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MINOT Chamber Communicator

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce and You!

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www.minotchamber.org

December 2020

Your vote matters: Merger vote expected in December

November election season may have passed, but there is still one important vote planned for December. The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce and Minot Area Development Corporation (MADC) continue to move forward with steps towards the merger of the two organizations. In November, both board of directors voted unanimously to support the merger. In addition, a survey was sent out to members of which 90% of the respondents were in favor of the merger. Next step will be the official vote of the membership of the chamber and investors of MADC. Those who

are chamber members and MADC investors are asked to vote through both organizations.

Want more information:

- Participate in virtual Zoom meetings that will be held in early December
- Reach out to L. John MacMartin, Minot Area Chamber of Commerce president and MADC interim president/CEO, 857-8203, macmarti@minotchamber.org.
- Check out the latest FAQ which includes answers to questions that came through the recent member survey by clicking [here](#).

Minot Area Chamber of Commerce earns 3-Star Accreditation from U.S. Chamber

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce awarded the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce with 3-Star Accreditation for its sound policies, effective organizational procedures, and positive impact on the community.

"Each day, chambers of commerce across this nation play a critical role in their communities," said Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, U.S. Chamber vice president of Federation Relations and Institute for Organization Management. "From connecting business owners with needed resources, to advocating on behalf of their region with lawmakers, these chambers convene thought leaders to strengthen the collec-

tive voices of their members."

Accreditation is the only national program that recognizes chambers for their effective organizational procedures and community involvement. In order to receive Accreditation, a chamber must meet minimum standards in their operations and programs, including areas of governance, government affairs, and technology. This extensive self-review can take 6-9 months to complete.

"This is an honor for the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce, as we are one of only

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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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Randy Schwan (Trinity Health)857-5635
Ben Slind (Thompson Larson
Funeral Home)852-3446
Jason Zimmerman (Minot
Area Community Foundation)852-0646

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two accredited chambers in North Dakota,” said President John MacMartin. “This is the first time our Chamber has received a star rating and we are proud to have reached that milestone.”

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations.

Local chambers are rated Accredited, 3-Stars, 4-Stars, or 5-Stars. State chambers are recognized as either Accredited State Chamber or Accredited State Chamber



with Distinction. The final determination is made by the Accrediting Board, a committee of U.S. Chamber board members.

It is the mission of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce to promote business, leadership and growth with emphasis on population, quality of life, education, and entrepreneurship within the greater Minot area; to unify the community on leadership and economic issues; and to be inclusive of the greater Minot area and region.

Renewals

The Chamber extends a big “THANK YOU” to our members who have renewed their membership from Oct. 24 through Nov. 23, 2020. Your continued support helps your Chamber promote the business community and do the work seen in the pages of this newsletter.

Ackerman-Estvold	FMC Technologies	North Country Mercantile & Equipment
Advanced Business Methods	Completion Services	Northern Plains Children’s Advocacy Center
AFLAC - Cassie Loard	Gymagic Gymnastics	Northland Bus Service, Inc.
American Family Agency	Herbology	Pepsico-Frito Lay
Anytime Fitness	Hess Corporation	Ryan Honda of Minot
Avis Rent A Car-Meier & Company	HighAir Ground	SCORE Chapter of Minot
Batteries Plus Bulbs	Holiday Inn Express & Suites Minot	Sherwin-Williams Company
Buffalo Wild Wings	Independence, Inc.	Signal Realtors - Jeff Stremick, CCIM
CDJ Opportunities	Indigo Signs	Southwood Apartments
Chiropractic Health & Wellness	Integrity Viking Funds	Spartan Firearms
Circle Sanitation, Inc.	Johnson Eyecare P.C.	Spicy Pie MSU
Concrete Mobile, LLC	Blake Krabseth	Swenson RV & Equipment
Cookies For You, Inc.	Comedian/Magician	Tecta America Dakotas
Cool Fish Services Inc.	LOOK Aesthetic Atelier	United Community Bank
Dakota Refrigeration Inc.	Lowe’s Garden, Inc.	Vardon Golf Club
Delta Vacations	Magic City Courier	Vision Source Minot, PLLC
Dufner Construction, Inc.	Maintenance Plus Inc.	Wells Fargo
Essential Living, Inc. , Park South Apartments	McDonald’s Restaurants of Minot	The WriteDesign
Fastlane Car Wash	Minot Symphony Association	The Wyatt Apartments
FedEx Express	MSI Service & Solutions	

A note from our President:

On Friday, Nov. 13, the Governor issued an executive order activating the State Emergency Operations Plan and provided details regulating how businesses should operate in the coming weeks. That order was followed by the State Health Officer order detailing the mandatory use of masks. Follow this [link](#) to read more on the executive order and to access signs for your business.



L. John MacMartin

The COVID numbers in our state and in our community have been rising in the last several months. Every time we turn around there is someone else that we know personally who has contracted the virus. We have reached a point where we either need to take personal responsibility or go back to the almost complete lockdown that we saw last spring. We believe that the business community has a very distinct role to lead in this effort. That role is to actively follow the requirements that the Governor and State Health Officer have outlined in the respective orders. The alternative is to do nothing and to then expect a shutdown of business activity. Our state neighbor to the east, Minnesota, is expected to do just that.

We all struggle with what we are being asked to do because, after all, we call our economic system free enterprise, and yes it is. One of our partners, the Greater North Dakota Chamber, sent the following message out to its members.

“From the beginning of the pandemic, we have stood by the fact

that North Dakota businesses should make decisions based on the best interests of their operations, their clientele, and most importantly, their workforce,” stated Arik Spencer, GNDC CEO and President. “While we do not support mandates on businesses or our free enterprise system, we do understand the issuing of these orders in lieu of the alternative – shuttering businesses or shelter-in-place orders. The success of our economy relies on the performance of each industry and sector. If we must return to a lockdown status, this will stifle all recovery efforts and create burdens for our businesses and state leaders and further harm our citizens.”

Visit the GNDC website [here](#) for more information.

So let's help lead the way to reversing the numbers we have been seeing daily.

L. John MacMartin, CCE

President, Minot Area Chamber of Commerce

**FACE MASKS
REQUIRED**

WHILE IN THIS BUILDING



Help prevent the spread of germs and protect yourself from COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses.

#MASKUPND

**NORTH
Dakota**
Be Legendary™

Mayor signs temporary changes to liquor licensing regulations

Mayor Shaun Sipma signed two temporary emergency orders to assist local alcoholic beverage license holders in dealing with business model changes due to COVID-19.

Emergency Order 2020-3 permits supper club licensees to sell beer and wine off-sale in addition to on-sale of liquor, beer, and wine. Emergency Order 2020-4 gives applicants an option to pay half the applicable license fee upon application for a 2021 license and half no later than July 1, 2021.

“Because of the restrictions on these businesses related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, I felt there was a need to temporarily allow the changes to support these members of our small business community,” Sipma said. “As we navigate these challenging times together, we must adapt to the changing needs of our business community.”

Both orders are effective immediately and will last for 60 days unless the declared emergency is terminated earlier.

For additional information contact the Public Information Office at 857-4727 or by email at pio@minotnd.org.

Operation Thank You

*Look for
delivery of your
2021 Chamber
Membership
Directory
during*

*Operation Thank You
from Dec. 7 through 11.*



November 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, Anytime Fitness, and Waxing the City** for providing gift certificates for each Eagle recipient.



JEAN SCHEMP
Home Town Radio Group



MARVIN WALHOOD
*Connole & Somerville
Plumbing Heating & AC, Inc.*



KAREN GUTTORMSON
Midco



MATT SUND
SRT Communications, Inc.



BRANDON YABASAKI
Charlie's Main Street Cafe



MARILYN LAFONTAINE
Kroll's Diner



ANDREW CONREY
Marketplace Foods



ERIN KLOCKE
Pet Vet



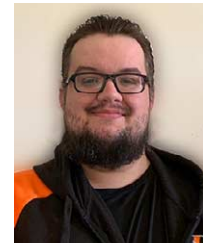
DILLON FLOERKE
Kevin's Plumbing and Heating



RAY COOK
Vardon Golf Course



JOSH HERMAN
Herman Pest Control



JUSTIN WAGERS
Barnes and Noble



JASON BROWN
OfficeMax



KIEL WERRE
Napa Auto Parts



JAMES BLOODSWORTH
Napa Auto Parts



DALLAS SAMDAHL
Superpumper



DALE VETTER
Pomp's Tire Service

ACCRA third quarter cost of living slightly less than nationwide costs

Minot's cost of living is slightly below the annual national average for the third quarter of 2020. (U.S. Average Composite Index = 100%) The cost of living index is published by the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA). 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 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: Third Quarter 2020 (U.S. Average Composite Index: 100%)

	Minot ND	Bismarck/Mandan ND Metro	Grand Forks ND-MN Metro	Minneapolis MN Metro	Pierre SD
COMPOSITE INDEX	99.8	98.8	90.8	104.9	103.4
GROCERY ITEMS	106.5	103.8	91.9	101.6	100.5
HOUSING	88.7	91.6	93.0	102.8	126.8
UTILITIES	86.9	85.9	93.4	97.9	89.7
TRANSPORTATION	111.0	106.1	96.3	102.7	92.4
HEALTH CARE	115.1	117.7	108.5	102.7	96.7
MISC. GOODS	104.6	101.6	84.3	110.5	93.8



It's Magic in Minot!

There's a positive movement going on in Minot. We're rediscovering that our community is full of energy and a spirit for being a better place to live, to visit and to love. We have friendly and helpful faces, big ideas, a can-do attitude and fun things to do everywhere. Get excited again about the Magic City. Join the conversation and share why you think it's #MagicInMinot.



MAGICINMINOT.COM

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.



High Third

7 1st Street SE
Downtown Minot
Minot, ND 58701
701-837-1580
Mike Miller, Owner
www.highthirdminot.com

Minot Chamber Ambassadors cut the ribbon at Minot's newest gathering place. High Third is an American-Canadian Fusion Gastropub in downtown Minot with culinary inspired bar food. High Third offers an outdoor, heated patio year-round and an experience that starts once you walk in.



Mattress By Appointment Minot: 922 37th Ave SW • Minot, ND • 701-651-8815 • Owner: Dylan K. Dawson

Website: <https://mattressbyappointment.com/locations/nd/minot/#sched-appt> • @MinotMBA (Facebook business page)

Chamber Ambassadors helped celebrate the grand opening of locally owned Mattress By Appointment, which offers queen size sets starting at \$150 and king size sets starting at \$275. Customers meet by appointment, which keeps overhead down so the savings can be passed on to customers. Supplies are limited. Call or text 701-651-8815 for appointment. This comfy product will help you wake up feeling refreshed and happy.

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Drop off baked goods for MAFB Airmen Cookie Drive Dec. 7 & 8

Dear Chamber Member:

It's that time of year for TEAM MINOT to provide some Christmas goodies for our friends to the north. Yes, it's time to bake cookies again! The cookies are distributed to the nearly 1,200 first-term airmen who live in the dorms on Minot Air Force Base. The airmen are between the ages of 18-20 and are required to live in the dorm. It is probably the first time they have been away from family for the holidays.

Baking cookies is just one small way the City of Minot can show its appreciation to the men and women serving our country. The overall goal between the Base and downtown is 1,200 dozen, which means one dozen homemade holiday goodies per person for the first term airmen.

We are asking you to bake a few dozen cookies, as home-baked cookies are really appreciated, and drop them off at the Chamber office, 1020 20th Ave. SW. The drop off times are

Dec. 7 & 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cookies will be delivered to the Base so they can be boxed and distributed to the first term airmen.

This year will be different as we work to use safe practices during COVID. Please be sure to have your cookies in a re-sealable container or bag. You can drop off the cookies and place them on the table in our entryway.

Please help us support the young men and women of Minot Air Force Base! If you have any questions, please call the Chamber at 852-6000.



Randy Hauck,
Chair of Military Affairs Committee



The “We Call Minot Home” portrait installation on display

The “We Call Minot Home” portrait installation was completed Nov. 4 in the alley off Central Avenue (near 1st Street SE) in downtown Minot.

The #wecallminothome project joins 129 countries and 260,000 participants in a global effort to change the world by celebrating the individuality of people in different communities. Learn more about the efforts through the website and documentary @insideoutproject

Take a drive or walk downtown to see it for yourself and spread the word for others to check it out. Organizers say it will remain as long as weather and passersby are kind.

MaskUP

Save lives!



First District



www.fdh.u.org



St. Aloisius Medical Center

SMP Health System



Presentation Medical Center

SMP Health System



St. Andrew's Health Center

SMP Health System



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Town & Country recognized with two awards

Town & Country Credit Union was recognized with two awards from the Dakota Credit Union Association. The credit union received 1st place in the 2019 Marketing & Communications Award and 2nd place in the 2019 Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Award. The awards were presented during the Association's annual summit event this October in Sioux Falls, SD.

The Marketing & Communications Award recognizes a marketing communications piece or project that was used over the past year and could include radio, TV, print or online advertisements, social media campaigns, websites, newsletters, or a specific marketing plan targeted towards member-

ship or potential membership demographic. Town & Country submitted their first annual 2018 Impact Report for consideration. To view the report, click [here](#).

The Dora Maxwell Social Responsibility Community Service Award is given to a credit union or chapter for its social responsibility projects within the community. Town & Country's application included their [Nonprofit Account package](#), which was created and launched in late 2018 and seeks to provide added value for nonprofit organizations.

"At Town & Country Credit Union, we're committed to making a positive impact on our members and our communities," said Jeremiah Kossen, president/CEO of Town & Country Credit Union. "I'm proud to see

our team recognized for their work in showcasing our credit union's impact in the Impact Report and creating the Nonprofit Account package designed to help area nonprofits amplify their own positive impact on our communities."

The Dakota Credit Union Association, formerly the Credit Union Association of the Dakotas, is the professional financial trade association for credit unions in North Dakota and South Dakota. Their mission is to help credit unions succeed through legislative and regulatory advocacy, compliance, credit union awareness and professional development. Learn more about the Dakota Credit Union Association [here](#).

Give the Gift of Savings!

Make a deposit into any new or existing youth savings account in December and **we'll match it up to \$25!**

Stop in or give us a call today!



TOWN & COUNTRY
CREDIT UNION

(800)-872-6358



*Youth savings accounts are those held by kids ages 0-12. Limit one (1) match per account December 1 - 31, 2020. Terms and conditions apply and are subject to change. Cannot be combined with other offers.



COMMUNITY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

The members of Verendrye Electric Cooperative stepped up this year to meet a wide range of needs in our communities through Operation Roundup. By rounding up their electric bills to the next dollar they've supported the Ward County Historical Society, Berthold Park District, Harvey Ambulance, Velva Saddle Club and many more community organizations. In fact, our members have provided over \$1.2 million through nearly 1,200 grants since 1996.

That's the power of human connections.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
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**Verendrye
Electric
Cooperative**

Coborn's, Inc. announces hiring drive to meet holiday demands

Employee-owned Coborn's, Inc. is looking to help keep the community working and fill more than 500 positions throughout its grocery, liquor, and convenience stores, in addition to its warehouse and distribution center. The company announced a hiring initiative to fill open positions throughout the company in preparation for the upcoming holidays. From Minnesota to Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota, full-time, part-time, and seasonal opportunities are available in a variety of departments.

Interested individuals are encouraged to visit cobornsjobs.com to learn more about the company's available career opportunities. Positions are available in many areas of the company's retail operations including deli, bakery, meat, produce, coffee shops, floral, pharmacy, checkout, dry goods, and Class A & B truck drivers, central warehouse and bakery production

workers.

"In addition to serving our communities with their grocery, liquor, and convenience needs, we're also here to help keep people working. With the holidays fast-approaching, we understand the importance of a regular income" said Austin Vogler, Coborn's, Inc. Talent, Culture, & HR Manager. "Whether your hours have been reduced, your position has been eliminated, or you're simply looking for something new, a career in the grocery retail industry has proven to ensure stability in income and opportunity."

"We pride ourselves on flexible scheduling," said Emily Coborn, vice president of operations for the company. "This makes us a great option for individuals looking for a second income. If you're looking for additional hours, temporary hours or a full-time or part-time opportunity, consider coming to work a few hours at your local Coborn's Cash Wise, Marketplace or Hornbacher's grocery store." She added,

"We have many opportunities...from stocking shelves, cleaning, shopping orders for online customers, cashiering and more. You may even discover a new, stable career!"

Coborn's Executive Vice President of Operations, Dave Meyer, said, "In my 35 years with the company, I've never gone through anything quite like we're experiencing today. Our employees have risen to the occasion and have become true superheroes in their communities. Now, more than ever, we're looking for remarkable employees who enjoy providing friendly customer service and supporting local business in their communities."

Coborn's has prided itself on providing a safe working environment for its employees and customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The company provides a robust benefits package including an employee discount to its employees.

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- THINKING ABOUT SELLING A BUSINESS?
- BEHIND ON YOUR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS?
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- UNCERTAINTY IN YOUR CASH FLOW?
- WHAT'S KEEPING YOU UP AT NIGHT?

I CAN HELP ON A JOB, RETAINER, HOURLY OR BARTER BASIS. LET'S MEET OVER A CUP OF COFFEE AND DISCUSS YOUR CHALLENGES.

701.833.8821

jstewart@srt.com



Sertoma Club sponsors Christmas in the Park through Jan. 2

The Minot Sertoma Club will bring light once again to Oak Park in Minot through its display of Christmas-themed lights for the community to enjoy. The Christmas lights are displayed through Jan. 2, from 5:30 to 10 p.m. weekdays and 5:30 to 11 p.m. weekends. Christmas in the Park is a way for Sertoma to earn money and give back to the community by supporting local.

The cost for viewing Christmas in the Park is \$5 per car with a special rate for limos and buses. Sertoma is again offering discounted tickets. Pre-purchase tickets and receive five tickets for \$20. The tickets make great recognition gifts and stocking stuffers for your employees, friends and family. Tickets can be purchased at VisitMinot, MarketPlace Foods or at the gate.

“A drive through Christmas in the Park is sure to brighten your holidays,” said Paul Gillund, Sertoma president. “We

have several new bright and beautiful displays this year that are sure to put a smile on everyone’s face whether you’re 5 or 105.”

Money earned by Sertoma events goes back into the community through the different activities sponsored by Sertoma. Minot Sertoma serves the Minot community in a variety of ways. Areas of interest and service include speech and hearing disorders and youth-related activities. Sertoma supports local education through scholarships and supports organized activities such as STEAM T-ball league, Minot Family YMCA and MAYSA Arena. It offers financial support to the ND Center for Persons with Disabilities, North Dakota Hands & Voices, and the Induction Looping at Ann Nicole Nelson Hall and Amphitheater at Minot State University, as well as providing assistance to those with very specific needs.

Sertoma is a community service group with the ultimate purpose of meeting the needs of communities through service. Minot Sertoma, which is short for “service to mankind,” has served the Minot community since 1959. Since then, Sertoma has donated more than \$1 million to the Minot community and surrounding area. Membership consists of more than 60 area businessmen and women who are commit-

ted to giving back to their community.

If you have any questions about pre-purchasing tickets, please call Kathleen White at 701-240-4458.

MPD sponsors 4th Annual “Stuff A Squad” Toy Drive Dec. 6

The Minot Police Department and the North Dakota Fraternal Order of Police – Souris Valley Regional Lodge #7 are again partnering for the 4th Annual Stuff a Squad Toy Drive. This event will happen Sunday, Dec. 6 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Walmart Supercenter, 3900 South Broadway.

Members of the public are invited to purchase and donate a new unwrapped toy to local law enforcement officers who will use them to “stuff a squad.” The donations are divided among The Salvation Army and Community Action Partnership which invite qualifying families to select items to provide area children presents for the holidays.

The generosity of shoppers during previous years’ Stuff a Squad events in Minot have yielded enough donations to fill as many as six patrol vehicles full of toys for children who might not have otherwise received presents over the holiday season.

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PRESENT & FUTURE**

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

First International Bank and Trust donates \$20,000 to Souris Valley United Way from Minot Employee Fund

First International Bank & Trust (FIB&T) is pleased to announce a \$20,000 donation recently awarded to Souris Valley United Way from the Minot Employee Fund.

First International Bank & Trust is a Premier Sponsor for Souris Valley United Way, believing that this partnership with Souris Valley United Way not only helps many local programs, but also has a lasting impact on many people in the community.

First International Bank & Trust has been banking for more than 110 years, 28 locations, three Minot offices, four generations, one family. Live First!



Left to right: Denise Larson, John Drady, both First International Bank and Trust; Christy Miller (SVUW Outreach Coordinator), Rich Berg (SVUW Executive Director).

Anne Carlsen hires Blake Ritteman as Operations Manager, West Region

Anne Carlsen, a nonprofit organization providing individuals with developmental disability or delays with services and supports for almost 80 years, has hired Blake Ritteman to serve as their operations manager in the west region, currently serving Minot and Bismarck. In this role, Ritteman will manage services in all of western North Dakota including behavioral health, autism and in-home supports.



Blake Ritteman

Ritteman received a bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University in philosophy and humanities, as well as a

master's of science in psychology from the Institute of Psychological Sciences, Arlington, VA. He previously worked for Anne Carlsen in Grand Forks and brings extensive experience overseeing services and supports for individuals in various settings, including intermediate care facility group homes, residential, independent and day habilitation and employment services. Ritteman joins multiple other new hires in the autumn months to expand Anne Carlsen services in western North Dakota. For more information on Anne Carlsen Center and services provided, visit annecarlsen.org

JDRF Community One Walk in Minot participates in first ever national JDRF One Walk campaign; raises \$21,000 locally for Type 1 Diabetes Research

Together, with JDRF One Walk sup-

porters across the country, the collective efforts of more than 10,000 people walked 1.6 million miles to support the type 1 diabetes community

Despite the impacts of COVID-19 hindering the ability to hold an in-person walk, the community of Minot rallied to continue to participate in the JDRF Community One Walk on Sunday, Nov. 1. Organized by JDRF volunteers, the community raised more than \$21,000 to fund critically needed type 1 diabetes (T1D) research.

"We are grateful for the incredible support of community, business leaders, and our T1D families here in the Minot area" said Brekka Kramer, Community One Walk Chair. "The dollars raised at this year's event will lead to better lives for the 1.6 million Americans with type 1 diabetes, and will help us realize our vision of a world without T1D."

This year's walk also kicked off National Diabetes Awareness Month, recognized each November. Throughout the month, the type 1 diabetes community around the world shares stories and experiences of living with T1D to bring awareness and attention to an often misunderstood disease. The JDRF Community One Walk this year gave opportunity to celebrate the achievements and resiliency of all of those who live with T1D.

November 14 is recognized globally as World Diabetes Day. Consider helping support the efforts of those living in Minot and North Dakota with a donation toward the Minot Community One Walk. Gifts can be made online at www.walk.jdrf.org/minot2020. Your gift will ensure JDRF's mission to accelerate life-changing breakthroughs that will improve lives and find cures continues, especially throughout the on-going pandemic.

JDRF gratefully acknowledges its local corporate partners: Hess Corporation, Sanford Health, API Bakken Chapter, and the Minot Sunrise Rotary Club.



Life is all about moments

Hoping the holiday season brings you many joyful memories.



FIBT.com



0147_11-20

St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation Grants reach \$8.7 million in gifts to communities

Grants totaling \$123,600 were approved to support a wide variety of area projects. Grants provided to organizations are for projects that impact the mental, physical, spiritual and/or emotional well-being of people in the counties of Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, McLean, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, Rolette, Sheridan, Ward and Wells. Preparing for tomorrows biomedical science professionals, freezer for community resource center and food pantry, supervised parenting and child exchange, pregnancy and parenting support, meals and transportation for seniors, art and yoga therapy for counseled veterans, juvenile drug court incentive program, immunization program, holistic program awareness, nutrition services for seniors, automatic external defibrillators, upgrade emergency dispatch, new sound system, strength, balance and mobility program for seniors, handicap ramp and much more will be impacted by the grants given.

"At this time of so many unknowns, due to the COVID19 pandemic, we are especially thankful and grateful to the many organizations, board members, staff and volunteers who work tirelessly in our region to secure a better quality of life by identifying and serving the needs in their communities." Shelly Wepler, President, SJCHF.

"Beginning November 15, St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation will match eligible contributions up to a total amount of \$350,000 to 73 agencies and food pantries through the SJCHF Twice Blessed Program. Agencies applied last summer and were approved to be a part of the program. Contribute to the agency of your choice at twiceblessednd.com beginning Nov. 15."

St. Joe's Community Health Foundation launches "Twice Blessed" campaign

St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation announced the kick-off of its

fourth annual "Twice Blessed" campaign, a matching grant program that will double contributions made to 44 area non-profit organizations between Nov. 15 and Dec. 31, 2020. The Foundation is providing \$330,000 to the program this year to be matched.

"The Twice Blessed campaign provides a new approach to charitable giving in north-central North Dakota," said Shelly C. Wepler, SJCHF president. Potential donors interested in improving the health and well-being of area residents can go to one website – twiceblessednd.com – to learn about the mission and goals of each of the 44 area organizations participating in the program. They can donate via the website or by sending contributions directly to our foundation or the participating organizations. No gift is too small, and gifts will be matched up to four agency levels from \$1,000 to \$25,000. Visit twiceblessednd.com to learn more.

"The November and December timing of Twice Blessed is intentional," Wepler said. "Charitable giving typically increases during the holidays when people reflect upon their own blessings and reach out to others. It's also the time of the year when people may be looking for federal tax deductions. In either case, Twice Blessed is a great way to double the impact of your gift."

In its fourth year the number of organizations participating has more than doubled. For a list of the participating non-profit organizations and more information about the campaign, visit twiceblessednd.com.

Dakota Dental Health Center welcomes Dr. Tyler Shaw to its team

Dakota Dental Health Center is excited to introduce Dr. Tyler Shaw, who will join Dr. Doug Bengson and his team.

Originally from the mountain west, Dr. Shaw attended Creighton University School of Dentistry in Omaha, followed by an additional year of residency as part of Idaho's Advanced Education in General Dentistry program. He has prac-

ticed dentistry in both Montana and Idaho.

He and his wife have four children. Their children are active in sports and music, and the whole family enjoys the outdoors, as well as participating in community events and activities.



Dr. Tyler Shaw

*Story courtesy of The Minot Daily News
By Jill Schramm*

The cancellation of the annual CP Rail Holiday Train this year leaves Minot without the associated food drive a time when more members of the community are struggling financially due to the pandemic.

To fill that void, *The Minot Daily News* and the Minot Area Homeless Coalition have teamed up to collect nonperishable food items and toiletries to increase the inventory for the Lord's Cupboard. Money donations will be taken to support the homeless coalition in helping with rent and utility needs in the community.

The donation drive began Nov. 24 and will run through Dec. 18. Drop box locations will be announced in early November.

Members of the community were invited to submit homemade or model trains to be displayed in businesses in Minot. *The Minot Daily News* will publish pictures of all the trains, along with maps showing locations of the displays and drop boxes, on its website. People are encouraged to vote for their favorite trains. The winner will be recognized at the end of the contest.

People can watch for more information about potential donation stations for the homeless coalition. Donations can be made online at minotareahomelesscoalition.com.

Businesses interested in serving as drop box locations can send an email to Patchen with "drop box" in the subject line.

Council approves Harold Stewart II as next city manager

The Minot City Council officially hired Harold Stewart II as the next City Manager after approving a contract during a special meeting on Friday.

Stewart comes to Minot from Warrensburg, Mo., where he has been the city manager. He was chosen from an original pool of 50 applicants, which was narrowed to three finalists. The finalists were interviewed by the City Council and a separate panel of department heads and community stakeholders.

“My family and I are very excited to become part of the Minot community. I strongly believe Minot has all the necessary components in place to forge a sustainable future,” Stewart said. “I look forward to working together with the Mayor, Council, City staff, community leadership, businesses, and citizens. I recognize it will take all of us to make Minot what we dream it could be.”

Stewart is scheduled to begin working in Minot on Dec. 28. He’s familiar with Minot, having been a finalist for the Minot City Manager job in 2014.

“We’re pleased to have Harold join us as our community continues to move forward,” Minot Mayor Shaun Sipma said. “The next few years are critical to Minot’s success, and the City Manager will play a key role in our development. We look forward to Harold joining our team.”

For additional information contact the Public Information Office at 857-4727 or by email at pio@minotnd.org.

City of Minot sanitation employee wins safe driving award

Shawn Danielson of the City of Minot’s sanitation department has been named Public Safety Hero of the Year by Safe Fleet/Fleetmind, an organization that promotes safe driving behavior across North America.

Danielson has worked in the City’s sanitation department for six years, and has an impeccable safety record, according to City of Minot Sanitation Superintendent Josh Kraft.

“Shawn is an exceptional driver who takes great pride in doing his job in the safest, most efficient ways possible,” Kraft said. “He’s earned this recognition through hard work, and we thank him for his continued dedication to the residents of Minot.”

Fleet Safe awards only one Public Safety Hero of the Year annually. Danielson will receive a \$1,000 check for winning the award. He was formally recognized by Mayor Shaun Sipma during the Nov. 16 City Council meeting.

As part of selecting its annual grand prize winner, Safe Fleet officials analyzed data from the City’s automated sanitation truck driven by Danielson, which records many types of driving data, including any time the truck may have experienced harsh braking, speeding, tailgating, or other data points. That information is part of the process in naming its Public Safety Hero of the Year.

“Shawn is recognized for demonstrating exceptional road awareness and safe driving habits,” according to information from

Safe Fleet. “With a proven history of the longest and most consistent safety driving record in the City of Minot, we are proud to reward him as the 2020 grand prize winner.”

For additional information contact the Public Information Office at 701-857-4727 or by email at pio@minotnd.org.

Meals on Wheels volunteers help rescue area resident

Volunteers from the Minot area Meals on Wheels program noticed smoke coming out of a home in the 2000 block of 1st Avenue SE on Nov. 10. Smoke detectors were also going off.

They immediately called 911 and made sure the elderly resident got out of her home safely. A neighbor also checked to make sure the home was empty, and no injuries were reported.

When the fire department arrived, they extinguished a small fire in the garage. The door to the garage was open, so the home had some smoke damage, and the garage suffered fire and smoke damage.

“The volunteers did everything right today,” said Battalion Chief Jason Babinchak. “They quickly recognized the danger of the situation, helped the homeowner exit safely and alerted the Minot Fire Department through 911. They’re the heroes today.”

Halverson wins Thomas J. Lyon Award

Assistant professor of English Cathryn Halverson has written several books about authors of the American West. Her most recent, "Faraway Women and The Atlantic Monthly" won the Thomas J. Lyon Award from The Western Literature Association. Originally from Pennsylvania, Halverson moved to Minot in 2018 after teaching college English in Japan and Denmark. With



Michigan being the farthest west she had ever lived before, her interest in the American West took root earlier in her life.

"I think it was because I just wanted to be in the West," she said. "I was getting my Ph.D. in Michigan, so it was kind of compensation; at least I could be reading books about it. In fact, when I originally started, I was reading more Native American literature and then realized that part of what was attracting me was the places where they were. Once it became more regional-based as opposed to Native American-based, that just sort of opened up the field for me."

Faraway Women and The Atlantic Monthly is Halverson's third book. However, the idea for it started when she was writing "Playing House in the American West: Western Women's Life Narrative," her second.

"One of the reviews about that book said, 'Several writers all have links to The Atlantic Monthly. It would have been nice to hear more about that,' and at that time I had already started that book because I had the same feeling," she said.

After applying for the Thomas J. Lyon Award twice before, Halverson was ready to win it, and according to the award's committee, it was appropriately so.

"Combining scholarly rigor with an engaging and entertaining rhetorical style, *Faraway Women* complicates how we think about the relationships among regionalism, the vernacular, and modernity; the intersections of genre, gender, agency, and power; and the raced, classed, and gendered politics of literary form and critical practice," they said. "She deftly negotiates between her significant archival

work and the published texts, all with a powerful and often humorous voice. This book offers readers the work of a scholar at the top of her game."

On top of winning the award, Halverson's book also received positive remarks in The American Literary History Online Review from Oxford University Press.

"The best of these studies challenge what we thought we already knew about a magazine, a literary genre, or a literary period. Halverson's book is of this type," said reviewer Kirsten MacLeod. "In a broad sense, her method is to read against the grain, and she does so in various ways to challenge some firmly entrenched positions within scholarly fields."

Both sources agree that *Faraway Women and The Atlantic Monthly* has made significant contributions in many different fields like periodical studies, women's studies, and modernist literature.

Now Halverson is working on her fourth book, narrowing in Juanita Harrison, one of the authors from her third.

"She was my last chapter in the previous book," she said. "When I was in Laramie, WY, I had a fellowship there, and it was in the history department. They had all these free books that you could take because professors were moving, and there was this history of domestic writers in the United States in the '70s. I had read it long before, but I found it again, and I started re-reading and there was all this stuff that was relevant to my subject. I was like, 'Oh, I'll add this to that chapter, I should add that, but I can't because it's a big chapter.' So I thought, 'Oh, this is the next book, then I'll be able to expand.'"

Halverson has won many fellowships for research for her books, including one in Boston for *Faraway Women* and an upcoming one from the Huntington Library in California. She also has traveled for her work to Chicago, New York, Montana, and Hawaii with plans to visit Mississippi and find research from Buenos Aires.

New Prior Learning Assessment offers University credits for real-life skills

The Minot State University College of Business has launched a new program, the Prior Learning Assessment, empowering individuals to exchange real-life skills for college credits.

Work experience, military experience,

and professional development may make persons eligible for college credits, accelerating the time it takes to complete a degree while simultaneously reducing costs.

"Adult students have significant knowledge obtained through non-academic means; we want to recognize this learning and assess its value toward college credit," said Linda Cresap, Minot State University College of Business Master of Science in Sports Management program director and business information technology professor.

The program offers three ways to earn credit: credit by experience, challenge exams, and certifications.

To earn credit by experience, individuals will create a digital portfolio, under the guidance of a faculty member, for each course in which they seek credit. The course faculty will then review the portfolio and determine the credit award.

The challenge exam option enables currently registered students to receive credit by examination for courses for which they have not already been enrolled.

Finally, earning a professional certification may present the opportunity to earn college credit.

Recent national research, conducted in part by the Center for Adult and Experiential Learning, found that in 24,512 adult learners, the college degree completion rate was 49% for those who pursued prior learning assessment as opposed to a completion rate of 27% for those adult learners who did not consider opportunities for prior learning assessment. Prior learning assessment incentivizes students to complete their education by recognizing their non-academic learning achievements.

Tuition for Prior Learning Assessment credits is 50% of the regular per credit cost, saving students substantial money along with time.

For more information, visit MinotStateU.edu/business/priorlearning or contact Cresap at 701-858-3316.



December 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Military Affairs Committee, Noon, Zoom	4	5
6	7 MAFB Cookie Drive Drop off, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Chamber Office	8 MAFB Cookie Drive Drop off, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Chamber Office Eagle Awards Presentation 10 a.m., Chamber office	9 Right Start Presentation, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom	10	11	12
	Operation Thank You: Delivery of Directories: Dec. 7 – 11					
13	14	15 Board of Directors, 7:30 a.m., Zoom	16 Coffee with the President, 1:30 p.m., Zoom	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day, Office Closed	26
						
27	28	29	30	31		

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