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Calendar of events

Sportsmen's Feed set for January 22

TEAM MINOT is celebration of community spirit

The 52nd annual Sportsmen's Feed is set for Sunday, Jan. 22 at Minot Air Force Base's Jimmy Doolittle Center. This event began to allow representatives of Minot's business community to become better acquainted with the airmen who serve at Minot Air Force Base.

Participants can enjoy the televised football games during the AFC/NFC football playoffs, take part in various games, and enjoy delicious food throughout the day. The day will kick off at noon with appetizers until 5 p.m. A full meal will be available beginning at 6 p.m. The menu includes walleye, venison, pheasant, Rocky Mountain Oysters, duck, beef, and

turkey, plus all the trimmings.

Tickets are \$30, and when one is purchased, one airman is able to attend free of charge. Tickets are available at the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce office. Contact the Chamber at 852-6000 or chamber@minotchamber.org today to buy yours.



Business After Hours: January 19

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017

**5-7 p.m. • Kellie Thorman - State Farm
Insurance • 500 20th Ave. SW, Suite B**

*Network with other chamber members, enjoy some
delicious food, and take your chance at some great prizes, including \$500 in Chamber
Bucks! If winner is not present, \$50 in Chamber Bucks is guaranteed.*

(Must be present to win)

\$5 charge at the door



MINOT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF

L. John MacMartin, CCEPresident
Carla Dolan, IOM.....Program Director
Cheryl WallenFinance Manager
Lisa MoldenhauerAdministrative Assistant
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Doug Hollingsworth **Treasurer** (Northern

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(Verendrye Electric Coop)852-0406

Chad Schmidt (10 North Main)837-1010

Randy Schwan (Trinity Health)857-5635

Ben Slind (Thompson Larson

Funeral Home)852-3446

Cathy Tweten (Dakota Square)839-7500

Dusty Wald (Magic City Beverage).....852-4031

Shannon Webster (Town & Country

Credit Union)852-2018

Saturday Legislative Forums

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Saturday Legislative Forums will begin Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017 at the ND State Fair Center.

The Legislative Forums feature the 12 area legislators in the area. Participants can submit a question to a moderator who then asks the question of the lawmakers. All meetings will be at the ND State Fair Center at 9 a.m. Watch for signs for the meeting room. Meetings are subject to change depending on the status of the Legislative session.

Jan. 14 & 28

Feb. 4 & 18

March 4 & 18

April 1

9 – 11 a.m. | ND State Fair Center |
Watch for signs for the correct meeting room

Renewals

The Chamber extends a big “THANK YOU” to our members who have renewed their membership through Dec. 19, 2016. Your continued support helps your Chamber promote the business community and do the work seen in the pages of this newsletter.

Lynn Aas

Advanced Business Methods

All America City Glass

BeMobile

Brite-Way Window Cleaning, Inc.

Central Machining & Pump Repair Inc.

Community Options, Inc.

Dairy Queen West

Delta Vacations

First Command Financial Services

Food Management Investors, Inc.

Lowe's Garden, Inc.

Magic City Garage Door & Awning

Maxson Law Office, P.C.

Mayer Electric

Minot Automotive Center

Minot Paving Co., Inc.

Morelli's Distributing

NewKota Services & Rentals

Newman Outdoor Advertising

North Dakota Envelope Co.

North Dakota Port Services, Inc.

The OBASA Group - Silver Springs
Development, Inc.

Pizza Ranch

Schatz Crossroads Truck Stop

Minot Dakota Square Scheels

Sherwin-Williams Company

Signal Management Corp.-SMC

State Farm Insurance - Paul Siebert

Success Depot LLC

Taco John's

Tecta America Dakotas

Thomas Family Funeral Home

Thompson Larson Funeral Home

Tuff Trucks

City of Velva

Wellness Images

Westlie Motor Co.

YP offers membership updates

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

The Professional Development Team had a great turnout for the December Power Hour at CHS SunPrairie.

The next Marketing Team meeting is set for Tuesday, Jan. 17 at noon at Classic Rock Coffee.

The Social Team will meet Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 5:15 p.m. at Bootleggers to discuss upcoming social events.

The next Outreach Team meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 26 at noon, the location to be determined.

Save the Date:
January YP Power Hour
Wednesday, Jan. 18 | Noon
Town & Country Credit Union

Eagle Awards

The Eagle Award winners were recognized in December 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.



JOE SKURZEWSKI
KMOT TV



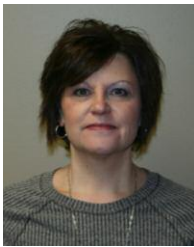
KIM CONLON
United Blood Services of Minot



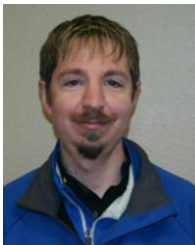
MARY ZEECE
Wells Fargo



NANCY TOFTELAND
First Western Insurance



RHONDA ALME
*American Family Insurance
Michael Lucy Agency*



TYSON FLOBERG
Menards



COURTNEY JACOBSEN
*Our Redeemer's
Christian School*



CRAIG HESTER
Pacific Sound & Video



DEREK DOTSON
Magic City Hoagies



DUANE KLABUNDE
Enbridge Pipelines



DR. JOE SMOTHERS
*Trinity Health Medical
Arts*

Save the Date: February Business After Hours

Feb. 16 | 5 to 7 p.m. | Spicy Pie MSU | 1100 N. Broadway



IRS warns taxpayers of numerous tax scams nationwide

As tax season approaches, the Internal Revenue Service, the states and the tax industry reminded taxpayers to be on the lookout for an array of evolving tax scams related to identity theft and refund fraud.

Every tax season, there is an increase in schemes that target innocent taxpayers by email, by phone and on-line. The IRS and Security Summit partners remind taxpayers and tax professionals to be on the lookout for these deceptive schemes.

“Whether it’s during the holidays or the approach of tax season, scam artists look for ways to use tax agencies and the tax industry to trick and confuse people,” said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. “There are warning signs to these scams people should watch out for, and simple steps to avoid being duped into giving these criminals money, sensitive financial information or access to computers.”

Some of the most prevalent IRS impersonation scams include:

Requesting fake tax payments: The IRS has seen automated calls where scammers leave urgent callback requests telling taxpayers to call back to settle their “tax bill.” These fake calls generally claim to be the last warning before legal action is taken. Taxpayers may also receive live calls from IRS impersonators. They may demand payments on prepaid debit cards, iTunes and other gift cards or wire transfer. The IRS reminds taxpayers that any request to settle a tax bill using any of these payment methods is a clear indication of a scam. (IR-2016-99)

Targeting students and parents and demanding payment for a fake “Federal Student Tax”: Telephone scammers are targeting students and parents demanding payments for fictitious taxes, such as the “Federal Student Tax.” If the person does not comply, the scammer becomes aggressive and threatens to report the student to the police to be arrested. (IR-2016-107)

Sending a fraudulent IRS bill for tax year 2015 related to the Affordable Care Act: The IRS has received numerous reports around the country of scammers sending a fraudulent version of CP2000 notices for tax year 2015. Generally, the scam involves an email or letter that includes the fake CP2000. The fraudulent

notice includes a payment request that taxpayers mail a check made out to “I.R.S.” to the “Austin Processing Center” at a Post Office Box address. (IR-2016-123)

Soliciting W-2 information from payroll and human resources professionals: Payroll and human resources professionals should be aware of phishing email schemes that pretend to be from company executives and request personal information on employees. The email contains the actual name of the company chief executive officer. In this scam, the “CEO” sends an email to a company payroll office employee and requests a list of employees and financial and personal information including Social Security numbers (SSN). (IR-2016-34)

Imitating software providers to trick tax professionals: Tax professionals may receive emails pretending to be from tax software companies. The email scheme requests the recipient download and install an important software update via a link included in the e-mail. Upon completion, tax professionals believe they have downloaded a software update when in fact they have loaded a program designed to track the tax professional’s key strokes, which is a common tactic used by cyber thieves to steal login information, passwords and other sensitive data. (IR-2016-103)

“Verifying” tax return information over the phone: Scam artists call saying they have your tax return, and they just need to verify a few details to process your return. The scam tries to get you to give up personal information such as a SSN or personal financial information, including bank numbers or credit cards. (IR-2016-40)

Pretending to be from the tax preparation industry: The emails are designed to trick taxpayers into thinking these are official communications from the IRS or others in the tax industry, including tax software companies. The phishing schemes can ask taxpayers about a wide range of topics. E-mails or text messages can seek information related to refunds, filing status, confirming personal information, ordering transcripts and verifying PIN information. (IR-2016-28)

If you receive an unexpected call, unsol-

icited email, letter or text message from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here are some of the tell-tale signs to help protect yourself.

The IRS will never:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer or initiate contact by e-mail or text message. Generally, the IRS will first mail you a bill if you owe any taxes.
- Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

If you get a suspicious phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here’s what you should do:

- Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately.
- Search the web for telephone numbers scammers leave in your voicemail asking you to call back. Some of the phone numbers may be published online and linked to criminal activity.
- Contact TIGTA to report the call. Use their “IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting” web page or call 800-366-4484.
- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the “FTC Complaint Assistant” on FTC.gov. Please add “IRS Telephone Scam” in the notes.
- If you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS directly at 800-829-1040.

If you receive an unsolicited email that appears to be from either the IRS or an organization closely linked to the IRS, such as the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS), report it by sending it to phishing@irs.gov.

The IRS also provides a variety of resources for tax professionals about security threats posed by identity theft issues targeting the industry through its Protect Your Clients; Protect Yourself campaign.

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.



Village Inn: 3816 South Broadway St. • Minot, ND • 838-0466

Operated by Hospitality Management & Integration, LLC • www.villageinn.com

Minot Chamber Ambassadors cut the ribbon on Minot's newest family dining restaurant. Village Inn in Minot is now open, offering moderately priced, high quality food and beverage, as well as delicious pies complimented by congenial hometown service and atmosphere.



Sport Clips: 3112 16th St. SW • Minot, ND • 852-4247 • Mitch Kost, Owner • send201@gmail.com • www.sportclips.com/nd201

Minot Chamber Ambassadors celebrated the opening of Sport Clips in southwest Minot. Enjoy the Sport Clips experience: sports on TV, a relaxing neck & shoulder massage, legendary steamed towel treatment, and a great haircut from a guy-smart stylist.



Artspace Suite 1 Gallery: #3 South Main Suite 1 • Minot, ND • ArtspaceSuite1gallery@gmail.com

Minot Chamber Ambassadors celebrated the opening of Artspace Suite 1 Gallery. The Suite 1 Gallery is a diverse cooperative of members who are dedicated to creating art and presenting their art to the community.

46th Annual KMOT Ag Expo set for Jan. 25 through 27

The 46th Annual KMOT Ag Expo will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 25 and continue through Friday, Jan. 27 at the ND State Fair Center on the North Dakota State Fairgrounds. There will be over 350 exhibitors in more than 1000 booths. In past years approximately 30,000 to 40,000 people have attended the annual show. The KMOT Ag Expo is the largest indoor agricultural show in the upper Midwest. Visitors can expect to see the latest in agricultural technology and equipment, along with other exhibits that cover all areas of agriculture in Western North Dakota. The show is guaranteed to have something for everyone, including informative seminars.

KMOT Living Ag Classroom

Area 4th graders learn how their food gets from the farmer's fields to the grocery store shelves. The Living Ag Classroom has enjoyed amazing success having seen over 13,000 students, plus teachers, and parents, to learn about the food chain from the beginning. By taking a tour of the Living Ag Classroom, visitors can learn about the production and distribution of our food along with the many by-products of crops and animals that are raised in North Dakota. The classroom will be located in the carousel under the Grandstand with sessions at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday. SRT Communications, Inc., and WinField

sponsor the Living Ag Classroom.

We invite everyone to come out to the 2017 KMOT Ag Expo. Parking and admission are free, and there is a heated shuttle bus from the parking lot to the front door. Once inside, the KMOT/Bremer Information Booth will have the official program with exhibitor maps and listing, as well as seminar room schedule. So come out and enjoy the 45th Annual KMOT Ag Expo. Doors open daily at 9 a.m., and close at 5 p.m.

For more information call Jeff Emmert at 852-5254 or email agexpo@kmot.com.

December Business After Hours



Thank you to Elevation Restaurant for sponsoring the December Business After Hours event. One hundred and twenty-five people enjoyed delicious food, great prizes, and a perfect view at the Minot Country Club.

Airmen Cookie Drive wraps up another successful year

The annual airmen cookie drive resulted in donations of around 15,000, which were then collected and packed for distribution to Minot Airmen living in the dormitories. Thank you to TEAM MINOT supporters and volunteers, which includes base personnel, as well as companies and families from Minot. The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce teamed up with the Minot Air Force Base Officers' Spouses Club, which chaired the annual cookie drive.



*Photos courtesy of SrA Kristoffer Kaubisch,
Photojournalist*

Souris Valley United Way third annual donor recognition luncheon Feb. 1

Souris Valley United Way will celebrate the 2016 campaign year at the Third Annual Donor Recognition Luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Grand Hotel.

Tickets are \$20 for individuals or \$250 for a table sponsor of eight. Register online at: www.svunitedway.com/recognitionluncheon or contact the United Way office at 839-2994.

Businesses will be recognized for their donations at a Leadership Level, Level Up from last year's donation, and the Top Ten. Other awards include individuals who donate at the Tocqueville Level (\$10,000) and significant contribution to the Souris Valley United Way Endowment Fund.

We mobilize people, organizations and resources in an impactful effort to advance Education, Financial Stability and Health while addressing basic human needs. For more information visit www.svunitedway.com call 839-2994.

Westlie Employee's celebrate 45 and 55 years of service

Westlie Motor Company has served the area for over 95 years, and more amazing is the longevity of their employees. Steve Blasing, owner, sums it up nicely. "It's not the bricks and mortar that make a company successful; it's the people. How many businesses can say 43 members of their staff have been with the company for over 10 years or that 20 of those employees have actually been there 25 years and longer?"



Bill Braun



Gary Wunderlich

With five locations and 170 employees, 2016 celebrated some major milestones in longevity at Westlie. Bill Braun has worked in the parts department of Westlie Motors for 55 years.

Starting in 1961, Braun has seen major changes in the auto industry including technology and safety features, seatbelts, airbags, sensing systems, backup cameras, self-parking, and so much more.

Gary Wunderlich, who has been with Westlie's for 45 years, started in the Service Department in 1971 and moved to sales in 1981. Wunderlich is working with the third generation of many of his customers. He has earned some of the highest awards from Ford, including taking the "e2 Excellence" top award overall in the entire Twin Cities region. In addition, six employees celebrated 40 plus years, and another six celebrated 30 years or more.

"The long-term success of Westlie Motors is an example of the kind of success still possible even today," said Steve Blasing. "We are extremely thankful for our loyal customers and our entire team. We feel very fortunate for the longevity of so many of the employees who have made Westlies the company customers' trust to return to year after year."

Dakota CDC welcomes Horab

Dakota Certified Development Corporation is pleased to welcome Samantha Horab to the team as a loan processing specialist. She will be responsible for processing loan applications to ensure completeness of information and submission of projects to the SBA.

A native of Fargo, ND, Samantha graduated from NDSU with a broadcast journalism degree, but happened into the banking industry during college and found her passion for working with lending. Horab brings eight years of experience in a variety of banking roles to the team. She decided to join to the Dakota CDC small business lending team because of her love for the details of working with loans and she was drawn to the culture of the



Samantha Horab

small, close knit organization. Her knowledge and interest in lending make her an ideal addition to the team. In her spare time, Horab is sports fanatic and an active volunteer with the Homeward Animal Shelter.

SRT offers scholarship opportunities

SRT announces that applications for the 2017 SRT College Scholarship Program are now available. In addition, SRT partners with the Foundation for Rural Service to offer national scholarship opportunities to students.

The SRT general scholarship program emphasizes community involvement. Applicants also are judged on school activities, an essay response and GPA in order to be selected for one of the four \$1,000 awards.

Last year, the inaugural SRT Technical Scholarship awarded \$1,500 to one student. This scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors or undergraduate students studying telecommunications or other computer technology related fields.

SRT is also proud to partner as a member of the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) to participate in a national scholarship program that could provide local students with scholarships. Students submitting an application are eligible for four separate national scholarship opportunities.

All area students whose families are customers of SRT are eligible to apply for the scholarships. Applications are available at area schools, SRT offices, and online srt.com/srtcares. Applications for the FRS Scholarships are due Feb. 22, and SRT Scholarship applications are due March 3. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May and a luncheon will be held for the winners.

SRT Communications is the state's largest telephone cooperative. SRT has served the telecommunications needs of north central North Dakota since 1951, employs more than 200 people, and serves over 48,000 customers.

First Western joins forces with Humphreys Insurance & Surety, Inc.

First Western Insurance is pleased to announce that Mike Humphreys, president and owner of Humphreys Insurance & Surety, Inc., and his staff have joined First Western Insurance as of Dec. 1, 2016. This results in a staff of 25 licensed insurance agents with over 400 years of insurance experience. First Western Insurance is one of the largest independent insurance agencies in North Dakota.

First Western Insurance will contin-



Doug Rued



Mike Humphreys ue to service Minot and the 17 states in which licenses are held from the three Minot locations. You can visit with any of the agents at these locations: 2105 16th Street NW; 900 South Broadway; and the current Humphreys offices at 415 20th Avenue SW. First Western Bank & Trust continues to focus on the commitment to our local community and customers.

Minot Area Community Foundation supports Make a Scene Kid's Theater.

The Minot Area Community

Foundation has awarded \$5,000 to Minot's only children's theater from the Arnold I. Besserud Fund. A check presentation took place at on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016.

Make A Scene Kid's Theater (MASK) was established in the fall of 2015 with the purpose of providing cultural enrichment and education to the children of the Minot area through enjoyable, exciting and creative theatrical experiences. MASK provides classes in which students learn the fundamentals of theatre through creative dramatics, movement, storytelling, design, and scene work. The program has grown since its inception and was in need of a larger, more permanent space.

The grant from The Minot Area Community Foundation's Arnold I. Besserud Fund will go toward the growth of the MASK program and enable them to occupy a larger space in Downtown Minot.

"We are so thankful for the support that the Minot Area Community Foundation and many other community organizations have shown us," said Allison Auch of MASK. "To be able to offer something like this in Minot, we really do need the support of the entire community."

MASK has just announced that they will be auditioning children for their next production, "Busytown The Musical," which The Foundation was also able to support with a \$1,000 grant through the

Community Enrichment Fund. To audition for the upcoming production, children must be currently enrolled in a MASK class. For more information on classes and how to register, visit their website at www.makeascenekids.com/.

Women United donates items to local senior service organizations

Women United members presented blankets, slippers, puzzles, and treats for residents at Trinity Nursing Home in the hopes of providing them a small token of Christmas cheer. The group also provided fresh fruit for the Meals on Wheels program. The Meals on Wheels program through Minot Commission on Aging delivers meals to local seniors that continue to thrive in their homes. Items and monetary donations were collected by Women United members at a recent gathering.

Dusty Zimmerman, president, said, "As we grow, we will seek out projects that will enhance our community and make a difference in the lives of all who call this place home."

Women United is an affinity group through Souris Valley United Way. The group consists of passionate women who offer their time, talent, and financial resources to improve lives through the Souris Valley United Way service area. This volunteer group creates its own initiatives and sets its own goals. For more information, call 839-2994.

78% of North Dakotans
favor research to build a zero
emissions power plant 

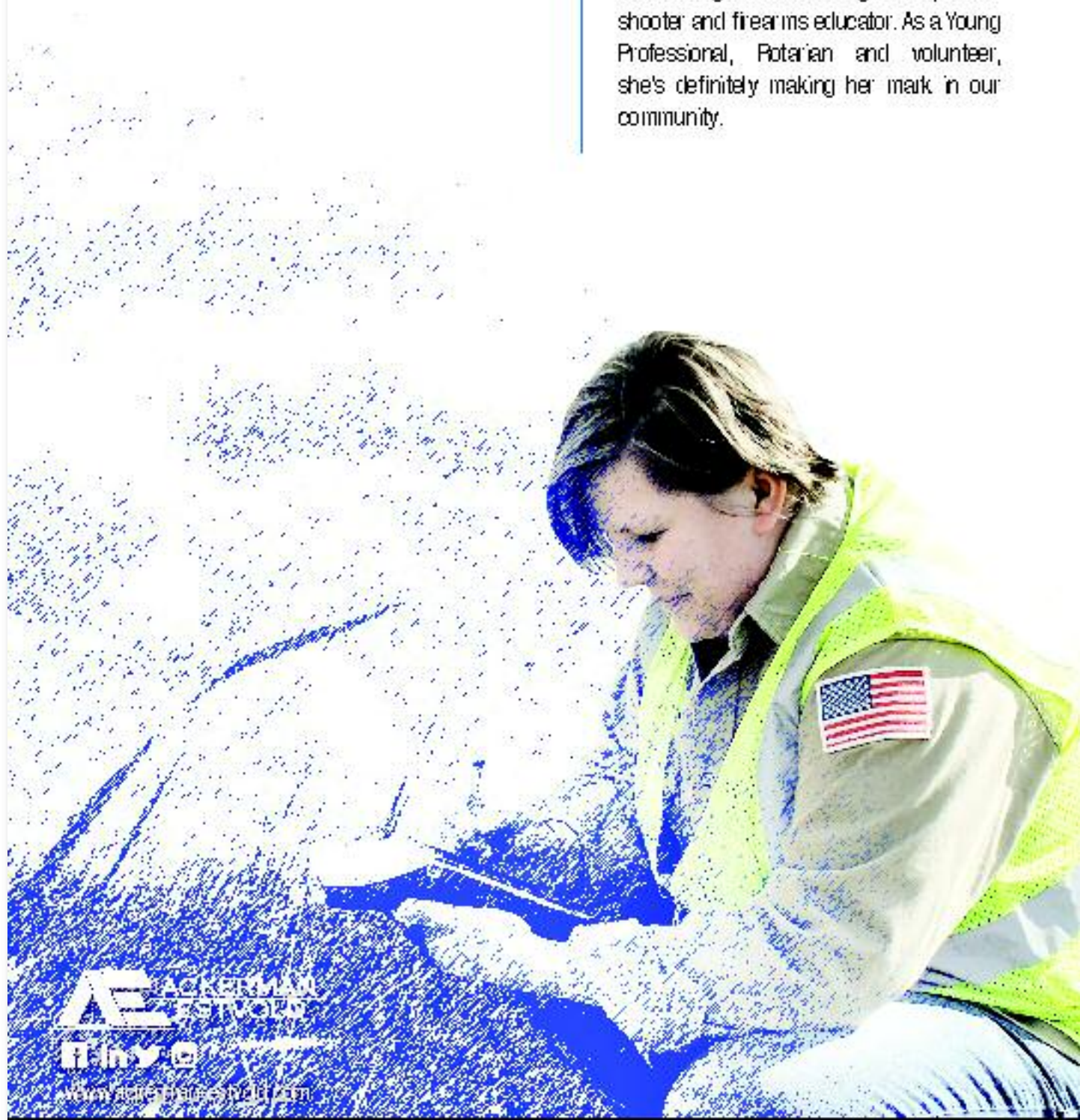
FIND OUT MORE AT SECUREENERGYFUTURE.ORG

<http://secureenergyfuture.org/voters-recognize-coal-should-be-the-future-in-north-dakota-energy-production/>

I AM

A MARIQUONIAN, A SISTER,
A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL,
A CROCHETER, AN EDUCATOR,
ACKERMAN-ESTVOLD.

Meet Cameon. At Ackerman-Estvold, she's busy shaping our future while preserving our past as a GIS analyst and registered archaeologist. However, we know there is much more to Cameon than digging and data. Away from the maps and artifacts, she's taking aim as a three-gun competitive shooter and firearms educator. As a Young Professional, Rotarian and volunteer, she's definitely making her mark in our community.



ACKERMAN-ESTVOLD
f l i n t a
www.ackerman-estvold.com

KLJ Hires Koppy

KLJ, an engineering, surveying and planning firm, hired Lee Koppy in its Minot office. Koppy serves as a senior engineer, and will lead various municipal projects. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from University of Minnesota. Koppy has 25 years of experience in civil engineering.



Lee Koppy

Elite Real Estate features new commercial division

Elite Real Estate has branched into a commercial division with the appointment of Neil Gush. Gush has been a licensed North Dakota Real Estate salesperson since January 2009. He has been involved with numerous real estate transactions, commercial and residential, since 2009.

Gush's previous experience as supervisor and manager afforded him the opportunity of overseeing commercial and multiple family properties. Additionally, Gush was a supervisor in the insurance industry which provided him business acumen. His education includes a master's of science degree in management and a bachelor's degree in specialized studies. Gush's six-year commitment in the United States Air Force broadened his global understanding of the world. He feels that education never stops, realizing that you can never learn enough. He is currently working towards a CCIM certification (Certified Commercial Investment Member) and is on the cusp of attaining his Council of Residential Specialist certification and is currently a member.

For more information, call Gush at 340-1734 or visit www.EliteRealEstateND.com.

Scheels sponsors Day of Giving

On Dec. 15, Minot Scheels welcomed in 29 non-profit organizations for their annual Day of Giving. Representatives from these organizations arrived before the store opened for a formal check presentation. Store Leader, Kevin Mortensen, handed out envelopes while assistant

store leader, Eric Grund, announced each recipient. At the end of the ceremony, the Scheels staff presented the Souris Valley Bowmen with a check for \$45,000.00 for the youth center expansion of their facility, and \$50,000.00 to the Souris Valley United Way. For more information, contact Will Robertson, Minot Scheels Event Coordinator, at wrobertson@scheels.com.

Visit Minot names new board members

After reviewing the candidates, Minot Mayor, Chuck Barney, announced his appointments for the 2017 Visit Minot Board of Directors. Two positions were needing to be filled as terms were expiring for Bonny Kemper, and current board President Chad Thompson.

Chad Thompson was reappointed to the board for a three-year term and Lorena Starkey will join current board members Joel Feist, Vance Castleman, Pam Karpenko, Nicole Gebeck, Bruce Walker, Rick Hedberg, and Megan Laudenschlager to complete the 9-member makeup of the Visit Minot Board.

The new members will take their seats at the January 2017 Board Meeting. At this meeting, Joel Feist will move to the president position, Pam Karpenko will be first vice president and the other officers will be elected during that meeting.

The Visit Minot offices are located at 1020 South Broadway in the Scandinavian Heritage building. For more information, call Visit Minot at 857-8206 or email info@visitminot.org.

Power of the Purse giving circle impacts local projects.

The Minot Area Community Foundation's Power of the Purse giving circle has been making an impact on our community since its inception in 2007. This year the organization was able to grant money to two significant causes, the "Stop Before You Send" Campaign through The Minot Public School Foundation and The United Way's Backpack Buddy program.

Power of the Purse is a charitable giving circle that was formed under the Foundation in August of 2007. Founded by a group of eight, they decided to organize some of the most powerful, positive and intelligent women to network and strengthen our community by financially investing together and giving of their time and resources. The group has since grown to 40 members and has invested nearly \$260,000 back into the community. Power of the Purse President Ashlee Deschamp says that the group "is such a unique organization, full of powerful, intelligent and resourceful women and I am proud to be a part of it."

Following their mission of benefitting women and children in the community, Power of the Purse members voted to fund two causes this year. The "Stop Before You Send" campaign, which is funded through the Minot Public School Foundation, received \$5,000. This program offers speaker, Melissa Spelchen, the opportunity to speak to students about the dangers and consequences of using their phones to share inappropriate content. The United Way's Backpack Buddies program received \$10,800. Backpack Buddies helps with the un-met needs of elementary students who suffer from hunger on the weekends. The program is currently serving 250 children in four Minot Public elementary schools.



January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Office Closed	3	4	5 Ambassadors Committee , 4:30 p.m., Badlands Grill House & Saloon	6	7
8	9	10 Eagle Awards Presentation , 10 a.m., Chamber office	11 Right Start Presentation , 10 a.m., MAFB Junior Achievement Board of Directors , Noon, Chamber office	12	13 Infrastructure Committee , 7:30 a.m., Homesteaders Restaurant	14 Legislative Forum , 9 a.m., ND State Fair Center
15	16	17 Board of Directors , 7:30 a.m., Grand Hotel	18 Coffee with the President , 1:30 p.m., Chamber office	19 Business After Hours , 5 – 7 p.m., Kellie Thorman State Farm Insurance, 500 20th Ave. SW, Suite B	20 Governmental Affairs Committee , 11:30 a.m., Vegas Motel	21
22 Sportsmen's Feed , Noon, MAFB	23	24	25 Right Start Presentation , 10 a.m., MAFB	26 Energy Committee , 11:30 a.m., Vegas Motel	27	28 Legislative Forum , 9 a.m., ND State Fair Center
29	30	31				

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