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Communicator

THE MINOT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND YOU!

Vol. XLII, Issue No. 9

www.minotchamber.org

September 2019

Maximize Minot supports buy local preference policy with Minot City Council

The Maximize Minot Committee of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce is working hard to emphasize the need to buy local. In this world of internet shopping, buying online and finding another deal out of town, it's easy to get hooked. But what does that do to the local economy? The effects can be seen when your favorite store closes, downsizes, or moves. That's why the Chamber started the Maximize Minot campaign — to emphasize the need to shop local, hire local professionals for projects, and invest local.

During the last year, a group of local contractors developed a proposed policy for the city to utilize to guide them in their purchasing practices. This drafted policy provides a small advantage to those businesses operating right here in Minot and is intended to be a starting point for the council to address the issue. Minot Area Chamber of Commerce President John MacMartin presented the draft policy to council members in July.

Thanks to the City Council and staff for including discussion on this topic at the city's July retreat. See the City Manager's com-



ments in the attached link, the pertinent comments will show up at about the two minute mark: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DI5Z6qeLPLQ&t=284s>

As an advocate for our local businesses, Maximize Minot would like to recognize the City of Minot for their willingness to take this step showing support to local organizations who pay taxes here, support local non-profits and fundraisers, and make our community the Magic City.

Finally, thanks to the Chamber members involved for their hard work in putting the policy together. After a visit with City Manager Tom Barry, MacMartin says a committee of business members and city employees and leaders will meet to discuss preferences and city procurement processes. If you have any thoughts or comments, reach out to MacMartin at 852-6000. Watch for updates on the outcome.

Federal Reserve regional outreach director featured speaker

Chamber annual meeting set for Oct. 16

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce annual meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 16 at



11:30 a.m. at the Sleep Inn & Suites Convention Center. Special thanks to our event sponsor, the Bank of North Dakota.

Continued on page 3

First Business After Hours of the Season! Sleep Inn & Suites Convention Center

Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019 • 5–7 p.m.

Sleep Inn & Suites: 2400 10th St. SW

Welcome back to the first Business After Hours of the season!

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.

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Shannon Webster (Town & Country
Credit Union)852-2018

New Member

The Minot Chamber welcomes new members. Please let this new member know how much of a value they are to our community.

EXPRESSWAY SUITES

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Save the Date

October: Y's Men's Rodeo Showcase of Business

Thursday, October 3 • 5 – 7 p.m.
NDSF Center Magic Place

Renewals

The Chamber extends a big “THANK YOU” to our members who have renewed their membership from June 22 through Aug. 23, 2019. Your continued support helps your Chamber promote the business community and do the work seen in the pages of this newsletter.

2nd Story Minot Social Club for Exceptional
Persons Inc
AFLAC - Cassie Loard
All Clean Professional Services/Kinetico Water
Systems
BeMobile
Braun Intertec Corporation
CDM Smith
CHI St. Alexius Medical Clinic
Clarion Hotel and Convention Center
Coldwell Banker 1st Minot Realty
Community Action Partnership - Minot Region
Companions for Children, Inc.
Country Inn by Radisson
Curb 2 Curb LLC
Dacotah Bank
Dental Care Associates
First Choice Physical Therapy, Inc.
G & P Commercial Sales
Greater Northwest Publishing, Inc.
Hampton Inn & Suites Minot Airport

Margie's Studio
Minot Health & Rehab
Minot Milling
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Northland Bus Service, Inc.
Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
Off the Vine, LLC
SkySkopes
SOS Image
State Farm Insurance - Paul Siebert
Styles, Inc.
The Tap Room
Tires Only
US Bank
Vertical Transport North
The WriteDesign
Zaback Wealth Management

Continued from page 1

This year's annual meeting will feature Joe Mahon, regional outreach director of the Federal Reserve, Minneapolis, MN, speaking about the region's economy and trends. Prior to serving as a regional outreach director for the Federal Reserve, Mahon served as a regional economist, and also as a staff writer and analyst for the Bank publication, *The Region*, and *fedgazette*.

Mahon's primary responsibilities involve tracking several sectors of the Ninth District economy — an area that

covers Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Montana, and portions of Wisconsin and Michigan. The Fed. sectors he follows closely include agriculture, manufacturing, energy, and mining. He holds degrees in economics and journalism from the University of Minnesota.

Cost is \$30 per person and \$300 for a reserved table up front, with guaranteed seating for eight. Lunch is included. The menu includes house salad, rotisserie prime rib with au jus, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans, and peanut butter

pie.

Please RSVP by Friday, Oct. 11. Register at www.minotchamber.org, select October 16 on the Chamber calendar and use your membership login information. For more information call 852-6000. No refunds after Oct. 11.



Joe Mahon



New Location This Month **Coffee with the President**

Wednesday, September 18 • 1:30 p.m. • Elmcroft of Minot • 3515 10th St. SW

Businesses encouraged to participate

29th Annual Showcase of Business set for Nov. 14

Are you ready for the 29th Annual Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Showcase of Business? The Chamber is proud to bring you this event on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the North Dakota State Fair Center Magic Place.

This year's theme is Superheroes. This is an opportunity for businesses to decorate around this theme, and for Chamber members to showcase products and services to nearly 1,000 attendees. Thanks to our media sponsors KMOT/West Dakota Fox and Hometown Radio Group for getting the word out to bring people to the event.

A little-known fact is that the Chamber Ambassadors started the Showcase to serve as a major fundraiser for the Chamber. Today, that function of being a major fundraiser is as important as it was

twenty eight years ago. The business sponsorships help provide the financial backing for the Showcase, as well as ensuring that the event continues as a Chamber fundraiser. The following two sponsorships will be recognized on fliers and media.

Platinum Sponsor: \$1,000 includes three 10x10 booths at location of your choice, along with 30 admission tickets and one quarter page ad of your choice in a future Chamber Communicator. (Six available.)

Gold Sponsor: \$500, includes two 10x10 booths at location of your choice, along with 20 admission tickets. (Ten available.)

If you choose not to be one of these two sponsor levels, single booths are available at \$200 for a 10x10 and \$300 for a 15x15 booth. All booths include one eight-foot

table (white paper tablecloths available) and two chairs. Power outlets are available, but businesses should bring their own extension cords. Also, plan for dimmed lights.

Booth participant are also encouraged to offer a giveaway, and the winner will be announced at the end of the evening. Participants can also enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, and beverages will be available for purchase. Those attending enjoy the door prizes given out at the end of the evening, including a trip from our stage sponsor Delta Vacations, valued at \$1,600, and a VIP Minot package from Showcase of Business. This draws a crowd and keeps attendees there the entire evening.

Sign up today. Go to www.minotchamber.org, click on November 14 on the calendar. Use your login and password.



August Eagle Awards

The Eagle Award winners were recognized in August 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, Rainbow Photo Lab, Anytime Fitness, and Waxing the City** for providing gift certificates for each Eagle recipient.



DR. AMY WALL
*West Oaks Animal
Hospital*



MARGIE ZIETZ
City of Minot



KRISTA TALLEY
Trinity Hospital



DR. JOEL WOODRUFF
Trinity Hospital



KYARA BROWN
Nail Glamor



GLORIA GLASGOW
*Ward County Social
Services*

Women Connect rescheduled for Sept. 12:

Back on my feet: changing perceptions, changing lives

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce and Women Connect will sponsor “Back on My Feet: Changing Perceptions, Changing Lives” Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Grand Hotel. This event was previously scheduled for June 4, but presenter Anne M. Mahlum notified event planners that she had been in an accident. Planners are excited for Mahlum to share her message and are grateful for her speedy recovery.

Bismarck native Mahlum is the founder, owner and CEO of a fast-growing boutique fitness company [solidcore] which she founded in Washington, DC, in 2013. In five years, she has grown her company to

43 locations with more than 100,000 clients.

Mahlum’s compelling personal story and work with Back on My Feet is a powerful and inspirational example of how change happens. In this engaging and inspiring program, she shows us that we all need the same things in life to grow and succeed, to be noticed, to be appreciated, to be valued and to be cared for. She teaches that changing the way we see ourselves and our circumstances is at the core of change and that only then can we begin to move out of our comfort zones and create real and lasting change in our lives. With raw vulnerability, grace and lots of humor, Mahlum

takes audiences on an emotional journey that will leave them feeling motivated, purposeful, and empowered to create real change in their lives.

Key outcomes: learn how to begin to change the way they see themselves (and others); learn tips and tools for moving out of their comfort zones; leave feeling inspired, purposeful, and empowered to create real change in their lives

Cost is \$40 for military, \$50 for members, and \$60 for non-members. Register today on the Chamber website: www.minotchamber.org. Go to September 12 on the Events page.



Visit: [Lignite Energy Council](http://LigniteEnergyCouncil.org)

Cost of living higher than national average in 2nd quarter

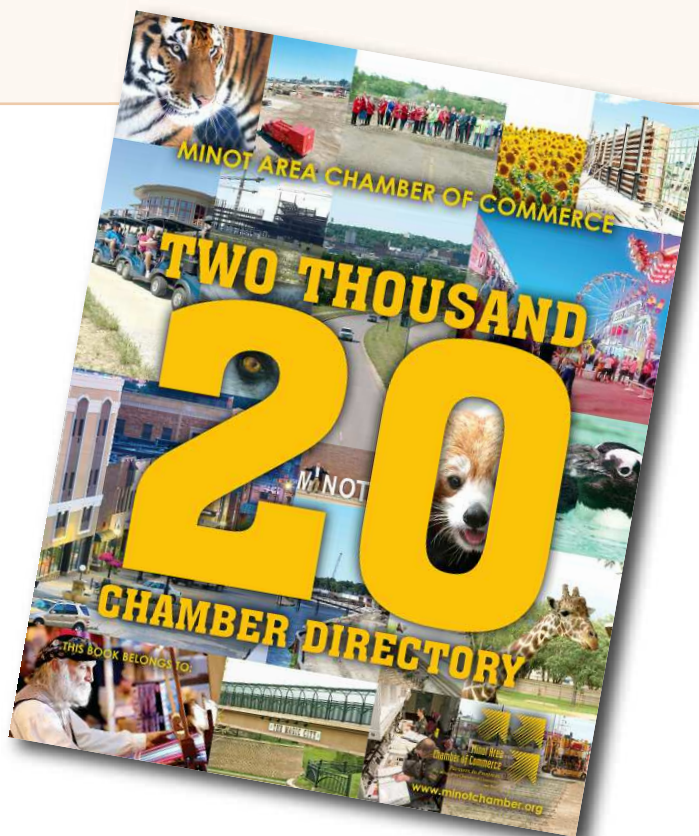
Minot's cost of living measured at 5.4% higher than the national average in the second quarter of 2019, according to the Cost of Living Index, published by the Council for Community and Economic Research. The Cost of Living Index is published by the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) and measures differences between areas in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures. It is based on 100,000 data points for which prices are collected quarterly by the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce and 288 other urban areas across the nation.

Cost of Living Index: 2019 Second Quarter

U.S. Average Composite Index: 100%

	Minot ND	Bismarck/ Mandan, ND	Fargo/Moorhead Metro	Grand Forks, ND-MN	Minneapolis MN	Pierre, SD
COMPOSITE INDEX	105.4	93.7	N/A	94.2	106.5	102.2
GROCERY ITEMS	115.3	104.2	N/A	97.0	102.7	103.2
HOUSING	100.1	80.8	N/A	95.1	101.9	114.3
UTILITIES	86.7	96.5	N/A	92.9	98.3	92.9
TRANSPORTATION	120.2	107.8	N/A	99.3	108.8	101.8
HEALTH CARE	116.2	112.9	N/A	100.0	105.0	103.7
MISC. GOODS	105.5	93.8	N/A	90.7	113.5	94.0

Chamber 2020 Directories Coming in December



Sertoma Beer Fest tickets on sale now

Tickets for Beer Fest, an annual event sponsored by the Minot Sertoma Club, are now on sale at Visit Minot and online.

The event will be held Friday, Sept. 6, at the State Fair Center, and begins at 6 p.m. The evening will provide attendees with a tasting test of some of the best. Tickets are \$45 each in advance or a table of eight can be purchased for \$320; tickets are \$50 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at: <https://minotsertoma.org/projects/beerfest/>

Admission gets you supper, door prizes, and a raffle (including a small Traeger grill and air rifle), the Sertoma Saloon, snacks, a cash bar and fun. Proceeds will be used to benefit the hearing and speech initiatives of the Minot Sertoma Club.

For more information about Beer Fest or sponsorship opportunities, call Jenny Castro at 406-490-6185.

Motor Magic returns to Fairgrounds Labor Day weekend

The largest motorsports event in the Upper Midwest is back for its 21st year at the North Dakota State Fairgrounds. Motor Magic will be held on Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 30 – Sept. 1 providing entertainment for auto enthusiasts of all ages.

The Magic City International Dragway will kick off the motor mayhem with drag racing on Friday, as well as additional races on Saturday and Sunday. NoDak Speedway is providing a free All-Star Race on Friday. Saturday and Sunday will be Dirt Track Racing. Motor enthusiasts can also visit the Dakota Cruisers Car Show on Saturday and Sunday.

Aside from these races and car show, attendees can bid on more than 100 classic cars at the Motor Magic Classic Car Auction and visit the Historic Military Vehicle Display. State Fair favorite Daryl's Racing Pigs will cross the finish line for

everyone to watch. There will also be Go-Karts, R/C Racing, and over 20 vendor booths in the State Fair Center.

Admission to the North Dakota State Fairgrounds is free, with major events priced separately. RV reservations start at just \$20 a night with 30 amp electricity included.

For more information and a full schedule of events, visit www.motormagic.net.



Jessie Veeder to kick off Magic Day of Giving 2019

The 6th annual Magic Day of Giving is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 in Minot. This year's event will include a kick-off event featuring Jessie Veeder, a singer, writer and fifth generation ranch woman.

Veeder has a unique perspective on love for place, community and how to tap into your passion to live a fulfilling life. Magic Day of Giving volunteers are invited to attend the kick-off at the Minot Auditorium from 8:30 to 9 a.m., where they will also pick up a Magic Day of Giving t-shirt (while supplies last) and enjoy a donut.

A blood drive will also be hosted at the auditorium, providing the community an additional way to get involved and give back. Sponsored by 701 Realty, the blood

drive will run from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Donors can stop by the day of or register in advance for an appointment by visiting www.Bloodhero.com and clicking on "Locate a Blood Drive" and then entering in code H2366.

Volunteers are still needed for Magic Day of Giving! Volunteer teams of all ages are invited to complete a community service project of their choice or complete a project that has been submitted by the community and matched to their team. Volunteers will spend up to two hours raking, painting, and cleaning, while improving local parks and nonprofit organizations. Online registration is available at www.magicdayofgiving.org through August.

Magic Day of Giving is the largest single-day community service event coordinated by volunteers and completed by Minot residents. The past five years have been a huge success, drawing in more than 10,100 volunteers who collectively gave back 22,365 hours of community service valued at \$532,209 to the Minot area! Learn more about Magic Day of Giving at www.magicdayofgiving.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/engagingforimpact



TF 21 schedules 8th annual Triad Symposium Oct. 8

Minot Chamber's Task Force 21 (TF 21) is preparing to host its eighth symposium on the Nuclear Triad on Oct. 8 in Washington DC. TF 21 Chair, Mark Jantzer, said "This is a great opportunity for our community, which is home to two legs of the triad, to stay engaged in the national debate concerning the need for the recapitalization of all three legs of the triad."

The topic of the symposium is "Triad Modernization — Securing the Consensus." It will be an opportunity to hear from past and present leaders of America's nuclear forces, and prominent non-government experts.

Speakers and panelists slated to appear include:

- Lt Gen Jack Weinstein, USAF, ret, former Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration (A-10), Headquarters U.S. Air Force
- Mark Schneider, National Institute for Public Policy
- Paula DeSutter, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Verification
- Col. Jason Bartolomei, GBSD Systems Program Manager, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, Hill AFB
- Capt Jon Rucker, U.S. Navy (program manager, COLUMBIA Class program)
- Professor Bradley Thayer, University of

Texas

- Jim Miller, president of Adaptive Strategies, LLC and former Under Secretary of defense for Policy
- Jamie Morin, vice president of Defense Systems Operations, Defense Systems Group at the Aerospace Corporation and former Comptroller of the Air Force
- Admiral Cecil Haney (ret) former Commander U.S. Strategic Command
- Maj Gen Roger Burg (ret) former commander of 20th Air Force, Global Strike Command
- John Harvey, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Affairs

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.



Vitalant: 1919 N. Broadway • 701-852-2161 • www.vitalant.org

Minot Chamber Ambassadors celebrated with a ribbon cutting at Vitalant during their grand opening. Vitalant, formerly United Blood Services, is in the business of saving lives with one blood donation at a time.



Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Thrift Store: 1206 S. Broadway • 701-852-0236 • www.dakotaranch.org

Minot Chamber Ambassadors cut the ribbon at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Thrift Store to celebrate the completion of the store remodel. The Thrift Store has supported the programs at the Ranch since 1986.



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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.



Panini's Plus: 2400 10th St. SW #324 • Dakota Square Mall Food Court • Minot, ND • 701-789-1899

Chad & Kim Gravseth, Owners • www.paninisplusminot.com

Chamber Ambassadors helped celebrate the opening of Panini's Plus at Dakota Square with a ribbon cutting. This local eatery features not only paninis, but wraps, salads, soups, fresh juice bar, and more. Check it out today or have something delivered.



Expressway Suites: 1605 35th Ave. SW • Minot, ND 58701 • 701-837-7900 • Amber Street, general manager

Ambassadors helped celebrate the grand opening of Expressway Suites, formerly the La Quinta. Expressway Suites offers Luxury for Less®, free hot breakfast, weekday socials, free wifi, an indoor pool and hot tub, and easy access from highways 83 or 2.

Town & Country launches Community Financial Education online program

This month, Town & Country Credit Union unveiled an expanded partnership with Banzai, a nationwide financial education provider. Town & Country has been supporting financial education in the schools through the Banzai program for five years, serving 4,380 students in rural Northwestern North Dakota and the Fargo area in that time period. Now, this impactful program is open to anyone with access to the internet due to Town & Country Credit Union's support of Banzai Direct.

Banzai Direct through Town & Country Credit Union is an interactive, online financial literacy program for ages 8-99. It includes three entertaining and interactive courses that provide real-life scenarios where users learn how to earn money, pay bills and balance a budget. Each course also include a pre- and post-test so users can track what they've learned. The courses include:

1. Junior (ages 8-12) where users learn how to run a lemonade stand, prioritize expenses and save for fun things they

want like a hover board.

2. Teen (ages 13-17) where users are introduced to budgeting concepts, double entry accounting, and saving for your first car.

3. Plus (ages 18+) where users master budgeting through double entry accounting, save for a mortgage and practice firsthand how their spending decisions will impact their goals.

In addition to these three 30-minute courses, this program also includes a robust resource library and helpful, interactive calculators on topics such as insurance, retirement, buying a house, taxes, borrowing and credit, budgeting, starting a business and more.

"We are proud to have provided the Banzai in the Classroom program all these years, but we've found an increasing number of teenagers and adults who are looking for financial guidance from a trusted source as well," said Jeremiah Kossen, Town & Country Credit Union President/CEO. "That's where this program comes in. Anyone can access these resources for free and complete the courses

at their own time while knowing they've been vetted by our team of professionals."

This program is available to anyone with the link, not just Town & Country Credit Union members. Visit <https://tccu.learnbanzai.com> to access the courses and the resource library. For those looking for more personalized advice, Town & Country Credit Union also offers free financial counseling. They can request an appointment at www.townandcountry.org/financial-counseling.

Town & Country Credit Union has been Positively Impacting the communities they serve for over 80 years. With ten convenient locations in North Dakota, over 150 employees and a focus on continual growth, they provide meaningful value to their more than 20,000 members every day. Membership in the credit union is open to anyone living within 75 miles of Minot and 50 miles of Fargo or Kenmare. More information can be found at www.townandcountry.org.

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Member Business Briefs

Kautzman and Holmstrom elected to Dakota Business Lending board

Dakota Business Lending is pleased to welcome two new members to the Board of Directors, Kim Kautzman and Tonya Holmstrom. Kautzman and Holmstrom were elected at the board meeting on June 5, 2019, and attended their first meeting as official directors on July 10, 2019.

Kautzman is a business banker at Bank of North Dakota, where she works to develop and maintain partnerships with lenders, business owners, community leaders, and economic development groups around the state. She brings over 20 years of experience in the banking industry and a passion to promote economic development and utilize all the financial tools available to help business grow and reach their full potential.



Kim Kautzman

Holstrom is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and current partner of Schmitz-Holmstrom in Bismarck, ND, serving business and individual clients through tax consulting, planning, preparation, and much more. She brings over 15

years of public accounting experience in various industries and business sizes, as well as expertise from several other boards that she serves on throughout the state, including Greater North Dakota Chamber, the Missouri Family YMCA, and the University of Jamestown Alumni Association.



Tonya Holmstrom

Dakota Business Lending also bids farewell to two outgoing directors, Marlowe Johnson and Lori Gabriel. First elected in 1997, Johnson served on Dakota Business Lending's Board of Directors for over 22 years, making him the longest-standing director on the board. Gabriel retired after seven years as a director. Both were valued members of the board and provided significant contributions to the ongoing success of the company.

The Dakota Business Lending Board is made up of Directors represented throughout North Dakota and western Minnesota who are committed to small business lending and economic growth in Dakota Business Lending's entire service area. Other current directors include Chair

Dan Jacobson, Vice Chair Jim Hambrick, Secretary/Treasurer Rich Becker, as well as Mike Connor, John Phillips, Andy Maragos, and Jim Stai.

Kemper Kraft named broker associate

Alyssa Kemper Kraft has been a licensed REALTOR® since 2004 and has recently passed the exam to receive her Brokers license. Kemper Kraft is currently licensed with Brokers 12 in Minot. She is a native of Minot and also operates a massage therapy business in Minot.



Alyssa Kemper Kraft

She is here to assist buyers and sellers with all real estate needs. Kemper Kraft is a member of the Minot MLS, ND Association of REALTORS®, Minot Board of REALTORS®, and she is currently on the Board of Directors for the Minot Family YMCA. She spends much of her time with family, going to the lake, and attending sporting events. If you are looking for a dedicated, hard-working individual that will go above and beyond, Kemper Kraft is here to assist you.

JOHN STEWART, CPA

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- **NEED TO FIND MORE CASH FLOW?**
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0031_08-19

Bohl earns diploma from Graduate School of Banking

Kevin Bohl, vice president of First Western Bank & Trust, graduated July 25, 2019, from the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado's 59th Annual School Session hosted at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colo. The Graduate School of Banking at Colorado (GSBC) annually hosts this 25-month school of higher education that provides management and leadership training for community bank professionals. Bohl was among 156 graduates of the class of 2019. He was also recognized as an "honor student" as he finished in the top 10% of his class.

GSBC students are recognized by their respective organizations' executive team as rising stars in their organizations and, upon graduation, often acquire leadership roles within their institutions. A diploma

in banking is widely recognized by the banking industry, and is a marker of advanced education hundreds of banking industry professionals from around the country accomplish each year.

"Completing the coursework and projects at GSBC is a great accomplishment for community bankers around the country," said GSBC President Tim Koch. "These organizations and communities should be very proud of the dedication and effort they expend during their time in the program."

First Western Insurance welcomes MacClennan and Lindbo

First Western Insurance is excited to welcome Stacey MacClennan as an insurance agent and Peggy Lindbo as an insurance account executive. MacClennan received her bachelor's in accounting from Minot State University. She has over 12 years of experience in the insurance industry and started with the agency in June of 2019. Lindbo has a variety of experience in bookkeeping, accounting



Stacey MacClennan



Peggy Lindbo

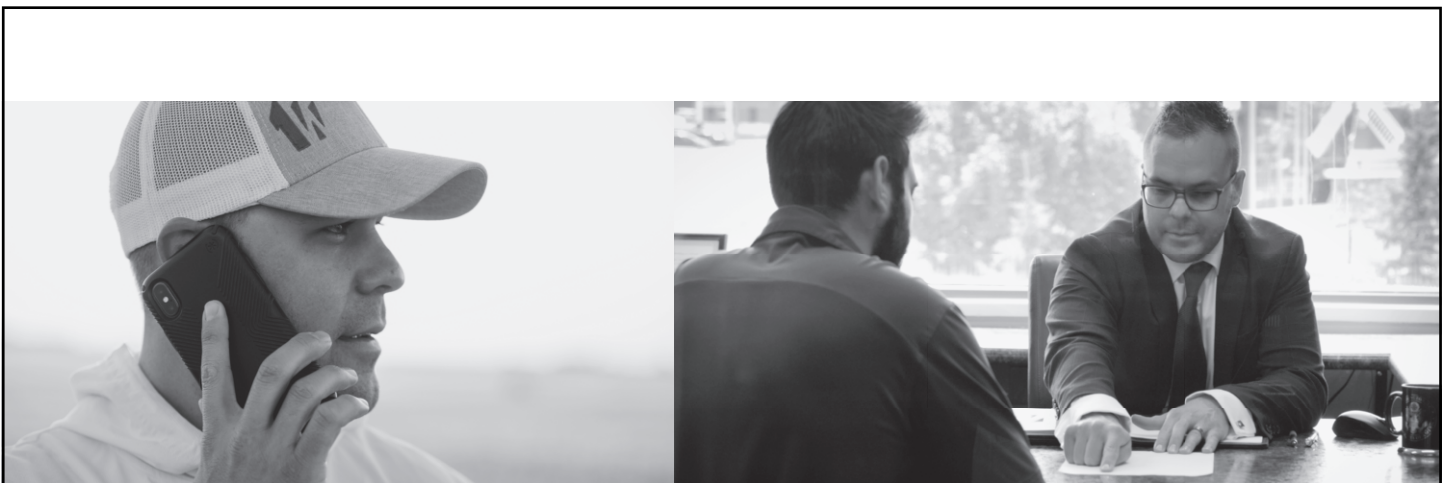
and customer service. She started with the agency in July of 2019.

Wetzel promoted at First Western

Adrianna Wetzel has been promoted to executive assistant/corporate secretary for First Western Bank & Trust. She has been with the bank since 2017 and previously held the title of assistant customer relations manager in our Minot location. Wetzel has over five years of experience in customer service in a financial setting.



Adrianna Wetzel



People you can count on.

There is a lot to consider when choosing a financial institution - such as convenience, technology and products. Perhaps you want a bank that gives back to the community it serves. More than anything, your bank should have familiar, friendly people you know you can count on any time of the day. At First Western Bank & Trust we are all these things and more.



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What's the [link](#) between all of these young engineers? These twenty-somethings have been afforded the opportunity to return to their roots and begin their careers right in their home territory. All have dedicated their summers interning for us, learning from our industry professionals. And we've learned a thing or two, also! They've now become an integral part of our team, bringing new and innovative ideas to communities across our region. At Ackerman-Estvold, we have a passion for growing our own.

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Farm Credit Services awards police department \$19,396

The Minot Police Department is pleased to announce that it has been awarded \$19,396 from Farm Credit Services of North Dakota as a recipient of the Rural Community Grant Fund (RCGF). The funds helped purchase a dual-purpose K-9 to better protect and serve the Minot community.

Minot Police Department Chief Jason Olson accepted the check from Gordon Hanson, CEO of Farm Credit Services, at a Minot City Council meeting. The grant funds were used towards purchasing the K-9 along with the necessary training, handling and required equipment and supplies.

The service that the Minot Police Department provides is critical for the community, and with the acquisition of a K-9, it will allow the police department to better serve the citizens of Minot as well as protect its police officers. The dual-purpose K-9 will provide the Minot Police Department with the resources to respond to threats such as explosives detection and assist them in their patrol duties facilitating suspect apprehension.



"We are excited to award funds for Caspian, the new dual-purpose K9, to secure increased public safety as well as that of the individual police officers," said Gordon Hanson, CEO of Farm Credit Services of North Dakota. "Farm Credit is proud to help them be more prepared to handle incidents that arise as a result of an increase in population and call volume that mineral exploration has brought to our area," he added.

Farm Credit Services of North Dakota, Farm Credit Services of Mandan and AgriBank, established the Rural Community Grant Fund to assist in the implementation and development of projects and programs in communities and rural areas in western North Dakota which have been impacted by mineral exploration.

Disability Awareness Month brings attention to employment issues

Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), is a time to celebrate the many and varied contributions of American workers with disabilities. Federally recognized, NDEAM's goal is to bring attention to the struggles people with disabilities face in employment. The theme for this year, "The Right Talent, Right Now," marks the 74th year in observance. More often than not, people with disabilities have the skills and desire to work but are unrecognized and overlooked by employers. Many of these employees have specialty training and/or college degrees but unfortunately, are the single largest untapped pool of potential employees.

Here in North Dakota, the US Census reports that our state leads the nation in the employment of people with disabilities at 56.3%, but the efforts to increase

workforce diversity need to continue.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is an organization established to help people with disabilities gain and maintain employment. It is VR's mission to heighten awareness within the business community and assist individuals with disabilities improve their employment options. Exposing companies to people with disabilities goes a long way in breaking down the stigmas and barriers employers have about hiring someone with a disability. According to Vincenzo Piscopo of the Coca-Cola Company, "People with disabilities bring a unique skill set that is very valuable for companies." He added, "As it relates to employment and competitiveness in the workplace, we have to stop thinking of disability as a liability and start thinking of it as an asset."

One of VR's goals is to help resolve employer's reluctance and apprehension about hiring people with disabilities. VR

does this by providing pre-screened, qualified and reliable job applicants, on-the-job training incentives, ongoing support for the employee if needed, ADA information, disability awareness training, site assessment, technical assistance and tax credits for companies that hire people with disabilities. VR can also help companies maintain their seasoned and trained employees who may have acquired a disability while working at their company. Accommodations for these employees are often inexpensive and may include ergonomic changes to workspaces or low-cost adaptive equipment which in the long run saves the company's money in hiring and training costs.

For more information regarding Vocational Rehabilitation contact Brenda Vennes, business services specialist, at 701-857-8651 or go to www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr.

Dakota Business Lending Hosts ACTIVATE Women in Minot

Dakota Business Lending will host ACTIVATE Women Lunch and Learn at the Minot Public Library Sept. 12, 2019, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. The workshop is part of ACTIVATE Women: Activate Your Human Resources series and will focus on compensation and benefits. All women business owners are welcome to register for this free event; seating is limited!

As a small business financing company, Dakota Business Lending has seen the negative effects of the fears and unknowns that starting a business brings. This is why ACTIVATE Women began in March 2018. This a program is designed to assist women business owners with answering these questions and helping them find ways to move their business forward. These bimonthly lunch-and-learn events, held across the state of North Dakota, serve as a chance for women business owners to come together, learn from local experts on a variety of topics, and build a network of support and growth for their business.

For more information on Dakota Business Lending's ACTIVATE program, upcoming dates and topics, or to register, visit www.dakotabusinesslending.com/activate-women.

Strengthen ND receives grant from NRCS for resilient farm program

Strengthen ND received an \$88,000 grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to embark on Phase 1 of a large-scale farmstead project named Building Resilient Farm Country. Building Resilient Farm Country is a project that will support the development of regional micro-farming and local foods systems in eight North Dakota counties that have seen historic downward trending of local economies, local foods systems, and populations.

Many small, rural communities in north central North Dakota are challenged by declining investment and an out-migration of young households. To support economic development and curb rural depopulation, Strengthen ND has designed a project named Building Resilient Farm Country. Building Resilient Farm Country is a model to repopulate and expand economic opportunity for rural North Dakota by building the local food and micro-farm sectors utilizing one of North Dakota's most ample resources, abandoned or idle farmsteads.

"We are excited to partner with NRCS to execute Phase 1 of Building Resilient Farm Country," said Megan Laudenschlager, executive director of Strengthen ND. "The goal behind Building Resilient Farm Country's Phase 1 is to inventory and assess the number of vacant or idle farmsteads, along with their available features, in eight northern North Dakota counties and two Native Nations that share their borders."

More information about Strengthen ND and Building Resilient Farm Country can be found on Strengthen ND's website at www.StrengthenND.com.

Dakota Hope Clinic features Trent Horn to keynote event

Dakota Hope Clinic will welcome noted debater, pro-life advocate, and renowned Catholic apologist Trent Horn as keynote speaker for its 2019 annual fundraising banquet.

At the Dakota Hope banquet, Horn will outline non-religious reasons to oppose abortion, followed by practical strategies for defending the pro-life position in today's divisive culture. His persuasive pro-life presentation is convincing and constructive, leaving audiences with both

the knowledge and the know-how to become pro-life advocates in their own lives.

Horn earned a master's degree in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville, a master's degree in philosophy from Holy Apostles College, and is pursuing a master's degree in bioethics from the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND. He is currently an adjunct professor of apologetics at Holy Apostles College and has been invited to debate academics at UC-Berkeley, UC-Santa Barbara, and Stanford. He has written five books, including *Persuasive Pro-Life*.

The 2019 Annual Banquet is Monday, Sept. 16 at the State Fair Center in Minot. The event is free, and attendees will be asked to donate to Dakota Hope. Because of limited space, we ask that only adults attend and registration is required by Sept. 2. For information or to register click on the Partner With Us tab at www.dakotahopeclinic.org.

Sen. Hoeven recognized as an AbilityOne Congressional Champion

Sen. John Hoeven, R-ND, was recently honored as an AbilityOne® Congressional Champion of employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

SourceAmerica® distinguishes members of Congress for going the extra mile to help nonprofit agencies gain recognition in their communities or with legislative requests. Hoeven is part of a list of 156 certified Congressional Champions from 41 states and the District of Columbia.

"We appreciate the good work of SourceAmerica and the AbilityOne Program in supporting individuals with disabilities in North Dakota and across the nation," said Hoeven. "Given their important mission, we look forward to continuing to work with them to maintain and enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities."

In order to become an AbilityOne Congressional Champion, congressmembers must complete four steps that include visiting a contract site, utilizing AbilityOne products or services and showing public support for the program. Hoeven has met with advocates of the AbilityOne Program in his D.C. office and visited MVW Services, Inc's (Kalix) AbilityOne contract site at Grand Forks

Air Force Base. He's been a strong supporter of MVW Services, Inc. (Kalix) and was their first cookie business customer in the early 1990s.

"Senator Hoeven is a long-time supporter of MVW Services and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. He understands the value of work and inclusion for people of all abilities, and we appreciate his efforts to continue and expand employment opportunities through the AbilityOne Program," said Borgi Beeler, president and CEO of MVW Services, Inc. (Kalix).

Each Congressional Champion receives a plaque that incorporates a commemorative coin and two personalized certificates. The awards are framed and matted by people with disabilities at Eastern Carolina Vocational Center, Inc. in Greenville, North Carolina. Once certified, members of Congress stay on the list until they leave office.

"Members of Congress, like Sen. Hoeven, created the AbilityOne Program because they understood and supported the employment potential of professionals with disabilities," said John Kelly, vice president of government affairs for SourceAmerica.

More information about the AbilityOne Congressional Champion Program is available [online](#):



Left to right, front: Cheryl Anderson, human resource development Administrator of the ND Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Carla Goulart, executive director Civilian Accounts and the PW/NW Regions of SourceAmerica; Senator John Hoeven, R-ND; Borgi Beeler, president/CEO of Kalix, Robin Throlson, Acting Director of North Dakota Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Kathleen Gaddie, MVW Services Board Chair and Kalix Board Member

Left to right, back: Rich Campbell, MVW Services and Kalix board member; Blaine DesLauriers, Kalix board member; John MacMartin, Minot Chamber of Commerce; Mark Jantzer, Chair of Minot City Council; Rod Martinson, Director of Employment Services of Kalix

September 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Labor Day Office closed	3	4	5 Community Leadership Institute , 8 a.m., Roosevelt Park Zoo Military Affairs Committee , Noon, Grand Hotel Business After Hours , 5 – 7 p.m., Sleep Inn & Suites	6	7
8	9	10 Eagle Award Presentations , 10 a.m., Chamber office	11 Right Start Presentation , 9:45 a.m., MAFB	12 CLI Healthcare Session , 8 a.m., Trinity Health Riverside Women Connect , 9 a.m., Grand Hotel Ambassadors Committee , 4:30 p.m., Grand Hotel	13 Infrastructure Committee , 7:30 a.m., Homesteaders Restaurant	14
15	16	17 Board of Directors , 7:30 a.m., Grand Hotel	18 Coffee with the President , 1:30 p.m., Elmcroft of Minot, 3515 10th St. SW Maximize Minot , 3 p.m., Chamber office	19 CLI Leadership Session , 8 a.m., MSU Wellness Center Governmental Affairs Committee , 11:30 a.m., Badlands Restaurant	20	21
22	23	24	25 Right Start Presentation , 9:45 a.m., MAFB	26 Energy Committee , 11:30 a.m., Buffalo Wings & Rings Ribbon Cutting , 4 p.m., Town & Country Credit Union, 1525 24th Ave. SW	27	28
29	30					

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