

Communicator

THE MINOT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND YOU!

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www.minotchamber.org

March 2020

Merger talks continue

MADC and Chamber boards discuss merging agencies

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce and the MADC Board of Directors have each agreed to move ahead with looking into the possibility of merging. In February, the groups heard from Bismarck/Mandan Chamber EDC Director Brian Ritter on what was involved for their two organizations to combine. After that talk, the two boards agreed to pursue the idea to weigh the pros and cons for the Minot entities.

A committee will be organized to represent MADC and the Minot Chamber to move for-

ward. The process will entail looking at assets, bylaws, boards, staff and more. Any member with questions regarding this process is encouraged to call the Chamber/MADC and visit with Minot Area Chamber of Commerce President and acting MADC President John MacMartin about their questions and or concerns. In addition, you can also reach out to the volunteer board members of each organization.

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Barksdale Award is in Minot for next two years

The City of Minot is celebrating the fact that the Barksdale Trophy is in Minot. The award is given for outstanding community support to an Air Force Global Strike Command base. Minot is one of only two communities to receive the honor since it was created in 2017. Community selection is based on programs, community investment in infrastructure, and community



support in securing state and federal funds for infrastructure or programs to benefit military members and their families.

Mayor Shaun Sipma highlighted the award and members of Task Force 21 for their hard work in the application process for the trophy

during the State of the City Address. A special thank you goes out to Brekka Kramer

(Odney) and Tom Rafferty (Verendrye Electric Cooperative), Chair of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication as it took several hours to fill out the application.

The Barksdale Trophy is currently at the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce if you would like to stop and see it at 1020 20th Ave SW.



Business After Hours - Minot International Airport

Thursday, March 26, 2020 • 5–7 p.m.

Minot International Airport: 305 Airport Road

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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Award program honors businesses that hire veterans

The HIRE Vets Medallion Program is an employer recognition program administered by the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS). Through the program, VETS accepts voluntary applications from employers for the HIRE Vets Medallion Award beginning Jan. 31 of each calendar year. The award recognizes employers

who hire and retain veterans, including their efforts to establish employee development programs and veteran specific benefits to improve retention.

Employer-applicants meeting criteria can receive an award. Detailed information about how to gain eligibility can be found at [HIREVets.gov](https://hirevets.gov).

2020 Census forms mailed out in March

The 2020 United States Census is just around the corner! Census forms will be mailed out the second week of March. The first day you can register with the census is March 12. The City of Minot encourages all residents to fill out and return the census form immediately. This census is the first in history to allow people to participate via telephone and internet. If you do not self-respond by the end of April, a cen-

sus bureau employee will visit your place of residence to obtain your census information during the month of May. Please remember that all census data is confidential and can only be used to produce statistics. Your personal information will not be released until the year 2092. For more information on the census, please visit <https://www.census.gov/>.

Save the Date:

Citywide Cleanup: May 1 & 2

Renewals

The Chamber extends a big "THANK YOU" to our members who have renewed their membership from Jan. 24 through Feb. 21, 2020. Your continued support helps your Chamber promote the business community and do the work seen in the pages of this newsletter.

1st Minot Management
AFLAC - Cassie Loard
Aksal Group, LLC
Behm Energy
Beyond Shelter, Inc.
Bones BBQ Smokehouse & Grill
Cash Wise Foods
Clute Office Equipment
Conlin's Furniture
Culligan Water Conditioning
Cummins Sales and Service
Denny's Restaurant
Elite Real Estate
First International Bank & Trust
First International Insurance
The Flower House Garden Center
Gate City Bank
Heritage Baptist Church
Independence, Inc.
JL Beers
Kalix
KMOT - TV, Channel 10

Blake Krabseth, Comedian/Magician
Kroll's Diner
Judge Gary Lee
Leingang Home Center
Magic City Discovery Center
Magic City Harley-Davidson-Minot
Margie's Studio
Montana Dakota Utilities Company
Northwest Building Improvement
Northwest Projector
Optical Outlook
Papa Murphy's Take 'N' Bake Pizza
Pinkerton Animal Hospital
Professional Hearing Services
Stone Crafters, Inc.
Team Resources Inc., dba H & R Block
Thrifty White Pharmacy
Trinity Health
Watne, REALTORS®
The WriteDesign

YP group sponsors March 4 speaker

Minot State University Alumni, Ryan Fila, will be speaking about facing adversity, and how important it is for each of us to focus on how we respond in life. What truly defines who we are isn't what happens to us or the life we were born into, but how we respond to it. That goes for big life events like choosing colleges and loved

ones passing away to micro, everyday events like someone cutting you off in traffic. This will take place Wednesday, March 4 at noon at the Grand Hotel.

Cost is \$15 for YP Members and MSU students, \$20 for non-members.

To register go to the Chamber website at www.minotchamber.org and click on March 4.

Military Ball set for April 4

The 32nd annual International Military Ball, a formal event with a gourmet meal and entertainment, is set for Saturday, April 4 at the Grand Hotel.

The black tie event begins with a social at 6 p.m. This will also be a time to take formal pictures and pass through the receiving line, which will include commanders of Minot AFB and our Canadian counterparts. At 7 p.m., dinner chimes will bring guests into a separate room for a formal meal. See the mouth-watering menu below. Enjoy the Canadian Pipes & Drums, the USAF Heartland of America Band - Raptor, and the Minot Air Force Base Honor Guard.

Don't miss out! Contact the Chamber today to sign up. Cost is \$75 per person. For more information or to register, please call 852-6000 or email chamber@minotchamber.org.

Menu

- * Knoephla Soup
- * Fruit Burst Salad
- * Fried Striped Lobster Ravioli in Garlic Scallion Cream Sauce
- * 6 oz Filet of Tenderloin w/Charon Sauce
- * Colossal Shrimp on Top
- * Honey Mustard Glazed Yukon Potatoes
- * Sunburst Squash on a bed of Curly Carrots
- * Dessert: Brulee Cheesecake with Three-Berry Medley in Spiced Rum Sauce



Sponsors needed to support students at April 8 Honors Banquet

The 58th Annual Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Honors Banquet will be Wednesday, April 8. The event highlights outstanding seniors from ten area schools, recognizing the hard work and dedication of the students who reach a 3.75 grade point average or higher from Berthold, Bishop Ryan Catholic School, Des Lacs Burlington, Glenburn, Minot, Nedrose, Our Redeemers, South Prairie, Surrey, and new this year, Velva.

"The Honors Banquet was started

to recognize these outstanding young people who have worked so hard to reach their goals," said Minot Chamber President John MacMartin. "These schools don't currently have a banquet to recognize their honors students, so the Chamber is proud to provide this opportunity."

The event will be held at the Grand Hotel beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8. Sponsors are needed to provide the meal for free to the graduating seniors. Tickets are \$20 per person.

Customer service is key to success

Ask a customer what brings them back to a business and many will tell you it's the great customer service experience they received. Sure, price and quality are important, but the way you are treated makes a huge difference. A bad experience seems to hit the streets and spread like wild fire.

The people who are at the front lines of customer service in a community (hotel clerks, waiters, retail workers, government employees) all know the importance of customer service and the knowledge of what is happening in their community, but everyone can use a refresher course. That's why the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce, along with the Small Business Development Center and Visit Minot, are bringing a FREE workshop to Minot Tuesday, April 28. This workshop will feature VJ Smith of Brookings, SD. Smith is the author of *The Richest Man in Town* and *Can You Hear What I See*. Drawing on his twenty-plus years as a manager, which included a stint in a Fortune 100 company, V.J. shares the qualities that separate the exceptional employee from the average employee. Smith has been a speaker for 20 years, he's given more than 2,500 presentations from coast to coast, and has been named a favorite speaker of meeting planners in America by *Meetings and Conventions Magazine*.

There will be three opportunities for people to hear from VJ Smith and you are welcome to attend one, two or three! At 10 a.m. he will focus on customer service; at 1:30 p.m. he will focus on retaining qualified employees; and at 3 p.m. he will be the featured speaker at the Visit Minot Annual Meeting at 3 p.m. There will be a cost for that meeting. All three will take place at the Grand Hotel.

While the workshop is free, we want to make sure we have room for everyone. Please RSVP at www.minotchamber.org by clicking on April 28. Use your log in and password. Please let EVERYONE know about this. Let's fill the room up!



February Eagle Awards

The Eagle Award winners were recognized in February 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.



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Kevin's Plumbing & Heating



JUDY HAMMER
Trinity Health



DR. MARISA ALBERTSON
Trinity Health



TONY HEATH
Walmart Super Center



CLARE THORSELL
Modern Dental



JODI LORING
Gate City Bank



TRICIA NECHODOM
*Trinity Health
Audiology*

Lunch & Learn event set for March 12

The March Lunch & Learn will feature a program that helps attract employees to high-need and emerging occupations. Since the inception of the ND Career Builders Scholarship and Loan Repayment program by the 2019 ND Legislative Assembly, the North Dakota University System has visited with hundreds of representatives from business, industry, health-care and community economic development offices both one-on-one and at conferences across the state. Presentations are ongoing with interested workforce partners and private support to match state dollars continues. The ND Career Builders Scholarship and Loan Repayment program was created for business to attract and retain talent into high need and emerging occupations in the state and fill skilled-workforce positions. The program is a partnership between the state, business, institutions, students and employees.

The Lunch & Learn will be held Thursday, March 12 at 11:30 a.m. at Job Service ND (3416 North Broadway). Cost is \$15 for lunch. Go to www.minotchamber.org and click on March 12 to sign up today as the class is limited to 30.

March Lunch & Learn

Thursday, March 12

11:30 a.m.

Job Service ND: 3416 N. Bdwy.



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

Guest appearance by Miss ND

Prairie Warrior Auction celebrates TEAM MINOT

Minot Air Force Base is an important component of the Minot and surrounding communities. Recently, the community of Minot received the Barksdale Trophy for its support of the men and women of MAFB. One of the key elements of support is our annual Prairie Warrior Auction (PWA). This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2020, at the Grand Hotel. Admission is \$25 per person.

For the past 32 years, PWA has raised nearly \$700,000 for Minot AFB morale efforts. Distributed funds are used to support the Base's competition teams, squadron activities, annual awards banquets and Operation Warmheart (year-round program providing essentials such as food, clothing, etc., to needy service members and their families, as well as Thanksgiving baskets during the holiday season).

The evening begins with a 5:30 p.m. silent auction, as well as refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. The live auction begins at 6:30 p.m.

Chamber members are invited to donate auction items or cash donations, which go directly to the bottom line of the event. The deadline for donations is March 1, 2020. This will allow us time to include your name and item in the printed auction program.

For more information, please call the Chamber office at 852-6000.

Home and Garden Show March 6 - 7 at ND State Fair Center

The Minot Home & Garden Show will take place March 6-7 at the North Dakota State Fair Center. Whether you are building a new home, considering a kitchen remodel, or installing your dream outdoor living space, the MAB Home and Garden Show is the ideal venue for inspiration. It will offer over a hundred exhibitors featuring landscape design, lawn and garden equipment, interior design, windows and doors, flooring, decking, outdoor living, home entertainment, and automation, and much more!

The doors of the 2020 Home and Garden Show will be open on Friday, March 6 from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday, March

7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$4, and you can save \$1 off admission by bringing a canned food item that will be donated to the Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry. The first 500 kids through the doors will receive a FREE hard hat and hammer, courtesy of Future Builders.

There are many family-friendly activities at the show, including the Ready Builders Lego Competition, Muus Lumber Kidzone, and Succulent Make & Takes with Pockets Full of Posies.

For more information, visit MAB Home & Garden Show on Facebook or head to www.minotab.com/homeshow

BeMobile Verizon hosts Business After Hours in February

Thanks to BeMobile Verizon for sponsoring the Business After Hours held Feb. 19. Approximately 50 people enjoyed delicious sandwiches from Subway, great networking and a chance at prizes.



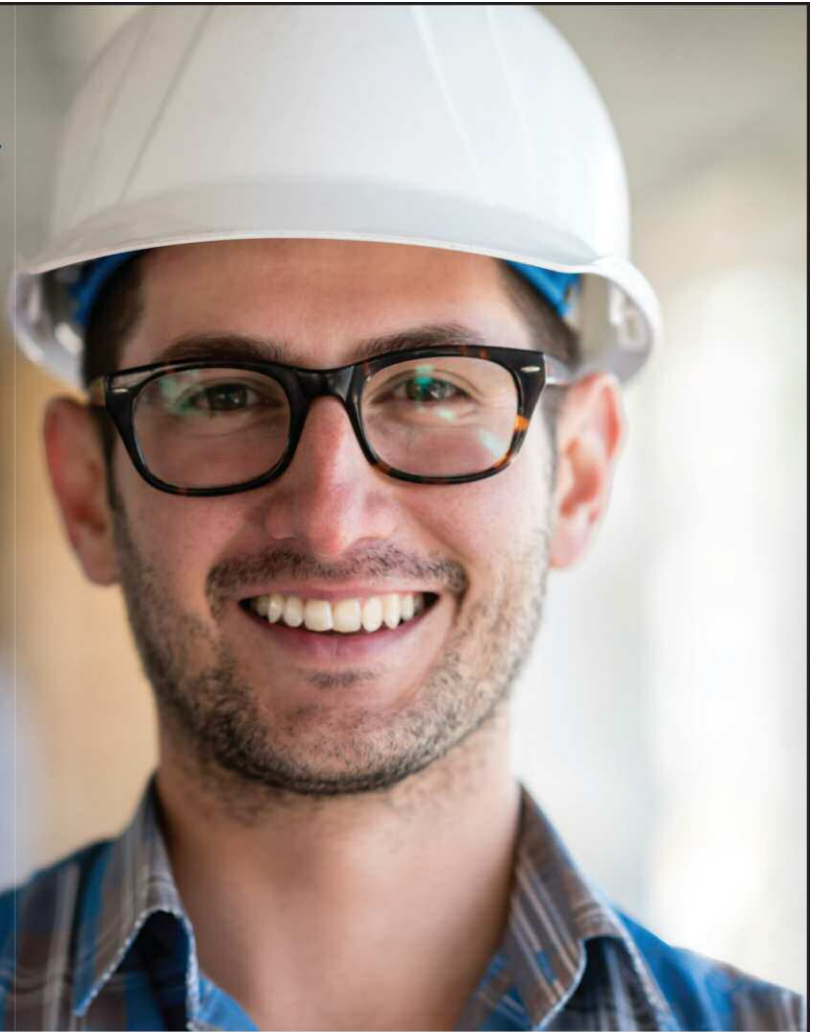
Save the Date:
Thursday, April 23
5 - 7 p.m.

Business After Hours
Edgewood Minot Senior Living



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KX Sport Show set for March 13 - 15

With over 145 vendors gathering at the North Dakota State Fair Center, the KX Sport Show is an event that is attended by many throughout the state of North Dakota. "The timing of our sport show ties in well for our vendors and community to come together as spring fever and enjoying the outdoors are on North Dakotan's minds in March," said Tammy Blumhagen, VP/general manager of KX News.

The 39th Annual KX Sport Show kicks off Friday, March 13 at 1 p.m. and will continue through Sunday, March 15, 2020, at the ND State Fair Center in Minot. The Sport Show makes a special effort to be a family friendly event, with children ages 17 and under receiving free admission. The 2020 event will feature the

All-Star Stunt Dogs, and the Youth Fun Zone with archery and other hands-on activities for kids.

New this year will be a Walleye School led by Hall of Fame professional angler, Ted Takasaki. Takasaki is considered one of America's top walleye and multi-species anglers. There will be one two-hour class held daily. Registration and \$25 per person is required to attend. During each class Takasaki will cover jigging, boat control, bottom bouncers, and crank baits. Each attendee will receive a study guide to take home from the class.

For more details on class times, registration and Sport Show hours and more, please visit www.kxnet.com/kx-sport-show/.

MAFB 2019 Economic Impact statement released

The 2019 MAFB Economic Impact has been released and shows the steady impact Minot Air Force Base has made to our area. On February 6, during the Military Affairs Committee meeting, the 5th Bomb Wing Comptroller budget office detailed the 2019 economic impact report. It shows that there are 12,041 personnel living on base, and the total economic impact is \$559,390,411.

While Minot Air Force Base provides an economic boon to our area and the state, it's the people that make it outstanding. Minot is home to the 5th Bomb Wing and 91st Missile Wing and the community is proud of that! Minot Air Force Base brings so much to the City of Minot — the people there support the community by volunteering whenever needed, by bringing diversity to the community, and the economic impact keeps the community's economy strong. Of course, only the "Best Come North!"

MAFB 2019 Total Economic Impact
\$559,390,411 Million



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City council election packets available

Candidates for City of Minot elected offices can pick up information packets at the City Clerk's office located in City Hall.

Candidates for City of Minot positions must submit signatures and mailing addresses of 300 qualified electors from within city limits by the deadline of 4 p.m. on April 6, 2020, to be placed on the ballot for the June 9, 2020, election. Candidates must also submit a statement of interest and a certificate of nomination. All information should be filed with the City

Clerk's office.

City of Minot positions on the June ballot are three seats on the City Council currently held by Josh Wolsky, Shannon Straight, and Stephan Podrygula.

Information packets for Minot Park District candidates can also be picked up and submitted to the City Clerk's office in City Hall.

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

Broadway Bridge project wins award

The Broadway Bridge replacement project was recently named the 2019 Gold Star winner for excellence in concrete in the bridge category at the Ready Mix & Concrete Products Association's annual convention.

The City of Minot, in conjunction with the North Dakota Department of Transportation, replaced the aging bridge structure, which was built in 1962 and expanded to two lanes of northbound and two lanes of southbound traffic in 1971. Lunda Construction was the general contractor, with Strata Corporation as the concrete supplier. Strata also performed the concrete work for the new roadway. The project engineering firms were Burns & McDonnell and Bartlett & West.

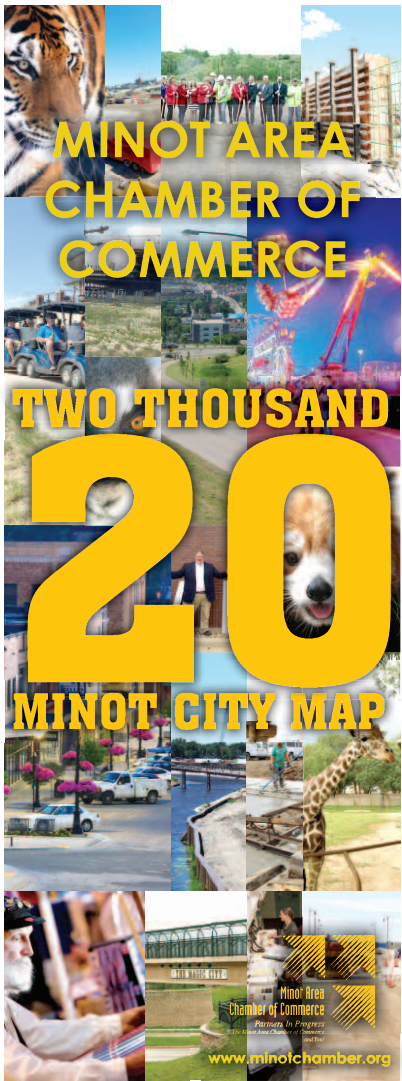
"The Broadway Bridge runs through the heart of our city, and is vital to the

everyday lives of our community's residents," said Minot City Engineer Lance Meyer.

The bridge was built in two phases over two years. Approximately 8,500 cubic yards of concrete were produced for the project. The project included incorporating a portion of flood wall that is being constructed as part of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Plan. The new structure is 86 feet wide with a length of 822 feet. The bridge carries approximately 30,000 vehicles daily.

The 2021 Ready Mix & Concrete Products Association annual convention is scheduled to be held in Minot.

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



**2020 City Maps
available**

*Call 852-6000 for more
information*

Multi-Industry Job Fair set for March 24 at Auditorium

Job Service North Dakota, along with the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce, will host Minot's Multi-Industry Job Fair. Businesses are invited to participate in the job fair, which will be held Tuesday, March 24 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Armory in the Minot Auditorium. Registration is \$150, which includes one eight-foot table and two chairs.

Registration and fees must be received by March 13. No credit card payments will be accepted; make checks payable to Citizens Committee of Minot. Mail registration form and fee to: Minot Multi-Industry Job Fair, Job Service North Dakota – Minot, 3416 North Broadway, Minot, ND 58703. For more information, contact Cindy Bitz at 701-857-7546 or cbitz@nd.gov.

Company Name _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Website _____

Positions _____

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.



Aspire Credit Union: 1430 S. Broadway • 701- 837-5353 • Mindee Kohlman, President/CEO
Prairie Federal Credit Union has rebranded and is now Aspire Credit Union. Ambassadors were on hand to mark the occasion. The established credit union has an 85-year history of serving Minot and the surrounding area.



Central Power Electric Cooperative 115 – kV Line:

Representatives from Verendrye Electric Cooperative and Central Power Electric Cooperative hosted a dedication and ribbon cutting of the new 115 kV (115,000 volt) transmission line from southwest Minot to east Ruthville. The dedication/ribbon cutting was held at the Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch in Bremer Hall. Senator John Hoeven attended and spoke about this new infrastructure serving the region. This new \$20 million plus transmission line project provides a 115 kV transmission loop around Minot and provides another source to the bulk delivery substation that services Minot Air Force Base. It will also provide capacity for the Minot area and western Ward County for years to come.

HOME GROWN



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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.

WWW.ACKERMAN-ESTVOLD.COM

Member Business Briefs

Citizen's Academy accepting applications for participants

The Minot Police Department is accepting applications for the 2020 Citizens Academy, scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday evenings May 5 – 26.

The purpose of the Academy is to invite members of the public for a hands-on, behind the scenes, look at how the Minot Police Department serves the community. The Academy's structure encourages participants to ask the "tough questions" and facilitates open discussions on the challenges facing law enforcement today.

Course content includes instruction in the areas of patrol operations, crime scene response unit, special operations (SWAT, K9, bomb squad), use of force, and weapons familiarization. Academy instructors have a wide range of law enforcement training and experience and enjoy the opportunity to not only show

what it is they do, but why they perform duties the way they do. Each participant is also invited to join a patrol officer for a ride-along to see first-hand the duties and responsibilities of municipal law enforcement officers.

Applicants must be 18 years old to apply and must also consent to a background check. This does NOT mean that people with some negative history with law enforcement or the judicial system are automatically disqualified. All interested area residents are encouraged to apply. Applications can be picked up in person at the Minot Police Department or by sending an email request to Master Police Officer Aaron Moss of the Crime Prevention Unit at aaron.moss@minot-nd.org. Applications are due by April 28, 2020. Those with questions can call Officer Moss at 857-4711.

Higher education topic of Information Day at Minot Public Library

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Park University are hosting an Information Day at the Minot Public Library (516 2nd Ave SW) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 28. The two organizations will explore higher education opportunities at their Minot Air Force Base locations. Refreshments provided.



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ACTIVATE sessions begin March 10

ACTIVATE Women is a free learning workshop series with sessions hosted in Grand Forks, Fargo, Bismarck, and Minot. From financial statements and marketing, to human resources, Quickbooks, and budgeting and forecasting, attendees can dive into a variety of topics and come out with the knowledge and resources they need to move forward. The bimonthly events, held over lunch, serve as a chance for women business owners to come together, learn from local experts about a variety of topics, and build a network of support and growth.

March 10 – Leadership

May 12 – Cutting Edge Marketing

July 14 – Communication & Conflict Management

September 8 – Strategic Vision

November 10 – Community Engagement

All of these events will take place at Prairie Sky Breads from 11:45-1:15.

For more information, visit: www.dakotabusinesslending.com/activate-women.

Paul Gillund promoted to director of sales at SRT

SRT is pleased to announce the promotion of Paul Gillund to director of sales. In his new role Gillund will oversee the business sales department, communication systems technicians, and product management. He will be responsible for all business-related sales & services.

Gillund looks forward to continuing to offer SRT's business customers technology solutions that keep them connected to the marketplace.

"Paul's position in leading our business development team will streamline our efforts to restructure the department and our business practices. He has a diverse skill set with a background in business sales, which will be an asset to the executive team," said SRT General Manager and CEO Steve Lysne.

Gillund previously served as SRT's sales operations manager. He brings a strong customer service background and



Paul Gillund

nearly 30 years of management experience. He replaces Dwight Schmitt, who retired in January.

Gillund is an active member of the Minot Sertoma Club, currently serving as vice president. He is a Wildrose, ND, native and a graduate of Minot State University.

Marco makes Best and Brightest Company to Work For list

Marco's workplace culture was nationally recognized making the Best and Brightest Company to Work For list. The honor was given out by the National Association for Business Resources.

Read more about the recognition here: <https://www.marconet.com/press-releases/marco-named-one-of-the-best-and-brightest-companies-to-work-for>

"Marco's positive workplace culture is the foundation our company was built on," Marco Director of Human Resources Sara Lommel said. "This award shows us we've continued this tradition of putting our employees first and are dedicated to keeping our employees happy in the future."

JOHN STEWART, CPA

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jstewart@srt.com

First Baptist hosts 2020 Women's Conference April 17-18

SHE Ministries of First Baptist Church in Minot will host the 2020 Women's Conference "More Than Enough" April 17-18, 2020, at the Grand Hotel, Minot.

The event will feature Whitney Capps (whitneycapps.com), a national speaker for Proverbs 31 Ministries and a writer for the new Bible app, First 5, which reaches more than 1,000,000 people daily. As a Bible study geek, Capp's delight is to dig into God's Word for profound yet practical truth. A communicator at heart, she comes alive by sharing those truths with any gal who will give her even a few minutes.

The conference fee is \$35 if registered by March 11 or \$40 after March 11. You may register online at www.fbcshconf.org or contact First Baptist Church for a registration brochure by calling 852-4533 or emailing office@fbcmintot.org.

Grants awarded for marimba quartet residency April 23-25

Minot Public Schools, the Minot Symphony Association and Minot State University Division of Music have received grants from three arts organizations in support of an April 23-25 residency at MSU of the Iowa-based Heartland Marimba Quartet. The cooperative project includes a workshop for middle school and high school student percussionists, a free public recital, and a concerto performance with the Minot Symphony Orchestra.

Minot Public Schools applied for and was awarded a \$1250 Special Project grant from the ND Council on the Arts. The project as a whole has been granted \$1000 from the Arts Midwest Touring Fund and \$650 from the Percussive Arts Society. Additional support will be provided by the MSU Division of Music through its Northwest International Festival of Music. Other co-sponsors of the event are the Magi Drum Line and MSU Percussive Arts Club.

The Heartland Marimba Quartet (HMQ), headquartered in Waterloo, IA, was established in 2016 and is comprised of founder Matthew Coley plus Michael J. Jones, Joe Millea, and Ujjal Bhattacharyya. The group's mission is to

develop and disseminate the classical marimba art form in both academic and community contexts. Their appearance in Minot is one stop in a spring 2020 concert tour through Wisconsin, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa.

A HMQ workshop and performance at MSU on April 24 will be part of the official 2020 Percussive Arts Society ND Day of Percussion. On Saturday, April 25, HMQ will be featured guest soloists with the Minot Symphony Orchestra, performing the "Marahuaka" marimba concerto by maestro Efraín Amaya and "Journey for Marimba" by Coley. A complete schedule of residency events is available from minotsymphony@minotstateu.edu.

The ND Council on the Arts (NDCA) receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts in support of local arts funding. Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education.

Based in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest is one of six nonprofit regional arts organizations in the United States. Its mission is to promote creativity, nurture cultural leadership, and engage people in meaningful arts experiences throughout the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and beyond. Inter-state touring and the engagement of professional artists is central to the work of Arts Midwest. The Arts Midwest Touring Fund is a program of Arts Midwest supported by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional contributions from NDCA and the Crane Group.

The Percussive Arts Society (PAS) is the world's largest percussion organization and is considered the central source for information and networking for percussionists and drummers of all ages. Established in 1961 as a non-profit, music service organization, its mission is to inspire, educate, and support percussionists and drummers throughout the world. Through the activities of local chapters, PAS encourages each state to hold an annual Day of Percussion.

Cooperatives celebrate new \$20 million transmission line

Electric cooperatives are celebrating an infrastructure investment of more than \$20 million that improves electric reliability to Minot, the Air Force Base and rural areas.

Central Power Electric Cooperative recently completed a 115,000-volt transmission line that is 26.8 miles long. It starts southwest of Minot at a bulk delivery substation, heads north and then connects to a substation east of Ruthville. Verendrye Electric Cooperative, a distribution cooperative, uses the line to serve the area. Central Power is a wholesale power supply and transmission cooperative owned by Verendrye Electric and five other cooperatives.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Feb. 19 at the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Bremer Hall. Sen. John Hoeven spoke about how the project benefits the region. The project was financed with loans from the Rural Utilities Service, a federal agency under the USDA.

This provides a 115-kV transmission loop around Minot and brings another source to the bulk delivery substation that services the Minot Air Force Base. This major infrastructure project will provide electrical capacity for the western and northern Minot/Ward County region for years to come.

Halland joins Brokers 12 team

Brokers 12 has added to their team. Brandy Halland began her career in real estate three years ago, has sold numerous properties, and has been a top-producing agent. She is a member of the Minot Multiple Listing Service, Minot Association of Builders, the North Dakota Association of REALTORS®, and the Minot Board of REALTORS®. Halland enjoys volunteering in the community with Backpack Buddies, Meals on Wheels, local soup kitchens, Minot Men's Refuge, Magic City Figure Skating Club and anywhere that could use a helping hand.



Brandy Halland

The Wellington to partner with ND Cares

The Wellington is officially a partner with the ND Cares Coalition in an effort to broaden support to service members, veterans, families, and survivors. On Feb. 11, Executive Director Dawn Anderson signed a statement of support establishing The Wellington as a link in a statewide network dedicated to educating residents about potential needs and challenges faced by those who have served and to honor military members.

“We want everyone to know that North Dakota is a welcoming place for our military. To do that, ND Cares relies on the participation of our communities and their commitment to military outreach,” said ND National Guard Adjutant General, Major General Alan Dohrmann. “We look forward to partnering with The Wellington to continue to strengthen an accessible network of support for our service members, veterans, families, and survivors.”

In January 2015, former ND Governor Jack Dalrymple signed an executive order officially establishing the ND Cares coalition. Funds have been included in the 2017-2019 budget to help expand the coalition’s work and fund its future initiatives. One of its goals is to partner with many businesses in North Dakota to ensure those who have served, their families, and survivors receive the care and assistance they need.

FAA grant will fund taxiway, apron work at Minot International Airport

The Minot International Airport has been awarded a grant of more than \$2 million from the Federal Aviation Administration to help with the final phase of taxiway and apron construction projects.

The project includes the reconstruction and expansion of the cargo apron and a portion of the taxiway that provides access to that area east of the passenger terminal. The apron was originally built in 1953 with updates in 1987.

Airport Director Rick Feltner said the taxiway and apron need to be replaced, as

their condition has deteriorated. The latest pavement condition index rated the area at 26 out of 100. The area is adjacent to the recently constructed Fed Ex facility and needs to be expanded to accommodate increases in cargo processing and the size of cargo aircraft.

Feltner said the project is anticipated to go to bid in April, with construction starting soon after the bidding process is complete. The project’s expected cost of \$3.36 million will be shared between the FAA (90%), the State Aeronautics Commission (5%) and the City of Minot (5%).

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

Symphony presents “Fun & Games”

The Minot Symphony Orchestra presents an evening of “Fun & Games” Saturday, March 7 at Ann Nicole Nelson Hall – MSU at 7:30 p.m. A pre-concert lecture will begin at 6:30 p.m.

“Calling all gamers, young and old. We invite all of you who have played or who do play video and computer games as well as those who just love iconic themes to join us for a night of fun and games. Join us as we perform iconic themes for some well-known games. Gamers are welcome to come dressed up as a favorite game character (non-obstructive Cosplay),” said Music Director Efraín Amaya. “We are also proud to feature the MSU Honor Concerto Competition winner as our soloist for the evening!”

The pops concert program includes selections from: Julius Fucik’s *Entry of the Gladiators*, Jessica Curry’s *Everybody’s Gone to the Rapture Suite* featuring the Minot High School Choir, Wilbert Roget II’s *Lara Croft Overture*, Geoff Knorr and Roland Rizzo’s soundtrack from Sid Meier’s *Civilization IV Gathering Storm*, and three works by Austin Wintory: *Assassin’s Creed Syndicate*, *The Banner Saga* and *Journey: Nascence & Apotheosis*.

Sean Bostrom, winner of the annual MSU Honor Concerto Competition, will perform Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*

with the symphony. Bostrom is a choral music education major at Minot State University studying piano and voice. He grew up in Orland, CA, starting piano at age 8. Upon earning his degree in May,



Sean hopes to become an elementary or high school music teacher/choir director. This summer he will study piano in Austria through

the Vienna Summer Music History and Performance Program.

The Minot Symphony Orchestra’s annual pops concert, *Fun & Games*, is part of the 2019-2020 concert series, *Homegrown*. Tickets start at \$25 for adults with senior and student discounts and can be purchased online at www.minotsymphony.com or call 701-858-4228.

Braaten joins T&C Insurance

Town & Country Insurance Agency, LLC is proud to welcome Becky Braaten to its insurance team. Braaten was born and raised on a family farm in Westhope, ND. After college, her interest in insurance sparked while working as an inquiry insurance specialist for the North Dakota Insurance Commissioner. She and her husband moved back to Westhope in 1998 to take over their family farm and Braaten continued her career with a heavy focus in crop insurance. She spent the last 22 years as the SVP of Insurance with a local financial organization.



Becky Braaten

Braaten is a Certified Insurance Counselor and joins Town & Country Insurance Agency as an agent. Braaten’s primary role will be providing local producers with farm and crop insurance services. Learn more about Braaten and Town & Country Insurance Agency at www.tandcinsurance.org.



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2nd Annual Gardening Saturday event set for March 28

The Noah Garden Club is hosting its second annual Gardening Saturday, March 28 at the Grand Hotel. The event will feature author Hugh Skinner, who will talk about perennial flowers, how they perform well, and how some are quite rare. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the event ends at 4 p.m. To learn more contact Julie at 839-5546 or 624-5252.

Harrington hired as trust associate

American Trust Center (ATC) announces the hiring of Alaina Harrington as trust associate in the Stanley area. Harrington was previously employed with ATC's affiliate bank, American Bank Center as a personal banker. In her new role, Alaina is responsible for providing growth with existing and new clients within Stanley and the surrounding area.



Alaina Harrington

"Alaina is professional, committed to customer service, and familiar with the market," said Pam Andrist, market manager. "We look forward to the addition she will bring to our team."

American Trust Center is a locally owned North Dakota chartered trust company with \$1.2 billion in assets under management. ATC is part of the American Bancor, Ltd. Family of companies that includes American Bank Center, United Community Bank of North Dakota, American Trust Center and American Insurance Center.

Century 21 Action Realtors recognized

Dorothy Martwick, broker/owner of CENTURY 21 Action Realtors, is pleased to announce that in recognition of its out-

standing sales production and commitment to quality service, Century 21 Real Estate LLC recently honored CENTURY 21 Action Realtors with the 2019 CENTURY 21® President's Award. The annual award is bestowed upon those independent CENTURY 21® offices that earn the CENTURY 21 CENTURION® award and the CENTURY 21 Quality Service Pinnacle award in the same calendar year.

The CENTURION Award is presented to CENTURY 21 offices that achieve or surpass sales production of \$2,568,000 or 465 closed transaction sides within a calendar year.

The CENTURY 21 Quality Service Pinnacle Award is presented to those independent offices that receive satisfaction surveys for at least 50 percent of their consumers surveyed from January 1 -- December 31, with a survey score of 95 percent or better for two consecutive years.

"We are thrilled to recognize the work of CENTURY 21 Action Realtors for this momentous achievement," said Mike Miedler, chief executive officer, Century 21 Real Estate LLC. "This is an outstanding honor since only a small percentage of C21® franchisees in the United States receive this award."

Century 21 Real Estate LLC also recently recognized the following sales affiliates with the CENTURY 21 Quality Service Pinnacle Producer Award. The annual award is based on results from the CENTURY 21 Quality Service Survey (QSS) which is e-mailed to consumers immediately after the purchase or sale of a home. To earn the CENTURY 21 Quality Service Pinnacle Producer Award, an agent must receive completed customer surveys for at least 50 percent of their transactions surveyed from January 1 - December 31, with an average survey

score of at least 95 percent or better for 2 consecutive years.

- Ashlee Kelleher, of CENTURY 21 Action Realtors, of Minot, North Dakota, will receive a customized glass trophy, in addition to being recognized at the CENTURY 21 Global Conference. For more information, Dorothy Martwick can be reached at (701) 839-0021 or dorothym@minot.com.
- Tracy Dachs, of CENTURY 21 Action Realtors, of Minot, North Dakota, will receive a customized glass trophy, in addition to being recognized at the CENTURY 21 Global Conference. For more information, Dorothy Martwick can be reached at (701) 839-0021 or dorothym@minot.com.

"The Quality Service Pinnacle Producer Award is an integral part of our brand's commitment to excellence and recognizes their dedication to making each and every client interaction a positive one," said Mike Miedler, chief executive officer of Century 21 Real Estate LLC. "They provide their clients with knowledge and advice related to their real estate transaction and offers them confidence during what may be the most significant purchase of a lifetime."

Century 21 Real Estate LLC is comprised of approximately 11,500 independently owned and operated franchised broker offices in 84 countries and territories worldwide with more than 131,000 independent sales professionals. Century 21 Real Estate has numerous websites to help answer specific consumer needs. They are century21.com, century21Global.com, commercial.century21.com, century21.com/finehomes, and century21espanol.com.



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There's a spirit of help and cooperation in our communities. It's the reason Verendrye Electric Cooperative exists, providing reliable and affordable electricity. In that spirit, we believe in giving back to great causes. We, our employees and our generation and transmission partner, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, donated \$16,865 to the Souris Valley United Way at Backpack Buddies this year.

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March 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Military Affairs Committee, Noon, Jimmy Doolittle Center	6 Ambassadors Committee, 7:30 a.m., Staybridge Suites	7
8	9	10 Eagle Award Presentations, 10 a.m., Chamber office	11 Ribbon Cutting, 8:30 a.m., Prairie Sky Breads, 3 1st St SE, Ste. 1 Right Start Presentation, 9:30 a.m., MAFB	12 Lunch & Learn, Career Builders Program, 11:30 a.m., Job Service ND Ribbon Cutting, 4 p.m., Circle Sanitation, 105 34th Ave. NE	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., Minot Chamber	19 Governmental Affairs Committee, 11:30 a.m., Badlands Restaurant	20	21 Prairie Warrior Auction, 5:30 p.m., Grand Hotel
22	23	24 Multi Industry Job Fair, 4 p.m., Minot Auditorium Armory	25 Right Start Presentation, 9:30 a.m., MAFB	26 Energy Committee, 11:30 a.m., Buffalo Wings & Rings Business After Hours, 5 – 7 p.m., Minot International Airport	27	28
29	30	31				

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