



UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ACCREDITED

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MINOT Chamber Communicator

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce and You!

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www.minotchamber.org

September 2020

97th Chamber annual meet set for Sept. 23

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce will host its 97th Annual Meeting Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 11:30 a.m. at the Grand Hotel. The keynote will feature V. J. Smith, professional speaker and author of the bestselling book, *The Richest Man in Town*.

With recent discussions between the Minot Chamber and the Minot Area Development Corporation, as well as the various world situations, Smith will address how to deal with change and embrace it. In the past 20 years, Smith has given more than 2,500 presentations to more than one million people.

He is a two-time finalist in Toastmaster's

VJ Smith to offer free workshops Sept. 23

10 – 11 a.m.: Customer Service Training
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.: Recruiting and Retaining
a Qualified Workforce
See page 2 for full story.

International "World Championship of Public Speaking." He spent 25 years in various management roles at both a Fortune

100 company and a mid-sized university.

Special thanks to our annual meeting sponsor, Bank of North Dakota. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by Friday, Sept. 18. Register at www.minotchamber.org, select September 23 on the Chamber calendar, and use your membership login information. We ask that

everyone mask up upon arrival and where appropriate during the Chamber Annual Meeting to keep us all safe during COVID.

For more information, visit minotchamber.org and click on September 23 under Events.



Merger talks continue with MADC and Chamber boards

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce and Minot Area Development Corporation continue talks on a possible merger between the two. The boards of directors of each organization have created committees to look into the logistics of the merger. Finances, dues, bylaws and staff are all being considered. The board members and employees visited with Bismarck/Mandan Chamber/EDC President Brian Ritter, as they merged in 2018. That information has been

vital in the process, as Brian shared the ins and outs and ups and downs of the merger process.

"We welcome any input from our members on the process of a potential merger of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce and Minot Area Development Corporation," said Chamber and MADC Interim president, John MacMartin. MacMartin said the merger should be complete by the first quarter of 2021.

1st Business After Hours of the Season - Roosevelt Park Zoo

Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020 • 5–7 p.m. • Roosevelt Park Zoo

Come out and enjoy the new exhibits while social distancing! 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



*Purchase tickets early online at www.minotchamber.org.
Use your login and password when you click on September 24.*



MINOT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

COMMERCE

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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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Customer service & workforce keys to today's economy

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

The people who are at the front lines of customer service (hotel clerks, waiters, retail workers, government workers) 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 Wednesday, Sept. 23.

This workshop will feature V. J. Smith of Brookings, SD. Smith is the author of *The Richest Man in Town* and *Can You Hear What I See*. Smith's book features Marty, a man he met at the Brookings Walmart who made each customer feel special. The workshop will be from 10 to 11 a.m. and again from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at the Grand Hotel.



Smith will speak at each session first

on customer service and then on retaining qualified employees. Smith will also be the featured speaker at the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Grand Hotel.

While the workshops are free, we want to make sure we have room for everyone. Please RSVP by visiting www.minotchamber.org and clicking on September 23. Use your login and password.

We ask that everyone mask up at the event please. Please let everyone know about this. If you signed up for the April 28 event, you are still in our system and good to go.



Sept. 23 Workshops - Grand Hotel

- 10 – 11 a.m.: Customer Service training (Free)
- 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.: Recruiting and Retaining a Qualified Workforce (Free)
- 11:30 a.m. – Chamber Annual meeting featuring V.J. Smith (Cost: \$30)

Renewals

The Chamber extends a big "THANK YOU" to our members who have renewed their membership from July 25 through Aug. 28, 2020. Your continued support helps your Chamber promote the business community and do the work seen in the pages of this newsletter.

2nd Story Minot Social Club for
Exceptional Persons Inc
BeMobile
Bishop Ryan Catholic School
CDJ Opportunities
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Center
Easter Seals Goodwill of ND,
Inc.
Ebenezer's Eatery & Irish Pub
Elwood Staffing
EnerCorp
Evolution Salon
First Choice Physical Therapy,
Inc.
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Forever Fitness 24/7
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Company
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KLJ Engineering LLC
Blake Krabseth
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Margie's Studio
Minot AFB Homes
Minot Area Council of the Arts
Minot Lumber & Hardware, Inc.
Minot Multiple Listing Service
Minot Public Library
Minot Sash & Door Inc.
Minot State University
Murphy Motors Next to New
Minot
North Central Research
Extension Center
North Country Mercantile &
Equipment
North Dakota Safety Council

Off the Vine, LLC
Peoples State Bank of Velva
Pinnacle Employee Benefits
POEM Design Co.
Pure Power Sports of Minot
Rainbow Photo Lab, Inc.
SERVPRO of Minot
Sierra Inn Minot
SkySkopes
SOS Image
State Farm Insurance - Paul
Siebert
Taco John's
Tires Only
Uncle Maddio's Pizza
US Bank
Vertical Transport North
Vibeto Orthodontics
Ward Warehousing &
Distribution Co.
West Oaks Animal Hospital
The WriteDesign
YWCA of Minot
Zaback Wealth Management
Zarr Financial Services

Minot Motor Vehicle Department open again

The Minot Motor Vehicle Department in Arrowhead Shopping Center is open again after having limited access due to the pandemic. The office processes same day appointments of customers who present themselves at the office in addition to the online appointments made on the state reservation center.

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce manages the Motor Vehicle Department and encourages you to purchase your tabs, registration, and titles

locally. Due to COVID-19, this high traffic area was recommended to close, back in March. The workers continued to process registrations and title work, but with limited access to customers, requiring the public to provide their information through a mail slot. All of this is due to recommendations from the state DOT. After installing barriers, asking the public to wear masks, and fulfilling other Department of Health recommendations, the Minot Motor Vehicle worked hard to

process same day and advanced online appointments.

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce employs six people at the Minot Motor Vehicle Department, and funding from the fees charged there are a major source of income for the Chamber. If you purchase online, or at a kiosk, the service fees don't stay in Minot. We encourage you to #MaximizeMinot and buy local!

August Eagle Awards

The Eagle Award winners were recognized in August and thanked for superior customer service skills. If you would like to nominate someone for outstanding customer service, please call the Chamber at 852-6000 for a nomination form, or visit the website at minotchamber.org. A special thank you goes out to **Homesteaders Restaurant**, **Anytime Fitness**, and **Waxing the City** for providing gift certificates for each Eagle recipient.



MARK ROTH

Thomas Family Funeral Home



AMANDA SPOONEMORE

Panera Bread



HANNAH PETERSON

KeyCare Pharmacy



CHELCE DETERT

Creative Dimensions



CODY LANDPHERE

Johnson Eyecare P.C.



DR. ROBERT THOMAS

Trinity Hospital



BRYN HALGRIMSON

Job Service ND



ANGIE HEINTZ, FNP-C

*Trinity Health Center –
Medical Arts*



KEN SWANSON

Minot Plumbing & Heating



MARIE LEONARD

Rainbow Photo Lab

Save the Date

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

Thursday, October 8 • 5 – 7 p.m. • NDSF Center Magic Place



It's Magic in Minot!

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



MAGICINMINOT.COM

Showcase of Business set for Nov. 12

Let's make this a "mask-er-aid!"

For the past 30 years, the Showcase of Business has been an event to remember and this year's event promises another year of great memories. The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Showcase of Business is set for Thursday, Nov. 12 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the ND State Fair Center Magic Place.

This major fundraiser for the Chamber is a time set aside to showcase what our members offer the community. This year's theme is "Get back into the groove of

things during our mask-er-aid!" So decorate to the '60s and show how far out and cool you are as we all mask up!

Sign up today for a sponsorship:

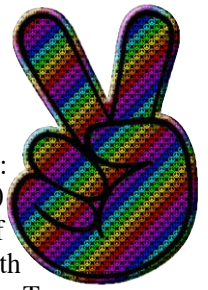
- Platinum Sponsor (\$1,000): includes three 10x10 booths at location of your choice, along with 30 admission tickets, and one quarter page ad of your choice in a future Chamber Communicator. Six available.



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

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

Go to www.minotchamber.org and click on November 12 to sign up today!



Motor Magic cruises into Minot Labor Day weekend

The North Dakota State Fairgrounds will host Motor Magic Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4 - 6 in Minot. The largest motorsports event in the Upper Midwest, Motor Magic provides entertainment for auto enthusiasts of all ages.

The Nodak Speedway will host Dirt Track Racing on Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday beginning at 5 p.m. at the Grandstand. There will also be Sprint cars on Saturday. Race on your

own with go karts on the fairgrounds Friday, Saturday and Sunday!

Motor enthusiasts can visit the historic military vehicle display, the Dakota Cruisers Car Show featuring dragsters from the Magic City International Dragway, or even bid on one of the more than 100 classic cars at the Master's Classic Car Auction. This year, there will be a new motorsports display featuring semis on Saturday and vintage snowmo-

biles on all days of the event. There will also be over 20 vendor booths on both Saturday and Sunday located in the lower atrium of the State Fair Center.

Major events are priced separately. RV reservations start at just \$20 a night with 30 amp electricity included.

For more information and a full schedule of events, visit www.motormagic.net or call 857-7620.

Minot's Ribfest back on the Fairgrounds Sept. 11 – 13

Swing by the North Dakota State Fairgrounds for a smokin' good time at Minot's Ribfest, back for its sixth year from Sept. 11 through 13. As they have in years past, award-winning ribbers from around the country will be here grilling and serving the best brisket, smoked chicken, and ribs. This year, there will be a brand-new monster truck show set to wow audiences in Minot on Saturday at the Grandstand. Anyone who purchases a Monster Truck Show ticket will receive free admission to Ribfest that day.

Ribfest is a great event to have fun with your family and friends. The Minot Ribfest Cornhole Tournament, sponsored by Scheels, is back this

year on Saturday afternoon. Information and registration for this event are available on the Minot's Ribfest website. On Friday and Saturday night, everyone can enjoy free music on the iHeartMedia Stage. To start off Sunday, The Northland Harvest Church will be holding a Sunday Service open to all. Magic City Discovery will be there to provide activities for kids all weekend long. There will also be bounce houses, go karts, an escape room and many more activities for families of all ages.

Admission is \$5. Visit www.minotribfest.com for more information and the complete list of activities.

Chamber 2021 Directories Coming in December



Task Force 21 schedules virtual Triad Symposium

Minot Chamber's Task Force 21 (TF 21) is preparing to host its ninth annual symposium on the Nuclear Triad Sept. 22. While the Symposium is typically held in Washington DC, this year's will be virtual due to the pandemic.

TF 21 Chair Mark Jantzer says, "This is a great opportunity for our community — home to two legs of the triad — to stay engaged in the national debate concerning the need for the recapitalization of all three legs of the triad."

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

A great line up of speakers and panelists includes:

- Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND): The Congressional Consensus on Strategic Nuclear Modernization

- General John Hyten, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: The Importance of Nuclear Modernization
- Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) Member of the Appropriations Committee: A View from Appropriations
- The Honorable Barbara M. Barrett, Secretary of the Air Force
- Tim Morrison, Senior National Security Fellow, Hudson Institute: The Strategic Environment: The Current Russian Challenge: New Start, and the Russia and China Nuclear Threat
- Dr. Stephen J. Blank, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute's Eurasia Program and Dr. Mark Schneider, Senior Analyst, National Institute for Public Policy: Russian Nuclear Forces: Is There a Strategy of Escalate to Win?
- Joseph Bosco, Fellow at the Institute for Core America Studies (ICAS) and the Institute for Taiwan-America Studies (ITAS) and Rick Fisher: Are Nuclear

Weapons a Hegemonic Tool in Chinese Security Policy?

- Honorable Drew Walter, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Matters: Getting Nuclear Deterrence and Modernization Right
- Dr. Brad Roberts, Director, Center for Global Security Research: Escalate to Win and Theories of Victory: Red and Blue
- Dr. Michaela Dodge, Research Scholar at the National Institute for Public Policy: The Cost of Nuclear Modernization in Perspective
- Honorable Frank Miller, Principal, The Scowcroft Group: The Nature of Nuclear Deterrence
- Maj Gen Bill Chambers, USAF, retired, Institute for Defense Analysis: Nuclear Deterrent Strategy, NC3 and Major Power Competition

Ag Committee provides lunch for 700th Farm Rescue family

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee members were happy to provide a meal to volunteers of Farm Rescue.

Farm Rescue, a nonprofit organization that provides planting, haying, harvesting

and livestock feeding assistance free of charge to farm and ranch families who have experienced a major illness, injury or natural disaster, recently completed its 700th assistance case.

The farm of Joel Newman, near Sawyer, ND, was the site of this milestone service event. Newman

recently underwent liver and bile duct resection surgery, which requires a recovery period of around two months. The timing of the surgery and rehabilitation will interfere with the Newman's harvest operations and Farm Rescue is honored to provide equipment and volunteers to assist with the family's wheat crop.



Women Connect sponsors event Sept. 15:

Find ways to navigate change & uncertainty

Mark your calendars for the next Minot Women Connect event on Sept. 15: "You Got This! Small Steps to Wellbeing during Dynamic Times." Join the conversation about navigating change and uncertainty. Discover small steps to boost your mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing at work and home. Women Connect favorite Maggie Bohannon, a licensed therapist, will be leading a discussion on what you can do to help yourself and those around

you during times of social isolation and economic unrest.

Interested participants can register for this Women Connect event at the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce website www.minotchamber.org by navigating to the calendar and selecting September 15. The cost to attend is \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. Attendance will be virtual and in person socially distanced at Oak Park Theater.

We will be surveying attendees ahead of time to provide feedback as to topics they may be challenged with and/or seeking more information.

Please email minotwomenconnect@gmail.com to be included in the survey.



Ag Committee presents proceeds from mulligans and 50/50 held at Brag Up Ag Golf Scramble

Minot Chamber Agribusiness Committee members presented each of the FFA organizations from both Garrison and Minot with a \$500 check from proceeds of the Mulligans and 50/50 held at the Brag Up Ag Golf Scramble in July.

Groundbreaking

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.



Souris Valley Animal Shelter: 1935 20th Ave SE • Minot, ND • 852-6133 • www.svaspets.com

Shelbi Waters, Executive Director

The Chamber Ambassadors attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the Souris Valley Animal Shelter. The renovation and expansion of the Souris Valley Animal Shelter will provide a better quality of life for the stray and unwanted pets of North Dakota.

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.



Fast Car Changing Station: North Enerbase Travel Plaza: 4750 North Broadway • Minot, ND
Tony Bernhardt, Enerbase General Manager • Randy Hauck, Verendrye Electric General Manager
The Chamber Ambassadors attended a ribbon cutting celebrating one of the first level 3 electric car charging stations in North Dakota. Enerbase and Verendrye Electric Cooperative partnered to create the charging station, which went online in July and is located in north Minot at the Enerbase Travel Plaza.



28 Tastes & Taps: 1603 35th Ave. SW • Minot, ND • 838-2828 • Owner: Dan Lawson
The Minot Chamber Ambassadors celebrated the opening of 28 Tastes & Taps with a ribbon cutting. Occupying the former Fuddruckers building across from the YMCA, 28 Tastes offers a large menu of appetizers and meals, spacious seating, and a separate 21 and over lounge space. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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.



Benchmark Mortgage - Team ND: 2080 36th Ave. SW, Suite 205 • Minot, ND • 839-3360 • www.teamnd.benchmark.us
Owners: Steve Fennewald & Sarah Burckhard

The Chamber Ambassadors attended a ribbon cutting of Benchmark Mortgage - Team ND at their new location. Benchmark Mortgage offers a fresh experience, providing a convenient and easy home lending experience for their clients.



Always A Good Time Party Bus: 1106 Coolidge • Minot, ND • 701-721-2053 • alwaysagoodtimepartybus@gmail.com
Daniel L. Pausig, Sr.

Ambassadors cut the ribbon at Always a Good Time Party Bus Service to welcome them to the business community. They provide a service so people can get out and get together with family and friends while enjoying a good time safely and reasonably.

Legacy Design Strategies transitions to manage Howard Law Firm as she prepares to retire Sept. 30.

After 42 years of the professional practice of law, Judith Howard, founder of the Estate Planning Law Center, P.C. doing business as Howard & Associates Law Firm, has announced her retirement, effective Sept. 30. At the start of Howard's career, Ella Van Berkom was the only other female attorney practicing



Front, left to right: Jennifer Allen, Krysa Zorbaugh, Afton Basden and Donna Seright; Back, left to right: Danette Brothers, Andrew Sigerson, Judith Howard, Andria Mueller and Dan Stuenzi

law in Minot. Much has changed over the years. During that time, Howard's devotion to the law and to her clients has become well-known throughout the area.

For the past nine months, Howard has been supervising the transition of her firm and her staff to her successor, local attorney Andria Mueller, a partner with Legacy Design Strategies Law Firm. Legacy Design Strategies is the largest boutique estate planning law firm in the Midwest. It is headquartered in Omaha, NE, but has had a branch office in Minot since 2012.

"The way both firms practice law and care for clients is almost identical. I couldn't have found a better match to continue caring for my clients in the years ahead," said Howard.

Legacy Design Strategies was founded by attorney Andrew Sigerson of Omaha, who has been a friend and colleague of Howard for many years. Both firms restrict their practice to estate planning and business planning, and both belong to the same national association of estate planning attorneys. "It was a sincere

honor to be asked by Judith to bring her firm and her wonderful team members into our family. We share the same philosophy about the importance of proper planning and preserving our clients' wealth and personal legacy," said Sigerson. "Judith is an icon in the world of estate planners, and we wish her a happy and blessed retirement."

Effective Oct. 1, the Legacy Design Strategies name will be more widely seen, but the Minot office location (7 Third Street SE, Suite 202) will remain the same for the convenience and benefit of the firm's clients. Likewise, all staff members of Howard & Associates will remain. Legacy Partner, Andria Mueller, stated "Judith has established her own lifetime legacy through the hundreds of families she has served over several decades. I am honored to be passed the baton and look forward to carrying on her standard of excellence."

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Member Business Briefs

Former Chamber member has items to giveaway to startup company

If you know of a startup company that could use some free new furniture, a former Chamber member has some items available. JoAnn Johnson has custom-made teal sound-proof workstations. She says they can be set as three separate or one large, one regular, and one short as shown. All are interchangeable. The units include underneath lighting, pencil drawers, and flipper top open storage.

Other pieces include:

- File cabinets (3) with two top drawers.

- Matching office chairs (3) and sitting chairs (2)
- Fire-proof safe
- Fax machine
- Flat screen
- Land line phones (3)
- Office supplies, stampers, wire bins, holders and other miscellaneous.

Contact the owner at 701-837-4899 or 701-720-4899. Furniture must be taken apart and hauled out, but there is easy access and a lift to haul out.

This is a great plus for someone in business or wanting to start a business in the community of Minot.



Here for you every step of the way



Fred Beuchler
701-420-6739



Tyler Neether
701-420-6723



Brett Fiddler
701-420-6760

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615 South Broadway | Minot
www.townandcountry.org



MSU Department of Special Education receives \$750,000 grant

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has awarded the Minot State University Department of Special Education a \$750,000 grant to develop student scholarships for paraprofessionals with a special education emphasis.

The scholarship money will empower paraprofessionals to earn a bachelor of science in education with a major in special education.

“We have paraprofessionals who currently work as special education aids throughout our state, but they are not fully certified as teachers. These dedicated people have already shown their ability to work with, and their commitment to, students who have special needs,” Kirsten Baesler, DPI state superintendent of schools, said during the Aug. 10 North Dakota COVID-19 Response Press Conference. “The Department of Public Instruction, the governor’s office, and our state partners are partnering with Minot State University to offer scholarships to these paraprofessionals.

“Minot’s proposal is a research-based special education preparation program that addresses special education shortages in North Dakota. MSU’s Special Education Shortages CARES Act Project is a unique pathway for paraprofessionals

currently working to support students with disabilities to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in Education with a major in Special Education.”

The two-year project will support 20 candidates as they complete their degree through a paraprofessional to teacher pathway. The project is a continuation of a pilot grant Minot State received in April 2020 for \$252,000.

The pilot grant began May 27 and is supporting a cohort of nine candidates as they complete their Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in Special Education over a two-year period.

“This program will begin to help increase our supply of licensed special education teachers who are trained in distance learning education. I should note that there is a high demand for this opportunity,” said Baesler. “For the nine openings for the summer, there were over 70 applications. Our additional support for 20 more scholarships will go a long way.”

The grant will cover the cost of tuition for all six semesters, and courses, seminars, and interactions with Minot State’s expert faculty will be offered through accessible distance technology. Candidates will continue to work in their paraprofessional position while completing the program and will receive on the job mentoring and modeling from the administrator and special education

teacher.

“New challenges need new solutions. There is a shortage of special education teachers nationwide including North Dakota. This grant will allow us to design and implement another pathway for folks to finish their degree and fill this need,” Holly Pedersen, Minot State University special education department chair, said.

Pedersen gives credit to the Minot State University special education and education team members who supported the grant application for the innovative project, including Wenjing Zheng, special education assistant professor; Lisa Borden-King, associate professor of teacher education and head of the teacher education unit; Jenna Arnold, special education part-time faculty; Amy Armstrong, North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities director of the Office of Sponsored Programs and research associate; and Sheila Latham, grants accounting analyst.

Ideal candidates for the paraprofessional to teacher pathway need to be currently working as a paraprofessional with one year of experience, have an associate degree or some college completed, and have the support of their school administrators and special education teacher. For more information, contact Pedersen at holly.pedersen@MinotStateU.edu.

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Ryan



Jessica



Paul B.



Kim



Jeremy



Paul K.



Scott



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Olson & Burns P.C. announces addition of two attorneys

Olson & Burns P.C., a leading commercial law and banking law firm, is pleased to announce the addition of two attorneys to its statewide practice representing banks and both large and small businesses.

Attorney Nici Meyer is a lifelong resident of North Dakota who grew up farming and ranching throughout western and central North Dakota. Meyer graduated from Rugby High School and obtained her bachelor of science degree in political science from Moorhead State University in 1998, and her Juris Doctorate from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 2001. Meyer served as the elected state's attorney for both Bowman and Slope Counties, as well as working as a sole practitioner with a general practice.



Nici Meyer

Prior to joining Olson and Burns, PC, Meyer served as an assistant attorney general in the North Dakota Attorney General's office within the Civil Litigation and Natural Resources Division where she worked on the regulation of oil and gas production, civil litigation, and various administrative law cases.

In addition to her law career, Meyer has continued her passion for ranching alongside her husband and partnering with her parents in a cow/calf operation. She also enjoys training and working with her horses and rodeoing with her family; she also enjoys hunting and a friendly game of golf.

Licensed in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota, Meyer is accepting new clients.

Attorney Loni Bryantt is a Minot native and is pleased to return to practice law in her hometown. Bryant obtained her bachelor of arts degree in journalism and mass communications from Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of

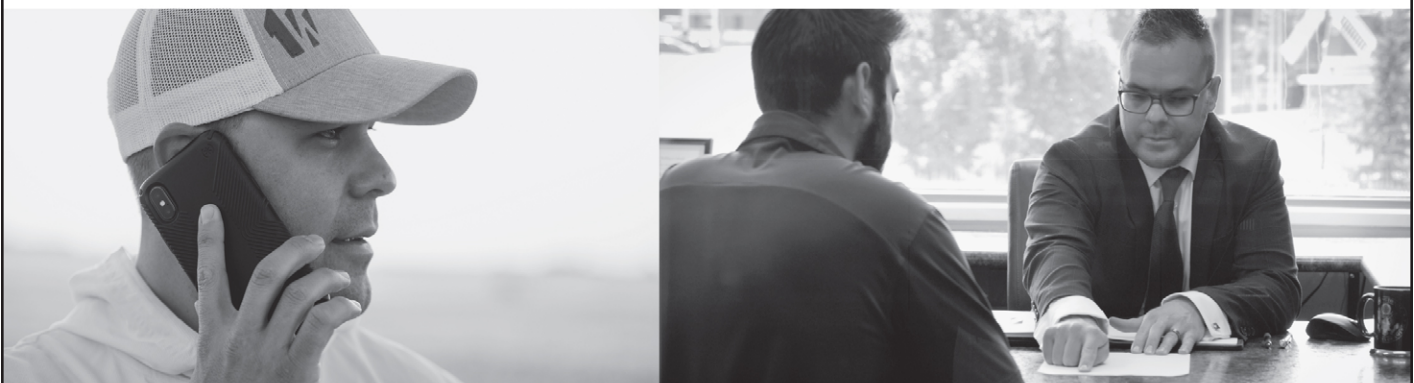
Journalism and Mass Communications in 2017. In May 2020, she received her Juris Doctorate from the University of North Dakota School of Law and earned an Indian Law Certificate, which recognizes those students who take at least 15 credits in Indian Law and Tribal Law.



Loni Bryantt

Bryantt has broad experience in legal research, legal writing, and courtroom procedure and protocol. While in law school, she participated in Moot Court, was the Outside Articles Editor for the North Dakota Law Review, worked as a legal intern on the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs with Senator John Hoeven, worked as a law clerk for a Grand Forks law firm, and served as a judicial law clerk for the Northeast Central Judicial District Court.

Bryantt wrote the North Dakota Bar Exam in July.



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First International announces

Live First community giving campaign

First International Bank & Trust (FIBT) announces its Sixth Annual Live First Community Giving Campaign. Charitable and community organizations are encouraged to apply for awards totaling \$25,000.

Who can apply?

Any organization benefiting the communities served by First International Bank & Trust. This can include non-profit organizations, community groups, classroom initiatives, etc. If you can demonstrate value to the community, you can apply for a Live First Community Grant!

What's at stake?

- Grand Prize: One grant of \$10,000
- Rising Star: Five grant winners will be selected from across our footprint to receive \$2,000 each. This grant is designed for supporting a new non-profit organization or new initiatives from an existing non-profit that are in need of a little kick-start.
- Social Media Star: Three grants of \$1,000 each will be awarded based on the most likes on social media.

How and when can I enter?

An online entry form will be available beginning Tuesday, Sept. 1 through Tuesday, Sept. 15. Watch our FIBT social media channel for links, details, and information on how you can support your chosen organization.

Additional details and official rules can be found on the First International Bank and Trust website (FIBT.com) and by visiting the First International Bank & Trust Facebook page.



Harvey Ambulance received the 2019 grand prize Live First Community Grant.

First International Bank & Trust appoints Jason Johnson CFO

First International Bank & Trust (FIBT) is proud to announce that Jason Johnson has been named the organization's Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Johnson has served as FIBT's Controller since 2018 and has an extensive background in bank finance, reporting, strategic planning, and budgeting. He has a deep appreciation for FIBT's 110 years of serving its customers and looks forward to helping guide the bank's direction for years to come.



Jason Johnson

"This an exciting time to take on this new challenge," Johnson said. "FIBT has gained a reputation as a national leader in community banking, and a valuable partner in the communities we serve. The bank has experienced considerable growth in the past decade. I look forward to being part of the team that drives continued expansion in traditional and emerging sectors of the financial industry."

In addition to its 28 bank locations in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Arizona, First International operates full-service insurance and wealth management divisions. Recently, FIBT has acquired ACH provider Kotapay, and mineral tracking and software firm, MineralTracker. As CFO, Johnson will help guide all FIBT affiliated operations.

"We are delighted to welcome Jason to our executive management team," said FIBT President Peter Stenehjelm. "Jason's broad experience in critical financial functions has already been and will continue to be a tremendous asset to FIBT. His collaborative leadership approach will be a strong cultural fit for our customers, employees, and communities. In this role, we expect Jason will help grow, strengthen, and create value for our bank."

Johnson brings 17 years experience to his new role. He's a Magna cum laude graduate of the University of North Dakota, holding a bachelor of accountancy. Since earning his Certified Public

Accountant certification in 2004, Johnson has served in various roles, including audit manager, controller, and chief financial officer, at a number of accounting firms and banks in North Dakota and Minnesota.

Three options for Dakota Hope Banquet

The 9th annual Dakota Hope Fundraising Banquet will be Monday, Sept. 21 at the ND State Fair Event Center. New this year, participants will have a choice of a second banquet night on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at the Mountrail County South Complex in Stanley. Dakota Hope is excited to welcome one of the youngest speakers on reproductive issues, Rebekah Hagen, as guest speaker for both evenings. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. in Minot and 6 p.m. in Stanley. Dinner is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. for both venues. A third option is to watch the Sept. 21 event live in your home.

Hagen's role in the pro-life movement was unplanned and fueled instead by first-hand experience. At age twenty, Hagen began speaking across the United States and sharing her own story, which has caught the attention of both local and national media, as well as religious and secular organizations, including *Vice News*, *HBO*, *Focus On The Family*, and *World Magazine*.

A passionate advocate for grace-centered outreach, Hagen uses her story to unravel the mindset of women in unplanned pregnancies, and to equip and encourage others to lead with hope and compassion. Hagen is a graduate of William Jessup University, and she and her family reside in Roseville, CA, where she works for her local pregnancy center.

Please RSVP by Sept. 11 to your table host or register yourself at dakotahope.org. Live -streaming of the Sept. 21 banquet is available for those who wish to participate from home. Upon registration at www.dakotahope.org, a link will be sent to access the event. For more information, call 852-4675.

Co-founder of Athletes Inspiring Action recognized as community athlete

Minot High athlete, Landry Maragos, is already well-known for her efforts in softball, volleyball and basketball, but she brings much more to the table than just athletic ability.

Maragos is a co-founder of Athletes Inspiring Action. It's made up of more than 100 athletes from the area. Together, they write letters to troops, bell-ring during the holidays, and deliver Valentine cards to the nursing homes. She also volunteers for Prairie Grit, Dream Catchers, and a handful of other organizations in the area.

The amount of effort Landry provides to the Minot community as a high school senior is inspiring. Due to this involvement, Landry was nominated by her softball coach, Gerard Cederstrom, as a candidate deserving of the Community Athlete of the Season.

"She's just a great kid, inspiration and role model," said Coach Cederstrom. "She tells people 'go out in your community, there's time to do it.'"

The Community Athlete program is in place to showcase outstanding sportsmanship among area athletes and is supported by Scheels and United Community Bank.

The presentation took place Thursday, July 30 at a Prairie Grit track meet where Landry was volunteering. It came as a complete surprise to Landry where she was

recognized by her coaches and presented with \$500 in gift cards to Scheels (\$250 to each Landry and the MHS softball team) and \$1000 to the Minot High softball team from United Community Bank.

For more information or to nominate a community athlete, stop by the Minot Scheels or United Community Bank locations or visit www.ucbnd.bank/communityconnection/athlete/.

Pulkinen joins HEI

Zeb Pulkinen joins Houston Engineering, Inc.'s (HEI) Minot team as a Technician I. He will primarily work in the field, providing survey and construction observation services for projects across western North Dakota.



Zeb Pulkinen

A Minot native, Pulkinen has watched floods, oil booms, and other events create an ongoing need for new reliable infrastructure throughout the region. He earned his associate degree in petroleum engineering technology from Bismarck State College and his bachelor's degree in geology from Minot State University. Pulkinen's experience and education make him a great addition to HEI's team to ensure infrastructure being built will serve clients for years to come.

Taube open and available for rent

The Taube Museum of Art has a brand new meeting room with kitchen access, tv and projector, coffee, water, and beautiful artwork that will wow your staff. The gorgeous museum space is also available for weddings, parties, events, and more. Room rentals start as low as \$50 per hour, and full museum rentals start as low as \$250. During this pandemic, staff are adhering to any guidelines concerning gatherings that may come out. The Taube staff is also vigilant in keeping the space open and safe for the public. Send an email to taube@srt.com to see full rental details and schedule a walkthrough.

Taube sponsors adult painting class

The Taube Museum of Art will sponsor an adult painting class with Janie Myers on Sept. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. During this session, attendees will be painting a vibrant flamingo, a continuation of Myers' "Jungle Mania" series. It is not necessary to have attended previous sessions to join.

The Taube Museum of Art is dedicated to providing arts to the community while also keeping you safe. Class size is limited to 20 attendees to ensure an appropriately spaced environment for everyone involved. Free hand sanitizer and masks will also be available. This class is for 21+ only. All materials will be provided, and no previous painting skills are necessary. Due to cleaning and class size restrictions, attendees must sign up in advance. This can be done via email or by going to <https://taubemuseum.eventbrite.com>. If you would like to pay with cash or card, please contact us directly. We thank you for your support!



Jen Hubrig (UCB), left, and Cole Krueger (Scheels), right, presented Landry Margos (second from left) and Minot High Softball Coach Coach Gerard Cederstrom with \$500 each as award recipients of the Community Athlete program. Cole's son Sully (far right) also participated in the presentation.



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September 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Ribbon Cutting , 11:30 a.m., Bones BBQ Smokehouse & Grill, 1412 2nd Ave. SW	2	3 CLI Opener , 8 a.m., Roosevelt Park Zoo Military Affairs Committee , Noon, via Zoom Ambassadors Committee , 4:30 p.m., North Highlands Apartments, 1250 27th Ave NW	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Office closed	8 Eagle Award Presentation 10 a.m., Chamber office	9 Right Start Presentation , 9:30 a.m., via Zoom	10 CLI Emergency Services Session , 8 a.m., Minot Police Department	11 Infrastructure Committee , 7:30 a.m., Homesteaders Restaurant	12
13	14	15 Board of Directors , 7:30 a.m., Grand Hotel Women Connect , 8:30 a.m., Virtual	16 Coffee with the President , 1:30 p.m., Chamber office	17 CLI Healthcare Session , 8 a.m., Trinity Riverside Governmental Affairs Committee , 11:30 a.m., Badlands Restaurant	18	19
20	21	22	23 Customer Service Seminar , 10 a.m., Grand Hotel Right Start Presentation , 9:30 a.m., via Zoom Annual Meeting , 11:30 a.m., Grand Hotel Recruiting & Retraining a Qualified Workforce , 11:30 a.m., Grand Hotel	24 CLI Leadership Session , 7:30 a.m., MSU Wellness Center Energy Committee , 11:30 a.m., Buffalo Wings & Rings Business After Hours , 5 – 7 p.m., Roosevelt Park & Zoo	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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