visit the website: www.lowesfloral.com/sales-and-events/give-and-get-back-event/ or call 839-2000.

Western Agency celebrates 40 years

Four decades of business has added up to ten locations in two states, 100,000 claims, and more than 4,000 clients. Western Agency CEO Ryon Boen sometimes finds it hard to believe that one of the area's largest independent insurance agencies (now with 38 employees) started as a two-employee operation in the back office of the city plumbing & heating building. A second-generation business owner, Boen joined Western Agency in 2007 after spending 12 years in the technology field. A Minot native and North Dakota State University graduate, Boen has served as the agency's CEO since 2012. His stepdad and Western Agency founder Chuck Tompkins likens his family business transition to what many of his insurance clients faced throughout the years.

"When you build a business from scratch, you get so in tune with your stores that you can almost feel when something is off. At first it was difficult to make ends meet, and truth be told; there were times I probably should have quit," said Tompkins, who retired in 2012. "But I had tremendous support from wife (Linda Tompkins) and clients, who I knew were entrusting us with one of their most valued business needs. I also saw many of our clients face similar challenges and never give up; generation after generation they kept fighting."

Multi-generation farmers like Scott Backes, whose uncle Roger Backes sold his Glenburn insurance agency (The Backes Agency) to Western Agency in 1995, said the agency's commitment is one of the reasons he's stayed a client of Western Agency's for more than 20 years.

"I appreciate what they do for our community," Backes said. "They become a part of what matters to people here, and it reaches beyond writing donation checks. At the end of the day, they are our agents and our friends and they've been here for our family and friends when it mattered most."

That philosophy holds direct meaning for several members of the agency's senior management team. In addition to Boen, today's leadership team includes Tompkins' daughter Coiya Tompkins, vice president of marketing & operations; his brother Casey Tompkins, vice president of agency commercial lines; and

Jackie Larson, vice president of farm operations.

"Mainstream advertising will lead you to believe insurance is a product based on price. After experiencing several devastating claims and assisting clients in covering some of their most important business and family needs, I am convinced expensive advertising campaigns can't do justice for the tenacious clients we work alongside," said Boen. "We truly believe our role extends beyond simply managing risk. What sets Western Agency apart is our ability to be there when it matters most and meet clients' needs generation after generation."

Western Agency Celebrates 40 years with "40 Days of Giving Food Drive"

Western Agency, an independent insurance agency headquartered in Minot, ND, will honor its 40th Anniversary with a food drive that will span 40 days. Starting Nov. 15, Western Agency invites area residents to bring nonperishable food items and toiletries to a local Western Agency office. The 40-day giving drive will conclude Dec. 24. Please drop off your donations at 408 20th Ave. SW in Minot. Donations will be collected and donated to local food pantries and shelters in each of the communities where Western Agency is located.

Vocational Rehabilitation Division honors employees

The ND Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) recognized employees from its Fargo, Dickinson, Jamestown, Minot and Williston offices for their work assisting North Dakotans with disabilities to obtain employment.

Allyson Berner and Kyle Peterson of the division's Minot regional office received the Director's Award for Counselor Achievement. This award recognizes the top 10 percent of vocational rehabilitation counselors who have the highest number of clients placed into employment.

Becki Hoff of the Dickinson DVR office and Derek Kimmes and Jennifer Moldenhauer of the Jamestown DVR office received the Director's Award for Counselor Achievement – Honorable Mention. The division presents this award to counselors who have the second high-

est number of individuals placed into employment.

Kendra Faa and the Minot DVR Office received the Exemplary Service Award for providing outstanding case service to clients through creative ideas, direct work with multiple agencies, and consistent client follow-up.

Jennifer Larson of the Fargo DVR office was named Rookie of the Year. This award honors a DVR employee with less than two years of service who exceeds performance goals and displays a high level of community service and involvement.

Andrea Meyer of the Williston DVR office was awarded with the Director's Award for Excellence. Colleagues nominated Meyer for this prestigious award for demonstrating dedication, productivity, and dependability to individuals to enhance their independent living and employment skills.

The division presented the VR Team Participation Award to the Minot DVR Office in recognition of their involvement in activities on behalf of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Career Achievement Awards are based on the number of people with disabilities placed into employment over the course of a vocational rehabilitation counselor's career. The awards start at the 100 Club Award level and increase in increments of 100. This year, Marilyn Wilson of the Fargo DVR Office received the Career Achievement – 200 Club Award.

Vocational rehabilitation services help people with disabilities find meaningful work and also help employers connect with a valuable, often untapped workforce, as well as retain trained workers whose abilities have changed. Rehabilitation counseling and consultation is available at no cost to qualifying individuals and businesses, non-profits, and government agencies.

For information, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/index.html or contact the division at 701-328-8950, toll-free 800-755-2745, TTY 701-328-8968 or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or dhsvr@nd.gov.

December 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Military Affairs Committee , Noon, ND Army National Guard Ribbon Cutting , 3 p.m., Artspace Suite 1 Gallery, #3 S. Main Suite 1 Business After Hours , 5-7 p.m., Elevation Restaurant, 1912 Valley Bluffs Dr.	2 Ambassadors Committee , 7:30 a.m., SRT Communications, 3615 N. Broadway	3
4	5 FTAC Right Start Presentation , 9:45 a.m., MAFB Operation Thank You , Delivery of 2017 Chamber Directories MAFB Cookie Drive , Drop off at Chamber	6	7	8 Right Start Committee , Noon, Chamber office	9 Infrastructure Committee , 7:30 a.m., Homesteaders Restaurant	10
11	12 Ribbon Cutting , 10 a.m., Village Inn, 3816 S. Broadway	13 Eagle Awards Presentation , 10 a.m., Chamber office	14 Right Start Presentation , 10 a.m., MAFB Junior Achievement Board of Directors, Noon, Chamber office	15	16 Governmental Affairs Committee , 11:30 a.m., Vegas Motel	17
18	19 FTAC Right Start Presentation , 9:45 a.m., MAFB	20 Board of Directors , 7:30 a.m., Grand Hotel	21 Coffee with the President , 1:30 p.m., Chamber office	22 Energy Committee , 11:30 a.m., Vegas Motel	23	24
25 	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31

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