

Communicator

THE MINOT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND YOU!

Vol. XLIII, Issue No. 5

www.minotchamber.org

May 2020

A message from the Chamber of Commerce president

I hope you are all well and finding your way through the emails, news articles, and paperwork associated with the results of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the Chamber, we have been working to keep you informed, while at the same time, working to provide educational opportunities, meetings, and more as we navigate



L. JOHN MACMARTIN
Minot Area Chamber of
Commerce President

this new normal.

These uncertain times call for a voice of business and we at the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce are that voice for you. We encourage you to continue checking the website <https://www.ndchamber.com/covid19>. This is from our partner, Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce, and they are continually updating Covid-19 information.

Please don't hesitate to call me at the office at 701-852-6000 or email chamber@minotchamber.org. Let's continue to #MaximizeMinot!

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Virtual candidate forums set for May 12, 13, 14

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee is sponsoring three candidate forums, and the City of Minot is hosting the location to hold these forums. The forums are to help educate the public on candidates running for Minot City Council, Minot Park Board, and Minot School Board. The forums will take place May 12, 13, and 14 via Facebook for the City of Minot and the Minot Chamber. It will also be broadcast on Channel 19. Minot Park Board candidates will be first, followed by Minot School Board, then Minot City Council candidates.

The city is working with the Chamber to allow us to utilize council chambers for these forums. The forums will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. each night and questions can be submitted to our moderator any time until then by emailing chamber@minotchamber.org.

We encourage you to tune in to learn about those hoping to represent you.

Schedule: 6 – 7:30 p.m. nightly:

May 12Minot Park Board Candidates
May 13.....Minot Public School Board Candidates
May 14.....Minot City Council Candidates

Minot Chamber hosts free webinars in May

It's become the norm lately — instead of getting together in person, we are doing so virtually. That's the case for some free educational training provided by the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is offering three Google workshops May 13, 20, and 27, along with a workshop through Dale Carnegie on May

12, all free of charge.

The three Google webinars will take place May 13, 20, and 27, each beginning at noon. The May 13 workshop is entitled "Get Your Local Business on Google Search and Maps." Learn

Continued on page 2

Business After Hours - Vardon Golf Course

Thursday, May 28, 2020 • 5–7 p.m.

Hosted by Vardon Golf Course

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

COVID-19 guidelines set forth by Gov. Doug Burgum will be followed.



MINOT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMERCIAL

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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
Cathy Tweten (Dakota Square)839-7500

New Member

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

MAGIC CITY HOME LEISURE

1910 S. Broadway • Minot, ND • 701-839-5806

Email: brandon@magiccityhomeleisure.com • Website: www.magiccityhomeleisure.com

Brandon Solem, Owner

Magic City Home Leisure is a locally-owned business providing premiere products for the home and back yard following the motto, "Make your home your getaway." We consistently help to make this happen by offering spas, swim spas, patio furniture, saunas, gazebos, pergolas, billiards and game tables.

Continued from page 1

about Google My Business, a free tool for local businesses who want to connect with customers on Google Search and Maps. On May 20, the subject will be "Reach Customers Online with Google." This will help improve your website's visibility in Google's organic search results, on all devices. And the final Google workshop in this series will be May 27, entitled "Using Data to Drive Business Growth." Learn best practices and analyze trends about how customers engage with your business online, then turn these insights into well-informed, actionable decisions.

All three are free! To sign up, go to www.minotchamber.org and click on the date you want to attend. A link is provided

to register. Call or email Carla with questions: 857-8205 or carla@minotchamber.org.

Networking is a vital part of business, but it's not as easy during a pandemic. That's why the Minot Chamber has teamed up with Dale Carnegie ND & MN to provide an innovative virtual event. If you are getting cabin fever or just want to practice networking while safely at home, join us Tuesday, May 12 at 11:30 a.m.

There are only 50 spots available to connect with fellow Chamber members and build valuable skills. Log on to chamber@minotchamber.org and click on May 12 to sign up today using your log in and password. An email will be sent to you to give you the coordinates for the webinar prior to the event.

Renewals

The Chamber extends a big "THANK YOU" to our members who have renewed their membership from March 26 through April 24, 2020. Your continued support helps your Chamber promote the business community and do the work seen in the pages of this newsletter.

Mr. Lynn Aas
All America City Glass
Alliance Real Estate
Allstate Insurance Company, The Kim Albert
Agency
Cole Papers
Core & Main
Don Bessette Motors, Inc.
Heartland Payment System
KX News
Law Office of Diane K. Lauth, PLLC
Magic City Garage Door & Awning

Magic City Systems
MetroPlains Management
Monarch Products Company
MonDak Portables, LLC
Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #822
ProIT
American Red Cross Mid-Dakota Chapter
Reiter Oil & Gas, Inc.
Sport Specialties Inc.
State Farm Insurance - Paul Siebert
TSC Farm Home Auto Store
Visiting Angels

Bank of ND authorized to assist businesses in pandemic efforts

The North Dakota Industrial Commission authorized the Bank of North Dakota (BND) to provide two financing programs to assist North Dakota businesses in obtaining long-term, low-interest loans to assist in the state's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The loan programs will help both small and large businesses to secure working capital and replenish inventory. The programs became effective April 29, 2020.

"We understand and empathize with the challenging situation facing our business community. The Bank of North Dakota makes our state uniquely positioned to provide much-needed assistance as federal programs are exhausted," said the Industrial Commission, which consists of Gov. Doug Burgum as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, in a joint statement. "Long-term financing at low interest rates will help stabilize the economy, provide working capital to main street businesses, and ensure our state emerges successfully from this crisis."

The Small Employer Loan Fund (SELF) will provide a loan of up to \$50,000 to small businesses with a full-time employee equivalent (FTE) of 10 employees or less. These loans may be used for working capital, recurring expenses and replenishing inventory. Business owners will work with their local lender to access the program. The loan has a maximum term of 10 years and a fixed interest rate of 1%, with deferral of loan payments for up to six months.

The COVID-19 PACE Recovery Program (CPRP) will provide a loan of up to \$5 million for businesses of less than 500 employees and a loan of up to \$10 million for businesses with more than 500 employees. Loan payments may be deferred for up to six months, at which time the loan will term out with up to a 10-year amortization. The interest rate on the loan will be bought down by BND to 1% for a period of time, with a maximum buydown of \$500,000. Business owners will access the program through their local lender. Unlike other PACE program offerings from BND, there is no community match required.

To qualify, North Dakota businesses must have been established before Feb. 15, 2020, and loan applications must be received before Nov. 30, 2020.

BND staff assessed the federal program options and visited with stakeholders as it developed the program parameters.

"The financial institutions in North Dakota deserve the appreciation of our state's residents," BND President Eric Hardmeyer said. "Because of their partnership, we are able to provide these loans in a timely manner so businesses can be open as soon as it is considered safe."

Through a combination of the Coronavirus Relief Fund and the Bank of North Dakota's accumulated and undivided profits, the Industrial Commission will make \$200 million available for interest buydown and \$50 million for low-interest loans. The buydown will be leveraged to provide up to \$2 billion in low interest loans.

To learn more about loan program specifics, visit bnd.nd.gov.

Minot Area Community Foundation awards COVID-19 response grants

The Minot Area Community Foundation (MACF) has awarded \$28,050 in its first round of funding from the COVID-19 Disaster Response & Recovery Fund to organizations responding to immediate needs in Minot and the surrounding areas.

The following organizations were awarded funding Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry (Emergency Food Lord's Cupboard), Minot Commission on Aging

(Meals on Wheels), McHenry County Food Pantry (Emergency Food), Community Pantry of Ryder (Emergency Food), Domestic Violence Crisis Center (COVID-19 Response), Minot Public School District (COVID-19 Response).

"The Foundation and its Board of Directors are pleased to provide this assistance to these organizations who are providing essential services to our communities at this time of need and uncertainty," said Jason Zimmerman, president. "They are among the many on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response, ensuring the availability of goods and services that are greatly needed by those impacted the most by the pandemic and we are incredibly grateful for their work."

About the MACF COVID-19 Disaster

Response & Recovery Fund

The MACF COVID-19 Disaster Response & Recovery Fund was activated to accept charitable donations to support nonprofits affected by disruptions due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Contributions to this fund may be from individuals, families, businesses, and private foundations to support community response initiatives. All gifts to this fund are tax-deductible as charitable contributions. Additionally, MACF will waive all administrative fees to ensure the dollars have the largest reach possible. Per IRS regulations, the MACF works through recognized nonprofits and does not make grants directly to individuals. For more information or to contribute to the fund, go to centerforcommunitygiving.com.



North Dakota launches Care19 app to combat COVID-19

Gov. Doug Burgum and the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) in partnership with ProudCrowd, creators of the popular Bison Tracker app, launched a free mobile app, Care19, to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in North Dakota.

This app will help the NDDoH reduce the spread of COVID-19 by more efficiently and effectively identifying individuals who may have had contact with people who have tested positive. Once the app is downloaded, individuals will be given a random ID number and the app will anonymously cache the individual's locations throughout the day. Individuals are then encouraged to categorize their movement into different groups such as work or grocery. The app will only store the location of any place a person visits for 10 minutes or more, and the ID number of each individual contains no personal information besides location data.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, they will be given the opportunity to consent to provide their information to the NDDoH to help in contact tracing and forecasting the pandemic's progression with accurate, real-time data.

"This is an opportunity for North Dakotans to be leaders in the worldwide response to COVID-19," said Burgum. "Our goal is for at least 50,000 North Dakotans to download the app. The more people who participate, the more helpful the data will be. The aggregated information this app is gathering can save lives. Embracing this technology is one more way we can show that we're all in this together."

The NDDoH has worked tirelessly to track COVID-19 cases, and about 250 people have jumped in to help ramp up efforts. Despite all the cooperation, this manual process is very time-con-

An advertisement for the Care19 app. It features a hand holding a smartphone displaying the Care19 app interface, which includes a heart icon and a location pin. To the right, the text reads "YOU CAN HELP SAVE LIVES. Download the Care19 app today!". Below this, it says "Available now!" and "Download on the App Store" with a QR code. At the bottom, the North Dakota logo is shown with the tagline "Be Legendary." and the URL "BeLegendary.link/Care19" along with the hashtag "#InThisTogetherND".

suming and not 100 percent accurate. Through a public-private partnership, the Care19 app will dramatically improve the state's contact tracing abilities.

If individuals are categorizing movements, the NDDoH will be able to get a more accurate understanding of how COVID-19 is spreading – whether due to traveling, community spread or close contact spread – and where potential clusters are located.

"We are extremely excited that our work on the Bison Tracker could be reshaped to quickly support the fight against COVID-19", said ProudCrowd CEO Tim Brookins. "Big thanks to Governor Burgum and his team, as well as my Microsoft co-workers who helped me bring Care19 to life."

The first roll-out of the app is now available at the Apple App store and Android users can visit the Playstore.

For more information about the Care19 app, go to the NDDoH website at <https://www.health.nd.gov/Care19>.

Chamber and Visit Minot seek to recognize heroes during pandemic

Part of the 'Magic' that makes Minot so special are the people who live here. Our community would not be what is without our essential workers and their dedication to the Minot community. During these ever-changing times, we are relying on our unsung heroes more than ever. We know that you have seen them in action, and their selfless acts have not gone unnoticed. Whether it's a grocery store worker, medical professional, police officer, firefighter or a restaurant employee, we want to recognize these unsung heroes.

Here is how you can help:

Nominate a hometown hero by emailing [Visit Minot](#) or the [Minot Chamber of Commerce](#). We will work together to select our local hero each week!

In your email include their full name, occupation, and how they are making a difference in the Minot Community. If possible, please provide contact information so we can ask these heroes how they are staying strong and adapting during this impactful time. We want to feature these heroes in

action. Please, provide us an action image of these heroes at work. We will be selecting a local hometown hero and sharing these stories over the next several weeks on social media.



ND State Health Department offers essential workplace guidance

The State has released guidance for essential workplaces regarding employee screening, work practices and exclusions.

Visit: Essential Workplace Guidance.



NORTH CENTRAL HUMAN SERVICE CENTER

EMERGENCY SERVICES

for BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Community providers, law enforcement, medical providers, or citizens may **CALL NCHSC's EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM 24/7** to have our mental health professional assist on scene, connect with the person via telehealth, or for consultation when in a situation to make further decisions regarding the person.

Examples:

- ♦ Person making suicidal comments, gestures, or expressing thoughts of suicide or self-harm
- ♦ Imminent mental health and/or substance use concerns
- ♦ Erratic behaviors, such as responding to internal stimulus, making odd comments, or paranoia
- ♦ Making comments about harming others, with law enforcement assistance
- ♦ Ongoing substance use, recent overdose, or withdrawal management
- ♦ Youth crisis events including family disruption, out of control behaviors, emotional dysregulation

To access BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Call NCHSC at **701.857.8500** or toll free **1.888.470.6968** day or night.

Walk in to the center for a screening and referral
Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
1015 South Broadway, Suite 18, Minot, ND 58701

(Due to COVID-19 we are recommending a call prior to coming to the center, but it is not required.)

Connect through your smartphone/telephone for assessments.

FIELD SERVICES MISSION STATEMENT

Provide timely and effective behavioral health services to citizens of North Dakota to improve the quality of life through achieving and sustaining recovery.

NORTH
Dakota | Human Service Center
Be Legendary.™ NORTH CENTRAL | MINOT

RIGHT TO SERVICES: North Central Human Service Center will not discriminate or deny services on the basis of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, political beliefs, handicap or status with respect to marriage or public assistance.

Save the Date

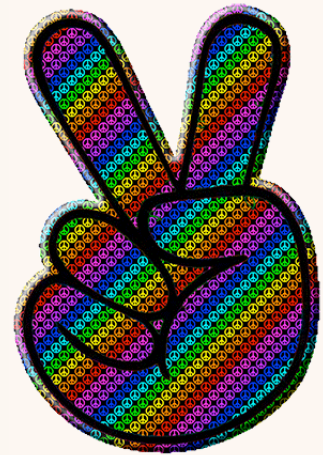
November Showcase of Business

Thursday, November 12 • 5 – 8 p.m.

North Dakota State Fair Center - Magic Place

Theme: “Get Back into the Groove of Things”

Show us your Groovy, Far Out, Psychedelic '60s Love, You Dig it?



GNDC CEO Roundtable set for June 24

Regulatory ramifications will be the topic of the Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce sponsored CEO Roundtable June 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Bismarck.

Held four times a year, the CEO Roundtable events bring CEOs, presidents, and company owners together for an invigorating exchange of information, ideas, and

insights. These networking and educational events feature experts on topics that impact our members.

Annual spring citywide cleanup postponed indefinitely

The May 1 & 2 Citywide Cleanup has been postponed due to the pandemic. The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce hopes

to reschedule, but in the meantime, we ask that members do their best to clean up around businesses, and in your neighbor-

hoods to help remove some of the trash around town with hopes we can reschedule our major citywide cleanup.

Intersection of 13th St. and 31st Ave. SE closes

The Minot 31st Avenue Project started construction Monday, April 13. The first phase of construction includes the closure of the intersection of 31st Avenue Southeast and 13th Street Southeast. This intersection is where the first roundabout in Minot will be located. Initial activity will mainly include work on utilities located near the intersection.

Residents in the area are encouraged to utilize 37th Avenue Southeast for access to and from the area off of South Broadway. 31st Avenue Southeast will remain open through 11th Street for local access. Both 12th and 13th Streets will not have access directly off 31st Avenue.

"We are happy to see construction moving forward on a key project for our community," said City Engineer Lance Meyer. "In a time where many are not able to work, this project provides jobs and support for our local economy."

"During this uncertain time, we want to assure residents that we are committed to completing the 31st Avenue project," Josh Olson, Apex Engineering Group added. "As the construction for this project begins Monday, we will be following the recommendations from the North Dakota Department of Health, North Dakota Department of Transportation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other state and federal agencies to ensure the safety of all those working on this project and the community."

The North Dakota Department of Transportation has issued COVID-19 Spring Construction Project Guidance that will be followed. At this time, no restrictions have been put in place for the construction industry.

The driving public should use caution and pay attention as this work begins.



Throughout the project, access to residents, the school, the Minot Country Club and Elevation will be maintained.

Visit the project website at www.MinotRoads.com for more information including status reports and project updates.

Traffic signal becomes flashing signal May 3

The traffic signal at 31st Avenue Southwest and 10th Street Southwest will change to a flashing signal on Sunday, May 3, as part of preparations to remove the signal later this spring during the reconstruction of the intersection.

Drivers on 10th Street SW will see a flashing red signal, which should be treated like a stop sign. Drivers on 31st Avenue SW will see a flashing yellow signal; drivers should slow down, proceed through the intersection with caution, and be prepared to stop.

The intersection of 31st Avenue SW and 10th Street SW does not have enough traffic volume to warrant a traffic signal, according to an analysis conducted in 2019 by the City of Minot's Traffic Department. In addition, the existing traffic signal, cabinet, and controller are significantly outdated and require constant maintenance, according to City Engineer Lance Meyer.

"This intersection is not anticipated to meet signal warrants within the next five years," Meyer

said. "Ultimately, the City Council chose

not to spend approximately \$250,000 to replace the signal and we will instead transition back to an intersection controlled by stop signs when it is reconstructed later this year as part of a storm sewer project."

The intersection was previously controlled by stop signs at 10th Street Southwest until approximately 2007 when a temporary traffic signal was installed, Meyer said.

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

Broadway concrete project set to begin final phase

Construction work on Broadway between Burdick Expressway and 20th Avenue South began April 27. The project began last summer, but some work was rescheduled for this spring after unusually wet weather in the fall delayed completion of the project. It includes replacing damaged concrete panels and placing new curb and gutter in multiple locations, in addition to grinding concrete surfaces in several areas.

City Engineer Lance Meyer said the work hadn't started earlier because contractors have been waiting for overnight temperatures to remain above freezing. The work is anticipated to be completed in three weeks.

"We appreciate the public's patience as we finish this necessary work on Minot's busiest stretch of roadway," Meyer said. "We want to remind drivers to be vigilant and drive safely through these zones, as

crews are often working close to traffic."

More information about current and upcoming construction projects can be found at <https://www.minotnd.org/436/Construction-and-Projects>.

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

CONCEPTUAL RENDERING MHA AQUATICS CENTER, NEW TOWN, ND



MAKING YOUR DREAMS REALITY EVERY DAY

At Ackerman-Estvold, our architecture team works tirelessly to take your vision and make it reality. From conceptualization, schematic design, and 3D visualizations, all the way through to construction documents and administration, our team of professional architects and designers have the experience and commitment your project needs to achieve your dreams. Let us make your dream a reality.



CIVIL ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE ■ MINOT, ND | WILLISTON, ND | BOISE, ID ■ WWW.ACKERMAN-ESTVOLD.COM

Member Business Briefs

Park University hiring instructors

Park University is hiring for part-time adjunct positions, looking for instructors who are open to teaching seasonally.

Instructors must be willing to undergo a background check for access to MAFB. They should be technology-friendly and willing to learn new applications. These classes hold typically four to eight students. Adjunct faculty are required to successfully complete an online Canvas LMS orientation course before being scheduled, as well as other training if required by the department. This is an on-site blended/hybrid course, students attend class in person 60% of the time and complete the remaining 40% online through Park's Canvas Learning Management System. Local applicants only, please.

Minimum requirements are a master's degree in related field and teaching experience. Park University seeks instructors to teach accounting, English, oral composition, biology, natural science, social science. Interested applicants can apply on <https://www.park.edu/careers>.

Verendrye Electric Cooperative annual meeting postponed until Oct. 22

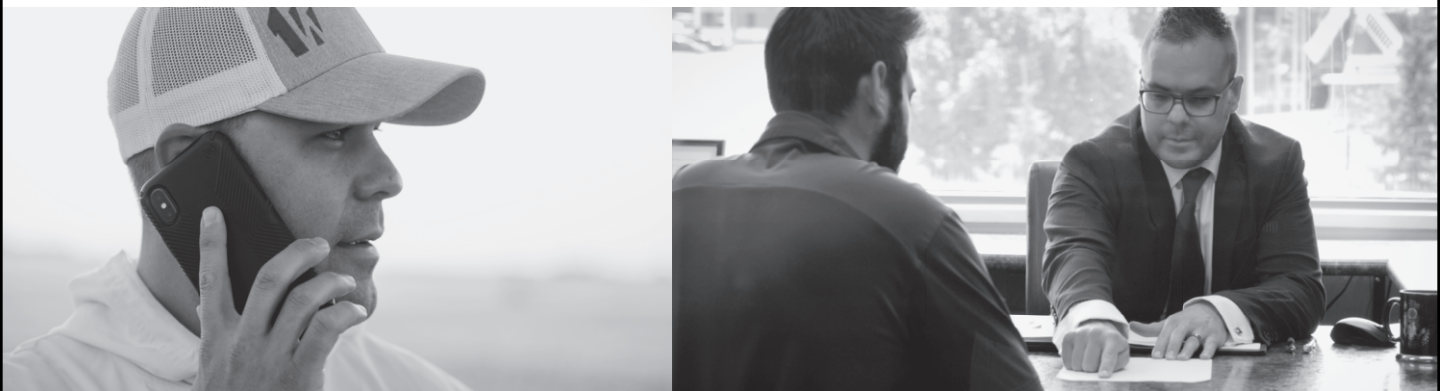
Verendrye Electric Cooperative has postponed its annual meeting to Thursday, Oct. 22 to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Verendrye normally holds the meeting the second week in June. The annual meeting is where Verendrye members hear reports regarding the cooperative's business and finances and vote for their

board of directors.

Verendrye previously postponed caucus meetings that were to be held in mid-April. Caucus meetings are where members can be nominated to run for the board. Those meetings will be rescheduled at a later date and notice of the dates and locations will be sent to all members, published in North Dakota Living magazine and on Verendrye's various digital media.

The annual meeting will continue to be held at the State Fair Center in Minot. Follow us on Facebook and at Verendrye.com for the latest information. You can also call us if you have questions.



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.



First International Bank and Trust promotes employees

First International Bank & Trust (FIBT) is proud to announce the promotion of Mathew Jensen, Michael Larson, Perry Olson, Preston Phillips, Kyle Stephens, and Josh Wheeler to various positions within the organization.

Mathew Jensen has been promoted to vice president, Lending. Jensen has been with FIBT since February 2011. Jensen graduated from Minot State University in 2007 with two degrees: one in finance and the other in management.



Mathew Jensen Mathew grew up in Kenmare and graduated from Kenmare High School in 2002.

Jensen serves on the Minot State University Alumni Association Board and is on the Minot Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee.

In Jensen's free time, he enjoys hunting, golfing, and spending time at the lake with family and friends. He and his wife, Emily, have two daughters, Saylor and Pippa.

Michael Larson has been promoted to vice president, Ag Lending. Larson has been with FIBT since July 2018. He has been involved in Ag Lending for the past eleven years. He is a graduate of Glenburn High School and Minot State University, where he earned a degree in business administration.



Michael Larson

Larson serves on the Minot Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee. He enjoys spending time hunting, fishing, attending numerous sporting events and going to the lake with family and friends.

He is married to Lisa, and they have three children: Cheyanne, Michaela, and Easton.

Perry Olson has been promoted to assistant vice president, Business Development. Olson started working at FIBT as a business development specialist

in 2015. He holds a sociology degree from Minot State University, and is a graduate of Our Redeemer's Christian School in Minot.

Before his time at FIBT, Olson worked in broadcasting at Reiten Television Inc. as an anchor/producer for the CBS affiliate's morning news program. Since leaving broadcasting, Olson has been with FIBT, where he has worked to drive new business and better care for existing customers. He also serves as a Minot Park Board Commissioner and as a member of the Minot Area Community Foundation Board of Directors.

While not working, Olson enjoys officiating college and high school basketball and football and spending time with his wife Melissa and their three children.

Preston Phillips has been promoted to vice president, Commercial Lending. Phillips has been with FIBT since June 2010. He graduated from Minot State University in 2010 with a degree in finance. He is also a graduate of Bishop Ryan Catholic School.



Preston Phillips

Phillips is the treasurer for the Minot Y's Men's Club, a committee member for the Triangle Y Camp, sits on the St. John's Finance Council, and is the treasurer/past president of Minot Young Professionals. He also volunteers for the Chamber Junior Achievement program, as well as the Minot Commission on Aging Meals on Wheels program.

Phillips appreciates being able to assist local businesses with their financial needs and guidance. He has lived in Minot all his life and is pleased to be able to give back to the community that has given him so much.

Phillips enjoys skiing, golfing, and spending time with his wife Jessica and their son Payson.

Kyle Stephens has been promoted to assistant vice president, Commercial



Perry Olson

Lending. Stephens started with FIBT on the teller line in May 2013. He became a credit analyst, then started his lending career in 2016. Kyle graduated from Minot State University in 2014 with a degree in business administration. He grew up in Crosby, ND, and graduated from Divide County High School in 2009.



Kyle Stephens

Stephens currently serves on the Companions for Children Board as treasurer and is a member of Young Professionals. He also volunteers his time at the Great Plains Food Bank, Minot Public School Summer Food Program, and Special Olympics of North Dakota.

Stephens enjoys spending time with family and friends, golfing, and officiating hockey. Kyle is married to Emily, and they have two children, Elle and Kade, with a third child on the way the end of May.

Josh Wheeler has been promoted to assistant vice president, Commercial Lending. Wheeler has been with FIBT since February 2014. He is a 2007 graduate of Minot State University, earning a degree in finance, and a 2003 graduate of Our Redeemers Christian School.



Josh Wheeler

Wheeler is a member and past president of the Minot Sertoma Club, Chamber Ambassador Committee member, member and past trustee of Our Redeemers Church, and treasurer of the Our Redeemers Christian Education Foundation Board. He also volunteers coaching for Minot Hockey Boosters, youth baseball, and is involved in numerous other community activities.

Wheeler enjoys spending time at the lake with his wife Breanna and their two children Embry and Abram. He also enjoys golfing in his free time.

Congratulations to all employees.

Our focus, your success

Through economic ups and downs, FIBT is committed to the continued success of our area's small businesses.

Our business banking professionals are always available to answer your questions and provide solutions for any challenge or situation.

It's good to know you have someone in your corner.

Give us a call today, let's get started.



John Drady
Central Market President
(701) 837-2208



Stacey Diehl
SVP, Lending
(701) 837-2206



Kevin Vigested
VP, Arrowhead Br Mgr
(701) 837-2209



Brock DesLauriers
VP, North Hill Br Mgr
(701) 837-2237



Mathew Jensen
VP, Lending
(701) 837-2267



Preston Phillips
VP, Commercial Lending
(701) 837-2221



Michael Larson
VP, Ag Lending
(701) 837-2262



Karleen Houle
AVP/Central Market Retail Supervisor
(701) 837-2011



Perry Olson
AVP, Business Development
(701) 837-2210



Karla Paurus
Cash Management Representative
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Member Business Briefs

Burdick Job Corps seeks collaboration with employers

Burdick Job Corps is seeking employer partnerships to establish lines of employment by bridging the skills-gap that is so often discussed. Job Corps is seeking proactive employers willing to collaborate and contribute to North Dakotas workforce development.

An effective avenue to establish direct employment pipelines is through the delivery of work-based learning opportunities. Work-based learning experiences, such as job-shadowing, internships, co-ops, apprenticeships, and volunteer service provide mutual benefit to employers and student-employees. Student employees gain valuable real-life exposure and experience, in addition to, school credit and/or pay. Employers benefit through the contributions made by the student-employee and the opportunity to instill basic work readiness skills. Employers will effectively develop their own constant pipeline of talent who have graduated from a training program they helped to build.

“We want to focus our mission on satisfying employer requirements while simul-

taneously aligning our students career goals with North Dakotas workforce needs,” said Marvin ‘Monte Montenegro, manager of the Career Transition/Community Liaison.

Interested employers may contact Montenegro at 701-857-9644 or Montenegro.Marvin@jobcorps.org.

My Place Hotels provide support to first responders across America

In continuance of the brand’s efforts to support the first responders, medical personnel, and essential workers of our communities during these unprecedented times, My Place Hotels of America is proud to announce the launch of the brand’s “Help Our Heroes” initiative, a campaign dedicated to providing financial support for first responders across America.

Between now and May 31, guests can help support first responders across America by using promo code Help Our Heroes to book stays between April 13 and Dec. 1, 2020. For each qualifying reservation made during this time, My Place Hotels of America will donate 5% of the cost of the room, exclu-

sive of taxes, to First Responders Children’s Foundation. Booking must be made directly at the hotel or via the My Place Hotels of America website at www.MyPlaceHotels.com.

This development follows a brand-wide move to provide safe, clean, comfortable, and affordable accommodations for the hardworking individuals working on the frontlines of the global health crisis. With 55 properties across 26 states, My Place Hotels is proud to amplify the message that all independently owned and operated properties continue to give back to their communities in a multitude of impactful ways and continue to look for opportunities to do more.

My Place Hotels President and CEO Ryan Rivett is proud to see the brand’s franchise family unite on the same front as we work to ensure first responders have a safe place to call home over these next critical over the next several months.

To learn more about the “Help Our Heroes” initiative or to book a future reservation, please contact sales@myplacehotels.com or visit our website.



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

Pardon named mortgage banker

Courtney Pardon, a Surrey native, has joined Bremer Bank as the new mortgage banker. Pardon comes with nearly eight years of financial and banking experience. She graduated from Surrey High School in 2012 and from Minot State University in 2016 with bachelor's degrees in both finance and management. She grew up working on her family farm in Norwich. Pardon resides in the Minot area with her husband, Cody, and son, Cohen. Her free time is best spent with her family. Together they enjoy many outdoor activities and time at the lake with family and friends. Pardon started as a mortgage banker with Bremer Bank in March.



Courtney Pardon

St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation Grants reach \$8.6 million in gifts to communities

Grants totaling \$192,050.00 were distributed to support a wide variety of area projects, adding to the St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation Twice Blessed grants given on Jan. 23 in the amount of \$765,000.00.

Grants distributed 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. Fresh produce for diabetic individuals, new community resource center and food pantry, full time registered nurse and medical supplies, nutritional meals for senior meal programs, sterile gloves, hand sanitizer, CPR rate monitor, emergency prescription supplies and emergency dental aid, health/foot care clinics for seniors, automatic external defibrillators, education for nurses, 21 area food pantries, rent and utility needs

programs, supervised parenting exchange, mental health cultural arts project, walking path, playground, university scholarships, surveillance system, 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," said Shelly Weppeler, president, SJCHF.

St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) public charity community foundation formed in June of 1998. The Foundation has awarded over \$8.6 million in grants to organizations for many worthwhile projects to assist with programs that address quality of life issues in their communities.

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We'll see you at our rescheduled annual meeting, October 22.



Member Business Briefs

Town & Country Credit Union celebrates Impact Award winners

Each year, Town & Country Credit Union recognizes four employees who exemplify the credit union's mission of "positively impacting those we serve" as recipients of the Impact Award. The 2019 Impact Award winners are:

Michael Couse, Help Desk technician in Minot. Couse was nominated for going above and beyond to help his coworkers and Town & Country members. He efficiently addresses every technology issue with an extra dose of patience and understanding which is appreciated by all.

Mallory Lochthowe, loan servicing supervisor in Minot. Lochthowe was nominated for being the force behind all types of behind-the-scenes projects that positively impact our members and employees each day. She not only finds a way to say yes but also maintains a positive attitude no matter what she's asked to



Michael Couse



Mallory Lochthowe



Heidi Hage



Lisa Millar

do.

Heidi Hage, organizational development manager in Fargo. Hage was nominated because she makes a difference in the lives of our employees every day with her infectious energy, down-to-earth training style and willingness to be a sounding board for any issues that come up.

Lisa Millar, mortgage loan officer assistant in Fargo. Millar was nominated due to her wealth of knowledge and not being afraid to share it with her coworkers

and the members she works with. She's dependable and her common sense allows her to stay grounded, focused and committed to excellent member service even when things get busy.

In addition to the award, Impact Award winners are also given \$500 to donate to a charity of their choice. This year's donations were given to the Souris Valley United Way, Souris Valley Animal Shelter, Post 2 Legion Baseball, and Stand Up to Cancer.

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*APY = Annual Percentage Yield accurate as of 5/1/2020. Balances up to \$20,000 earn 3% APY if qualifications are met, balances over earn the account dividend rate ranging from 0% to .02% APY. If qualifications are not met all balances earn that rate. Monthly Qualifications: 1) Complete 12 debit card purchases 2) Receive eStatements 3) Have an ACH transaction. †Domestic ATM fees incurred during qualification cycle will be reimbursed up to \$25 on the last day of the month. Terms and conditions apply and are subject to change.



Town & Country named #1 for returning value to members

Town & Country Credit Union was ranked the number one credit union in North Dakota amongst their peers for value returned to members in the fourth quarter of 2019. This ranking is based on Return of the Member (ROM), a measurement method designed by national credit union research firm Callahan & Associates which ranks credit unions based on how well they are serving their members. The scores from this method are then used to rank Town & Country Credit Union in comparison to others of similar asset size (assets greater than \$100 million).

“This ranking recognizes that our credit union is strong, growing and committed to giving back to our members, and that’s a ranking we can be very proud of,” said Jeremiah Kossen, President/CEO of Town & Country Credit Union.

The Return of the Member method is based on three main evaluation criteria:

- * **Savings:** This category uses criteria including dividends/interest paid, changes in deposit account balances, and the number of deposit accounts per member, to determine how well a credit union is providing value to members.
- * **Lending:** This category recognizes that credit unions were created to provide credit to their members at a reasonable cost and rewards them for offering a lower rate on loans while considering historic growth in lending and the variety of products offered.
- * **Usage:** This category measures how efficiently the credit union provides and promotes services to their members, rewarding them for an increased number of members who use the credit union as their primary financial institution.

When reviewing their growth in the last year, it’s easy to see how Town & Country Credit Union earned number one. In 2019, the credit union paid out over \$3,500,000 in dividends and interest to members. When compared to their North Dakota peers, they also ranked #1 in loan growth and were named the fastest growing credit union for year-over-year membership

growth at the end of 2019 (based on 12/31/19 NCUA call report data).

Tschetter named to Barron’s national list of top financial advisors

For the sixth consecutive year, Edward Jones financial advisor Greg Tschetter of Minot has been named to *Barron’s* magazine’s annual list of “America’s Top 1,200 Financial Advisors, State by State.”



Greg Tschetter

Tschetter, who has served area investors for the past 19 years, ranked No. 3 in the state.

He said, “I am honored to be named to the top of this distinguished list. I share this recognition with the clients who have entrusted me with their goals and their loyalty. The relationships we build allow me to understand what is important to them, identify tailored solutions and partner with them for the long-term. There is nothing more important to me than helping my clients succeed.”

His office is located at 1000 31st Avenue SW, Suite B in Minot. He and his branch team member, Letta Nathan, can be reached at 701-838-5879.

SkySkopes partners with Minot Police on successful missing person search

A missing child has been found safely in Minot, ND, in no small part due to the swift actions of the partnership between the Minot Police Department, the Minot Fire Department, SkySkopes’ UAS teams, and others.

Within 20 minutes of the call from the Minot Police Department, SkySkopes had teams on station, making police aware of the extra adjustments in operations due to coronavirus precautions. The hours-long search was successful, the crews have debriefed at safe distances, and an after-action report is being conducted remotely.

“I knew I could call on SkySkopes, and that they also had everything they needed to simultaneously prevent the community spread of COVID-19. I was also aware that they had FAA waivers to conduct UAS operations over people with their



aircraft.” said John Klug, Chief of Police in Minot.

“The child was found safely and the successful mission was conducted safely,” said Matt Dunlevy, president and CEO of SkySkopes. “This was an emergency within an emergency, with another UAS emergency response taking place simultaneously in Grand Forks to fight the flood. We have never seen a triple emergency using UAS before. SkySkopes pilots’ incredible professionalism throughout these missions is breathtaking.”

“Some of the drone imagery taken during the search clearly demonstrates the usefulness of UAS in search-and-rescue missions,” said Sebastian Gomez, SkySkopes’ Minot Operations Manager and Mission Commander for the quick reaction efforts. “We are known throughout the country as the operators to call for public response especially needing emergency urgency. That this occurred in our backyard highlights the value of our pilots to our communities. This is also why we are certified as ‘Essential Service Personnel’ in states hit even harder by the coronavirus.”

In addition to personal protective equipment that UAS SkySkopes staff normally wear, PPE that meets and exceeds the WHO, North Dakota Department of Health, and CDC Guidelines was also acquired. Pilots who were part of the successful UAS operation are now self-quarantining as a precaution.

SkySkopes is a professional Drone Service Provider focused on bringing innovative solutions to the energy sector. The company is one of the top five Drone Service companies in the world, with offices in North Dakota, Minnesota, Oregon, California, and Texas. More information

on SkySkopes can be found at www.skyskopes.com.



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May 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Military Affairs Committee, Noon, Virtual Meeting Ambassadors Committee, 4:30 p.m., Virtual Meeting	8	9
10	11	12 Virtual Networking Event (Stay Connected During Turbulent Times - Dale Carnegie), 11:30 a.m., Free Webinar	13 Google Workshop, Noon, Get Your Local Business on Google Search & Maps, Free Virtual Meeting	14	15	16
17	18	19 Board of Directors, 7:30 a.m., Virtual Meeting	20 Google Workshop, Noon, Reach Customers Online, Free Virtual Meeting	21 Governmental Affairs Committee, 11:30 a.m., Virtual Meeting	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day Office closed	26	27 Google Workshop, Noon, Using Data to Drive Business Growth, Free Virtual Meeting	28	29	30
31	 THANK YOU					

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