

MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC COMMUNICATOR

WWW.MINOTCHAMBER.ORG

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COVID: ONE YEAR LATER

We all have had to adapt to changes in our workplace during the pandemic. There have been many lessons learned since March 11, 2020 when a Ward County man was the first person to test positive for COVID-19 in North Dakota. The business community was tasked with adapting to an everchanging economy while doing their best to protect employees and customers. We asked the Minot Chamber EDC Board of Directors what this year has meant for them and how COVID-19 has affected their work moving forward.



"COVID has changed the way we communicate more than anything. Many more online meetings, much less travel, much less in person meetings. Team building is a challenge without in person meetings."

Les Knudson, Division Head Food Ingredients AGT Foods

"COVID has meant a change in the way we handle many activities to more electronic versions of interactions with employees and clients. Zoom, FaceTime, text, email and scanners. We already did much of this when necessary but personal contact had greatly slowed. We hope to bring this back as vaccines occur and we get back to a more normal post-COVID world. We miss the personal face to face employee and client interactions! Our business is based on relationships and so getting back to that is very important to us! Our customers are our friends, we miss them!"

Jonn Knecht, Senior Vice President Correspondent Banking American Bank Center

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CHAMBER EDC BOARD

Chair- Jonn Knecht,
American Bank Center

Chair Elect – Randy Hauck,
Verendrye Electric Cooperative

Vice Chair – Kevin Black,
Creedence Energy Services

Treasurer – Missy Feist-Erickson,
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Ryan Ackerman, Ackerman-Estfold

Bucky Anderson, Ward County

Cassidy Hjelmstad, SRT Communications, Inc.

Les Knudson, AGT Foods

Brekka Kramer, Odney

Randy Schwan, Trinity Health

Dr. Steve Shirley, Minot State University

Mayor Shaun Sipma, City of Minot

Dr. Mark Vollmer, Minot Public Schools

Jason Zimmerman, Minot Area Community
Foundation



“From the moment our first patient presented with the virus last spring, through the depths of COVID’s devastation this past winter, our staff doubled down on our mission to serve the community selflessly and compassionately – and the community graciously supported them.

A year-plus later in the pandemic’s epicenter, sharpened by many incredible challenges and buoyed by genuine heroism within its team, Trinity Health is emerging very grateful and extremely proud, but forever touched by the sacrifices and pain endured by so many of our staff, friends and neighbors. We’re optimistic about the future and in our ability to make more possible across our region, but we’re also mindful that we remain in a pandemic still and we all must take appropriate measures – like vaccination – to reduce the impact of this virus within our community.”

Randy Schwan, Vice President Trinity Health

“When distance learning began, SRT contacted school districts in our area to ensure that every student had internet access and the speeds they needed to continue their learning at home. As a cooperative, we have continued that commitment to support students now that so many online tools are a part of every day school activities. As we expand our fiber optic network and deliver Gigabit internet to every home in our territory, we are proud of the vital infrastructure we provide our customers.”

Cassidy Hjelmstad, Chief Marketing Officer SRT Communications, Inc.

“The Minot Area Community Foundation entered 2020 celebrating 20 years of serving as the center for community giving. The community has made the foundation the organization we are today and we had plans for numerous events throughout the year. We quickly shifted from planning events to doing what we do best: identifying community and supporting signature programs. We were able to grant much needed dollars to keep key community projects moving forward and support the delivery of essential services in the surrounding area.”

Jason Zimmerman, President Minot Area Community Foundation

“COVID had an immeasurable impact on oil and gas, but our industry is resilient and has turned to innovation to adapt to the new environment. In our case, Creedence pivoted to develop a new EOR biosurfactant technology to help operators recover more oil during challenging times.”

Kevin Black, President Creedence Energy Services

Business marketing efforts continue to live on shifting sand due to the pandemic. COVID-19 elevated the importance of communications and getting the right message out to the right audience at the right time. No matter what industry your business is in, communication about new policies, practices and changes was vital. Also, it brought to light that internal communications is just as important as external for brands.

Brekka Kramer, Vice President Odney

“Like many other sectors, COVID obviously had a major impact on the way we serve and educate students at Minot State University. Significant investments have been made across campus into new technologies that have dramatically changed the classroom experience and allowed us to now be nearing the completion of a successful 2020-21 academic year. I would offer a huge word of “THANKS” to our students, faculty, staff, and administration for their patience, flexibility, resilience and hard work in navigating all the shifting sands of the pandemic. Additionally, much thanks to Trinity Health, First District Health Unit, and the ND National Guard for all of their assistance with on-campus COVID testing and vaccination events and other pandemic-related assistance. The entire MSU community is looking forward to a more “traditional” academic year in 2021-22!”

Dr. Steven W. Shirley, PhD, President Minot State University

ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH (C2ER)

COST OF LIVING 2020 ANNUAL AVERAGE

	Minot ND	Bismarck, Mandan ND Metro	Grand Forks, ND-MN Metro	Minneapolis, MN Metro	Pierre, SD
Composite Index	99.7	98.5	91.4	105.1	99.8
Groceries	107.6	101.4	96.2	102.6	99.5
Housing	89.3	92.4	91.1	103.1	114.6
Utilities	88.3	88.9	94.7	97.3	89.9
Transportation	109.0	105.5	98.6	100.5	91.9
Health Care	114.5	116.5	108.6	102.62	96.7
Misc. Goods	103.6	100.5	84.7	111.2	93.2

Minot's cost of living is just under the annual national average for the 2020 Annual Average. (U.S. Average Composite Index = 100%) The cost of living index is published by the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA).

The ACCRA Cost of Living Index measures differences between areas in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures. It is based on 100,000 data points, for which prices are collected quarterly by the Minot Area Chamber EDC and 288 other urban areas across the nation.

COVID VACCINE NOW OFFERED TO EVERYONE 16 AND OLDER

All adults ages 18 and up can now schedule an appointment through the First District Health Unit's online appointment scheduler or by phone.

First District Health Unit serves Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, McLean, Renville, Sheridan, and Ward counties.

The link to schedule and phone numbers for all First District Health locations can be found on the website at www.fdh.u.org.

NEW LOOK FOR CHAMBER BUCKS

The Minot Area Chamber EDC Bucks have a new look! Participating businesses are listed on the back. If you do not participate and would like to, please contact the Minot Area Chamber EDC.

As a reminder, Chamber EDC Bucks are utilized like gift cards/certificates. They are honored at the full value. The business returns the used Bucks to the Chamber EDC for full reimbursement, which is issued on the 15th or 30th of each month.



**MINOT AREA
CHAMBER EDC**

\$\$\$ Chamber EDC Bucks \$\$\$
(gift certificate)

Value Amount: Fifteen Dollars

SAMPLE

CHAMBER EDC MEMBER INVESTOR:

This certificate is good toward the purchase of merchandise or services. Please honor it at full face value by refunding cash for any difference between the purchase price and the face value. For full reimbursement, return to Minot Chamber EDC, PO Box 940, Minot, ND 58702.

L. John MacMartin

L. John MacMartin, President
Minot Area Chamber of Commerce

No. _____

Expires _____

Happy Easter



**We Wish You A Happy Easter
From Our Family To Yours**

Arrowhead

150 16th St SW
(701) 839-2170

Broadway

1600 S Broadway
(701) 837-1600

North Hill

2150 21st Ave NW
(701) 837-2050



0321_03-21

FIBT.com

Member FDIC



EAGLE AWARDS

March recipients of the Minot Area Chamber EDC Eagle Award Program are:



Lori Mock
SRT Communications,
Inc.



Jennifer Kroft
YMCA



Kelly Sorensen
Thompson Larson
Funeral Home



Rich Hensen
Hensen's Fur & Leather



Brady Carpenter
North Prairie Regional
Water



Reed McCarty
FedEx Express



Jerel Brandt
Trinity Health



Jayden Casavant
City of Burlington



Jasmin Knox
McDonald's



Colin Melkert
Marketplace Foods



Amy Braaten
Trinity Health



Terri Phillion
Hyatt House Minot



Kevin Degree
Farm Credit Services
of ND



Manuela Moreno
Denny's Restaurant

Thank you to
Homesteaders,
Waxing the City,
and Anytime Fitness
for providing gift
certificates for
award recipients.

ANNUAL PRAIRIE WARRIOR AUCTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 15

Chamber EDC Member Investors:

We need your help. Our Annual Prairie Warrior Auction will take place this year, after being canceled in 2020. We kept the non-perishable items from last year with the hopes this year will be bigger and better than ever. That being said, the May 15 event at the Clarion needs items for our live and silent auction. Proceeds from this event go to help with the morale and well-being of our Air Force personnel at MAFB. An example of a program that benefits is Operation Warmheart, which provides year-round essentials to needy service members and their families, as well as Thanksgiving baskets during the holiday season.

Are you able to help with a donation? We could use some unique, one of a kind experiences and items (a day of fishing, boating, sailing, time-share rental), and cash is always welcome!

We request that each Minot Area Chamber EDC member considers donating an item to be auctioned. If your business does not have a particular item to donate, we encourage you to consider a donation of cash, which goes directly to the bottom line of the event and enhances the total funds raised for the Prairie Warrior Auction. The deadline for submitting items is April 26, 2021. This will allow us time to recognize your name at the event.

The points of contact for downtown donations are the Chamber EDC, 852-6000, and Tom Rafferty, 852-0406/720-0126.

We look forward to seeing you, your employees and friends at the auction. Thank you in advance for making this year's effort our best ever!

Sincerely,

Randy Hauck

Randy Hauck
Chair of Military Affairs Committee

Tom Rafferty

Tom Rafferty
Co-chair of Auction

WE ARE YOUR ARCHITECTURE

hometeam

Building a house? Renovating or remodeling? Ackerman-Estvold is your hometown home team. Our architecture team are licensed professionals who can help you achieve the home of your dreams. Our custom house plans are created with the highest standards of quality and design to meet your personal needs and style. We have created several design packages to suit your aesthetic and financial needs. Contact us today to turn your dream into reality!

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LOGISTICS PARK OF NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SB 2245 HOUSE AMENDMENT

The Intermodal Transportation Assistance Program is an appropriation to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture for support of intermodal service in North Dakota.

The proposed funds of \$2.5 million must be used for providing grants to an organization dedicated to development of an intermodal transportation facility and expansion of intermodal infrastructure in the state.

The expansion of intermodal site infrastructure into BNSF Railway's Gavin Yard needs to take place by August 1, 2021. It is estimated this expansion could cost up to \$3.1 million. Minot Area Chamber EDC is negotiating with all parties to complete the expansion as quickly and economically as possible. The Intermodal Assistance Program would provide funding to ensure the project can be completed.

LET'S GET TOGETHER TO MAKE MINOT SHINE! CITYWIDE CLEAN UP SET FOR MAY 7 & 8

The trash in our community is not a welcome site to any of us, especially visitors. That's why Project CLEAN (Community Leaders Enhancing Area Neighborhoods) is gearing up for their annual clean up May 7 & 8. The group is concentrating on the entrances to the city, to spruce up before summer. Groups can stop by the Chamber EDC office and sign up for the designated areas and pick up trash bags up until and on May 7. We will not have trash bags and sign ups available on Saturday, May 8, but feel free to come in any time, even now, to pick up trash bags.

Volunteers can help anytime between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Any questions or suggestions call the Chamber EDC at 852-6000 or email minot@minotchamberedc.com.

DEVELOPING A RESILIENT WORKFORCE: HOW ORGANIZATIONS THRIVE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

In tough times filled with change and uncertainty, having a resilient organization that can successfully "bounce back" and grow from adverse experiences is critical. Learn how to develop resilience in your people, teams and across your organization! Join the Minot Area Chamber EDC and Dale Carnegie ND for Developing a Resilient Workforce: How Organizations Thrive in the Face of Adversity on Thursday, April 8, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., at the Grand Hotel.

This Business Brief will help you:

- Explore how adverse conditions impact us personally and professionally
- Understand resilience and how to cultivate it
- Discuss practical tactics for reducing stress and unleashing the power of resilience to overcome adversity

Wish people in your organization were more resilient? We can help you help them. Learning how to handle stress – especially in times of adversity – can have real benefits to employees and the organizations they work for. Few of us can change the environment in which we operate – but we can control how we prepare and respond to the events around us.

Register for this Chamber University event at www.minotchamber.org, click on April 8 on the calendar. Cost for the workshop is \$49 for members and \$79 for non-members.

MINOT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK BACK IN ACTION!

The Minot Young Professionals Network (YPN) is ready to spring into action with upcoming meetings and events. The membership of the YPN is designed for, but not limited to, individuals ages 21 through 39 who work, live, or spend time in the Minot community. It is a group of people who genuinely want to enhance and improve themselves and the community. The Young Professionals Network hopes to provide opportunities for members to meet new people, engage in new activities and learn from informational Power Hour presentations.

Meet Your Leadership

Kelly Matalka, President & Professional Development Chair, has been a member of Minot Young Professionals for several years. After moving to Minot in 2011, she eventually found her place working for the City of Minot as the City Clerk. She is grateful for the opportunity to serve as President and hopes to motivate others to join the group.

Mo Olson, Vice President & Professional Development Chair, recently came to the Magic City through her work as an Air Force maintenance officer, but her love of community brought her to YPN. She brings a wealth of knowledge from years of experience with young professionals organizations. Mo is deeply honored for the opportunity to serve as the YPN Vice President. She looks forward to meeting and working with the great professionals here in Minot!

Amy Morse, Secretary & Marketing Chair, is new to the Young Professionals Network yet she is not new to the Minot area. Coming from Bismarck, she has been a resident of the Magic City since 2007 and has been employed for over 6 years with the Motor Vehicle Department which is managed by the Minot Area Chamber EDC. As for hobbies, she enjoys riding motorcycle with her husband and in 2013 created the Facebook Page: Things to do in Minot, ND & Surrounding Areas.

Robbie Keelan, Outreach Chair, was born and raised in Minot. She has earned degrees in Interior Design, Management and Marketing. Currently, you can find her at KX News promoting businesses and helping them grow. Being on the board of the Young Professionals makes her feel like she's making a difference in our community.

Shawna Reynolds, is serving as the YP Social Chair. She returned to Minot in 2012 and has been working at Farstad Oil, Inc. as an accountant for 3 years. Shawna has been a member of YP for 5 years and is also involved in the Relay For Life organization. When she is not crunching numbers, Shawna enjoys bringing people together and looks forward to meeting you!

Treasurer – Vacant. If you are interested in getting involved with Minot YP as the Treasurer, reach out to the Chamber EDC at 701-857-8205 or attend one of the YPN events!



Pictured above: Shawna Reynolds, Amy Morse, Kelly Matalka, Mo Olson, Robbie Keelan

Upcoming Events

Minot Young Professionals consists of the following standing committees:

Outreach Team: Creates awareness for potential new members, Minot businesses, and community organizations through volunteering and other community giving activities. The Outreach Team meets on the second Monday of each month at noon at Broadway Bean & Bagel.

Professional Development Team: Connects members with opportunities to further enhance their learning, leadership skills, career development, and personal growth. The Professional Development Team will plan monthly Power Hours at noon and lunch will be provided.

Social Team: Creates environments in which members can socialize while expanding and diversifying their networks. The Social Team meets on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM at Sports On Tap.

For the first event of the year, YP Minot will be hosting a Headshot Pop-Up Event. It will take place Wednesday, April 14th from 11:00 – 1:00 at The Foundry. Members and non-members are able to meet with YP Leadership while they get a professionally photographed headshot from Susie Lundmark Photography. The cost of the headshot is \$35 and walk-ins are welcome.

The annual Golf Scramble will take place June 28th at Minot Country Club. For information on sponsorships and team entries, contact Kelly at kcm1814@gmail.com.

How to Get Involved

Check out the Minot Young Professionals Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/YPMinot>) for upcoming events and activities!

For membership and sponsor opportunities, please contact the Chamber EDC at 701-857-8205.



TWO PHASES OF FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT WIN NATIONAL AWARD

The largest infrastructure project in Minot's history has earned national recognition.

Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Plan received the 2020 Crown Communities Award from American City & County, a national organization dedicated to recognizing public projects and servants. Projects are judged on uniqueness, short- and long-term value to the community, and effective and innovative financing.

"These two phases are vital parts of the overall \$1.028 billion project to protect the City of Minot and the entire Mouse River Basin," said Dan Jonasson, director of Public Works for the City of Minot and a director for the Souris River Joint Board. "These phases are great examples of what can be accomplished when federal, state, and local entities work together to find solutions for funding, permitting, construction, and maintenance."

The City of Minot collaborates with many partners on the overall project, including the Souris River Joint Board, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Administration, the North Dakota State Water Commission, the Minot Park District, and the Ward County Water Board, as well as elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels.

Work on Phases 2-3 began in May 2018 and was completed in October 2020 at a cost of \$40 million. The projects included more than 8,900 feet of earthen levees, a removable road closure, multiple levee ramps, interior drainage pump stations, and 1,600 feet of stream bank restoration.

Additional information on the award and project is available at americancityandcounty.com. For additional information or interviews contact the Public Information Office at 701-857-4727 or by email at pio@minotnd.org.

CAREER & JOB FAIR AT MAGIC CITY CAMPUS

If your business is looking to find some part-time workers or you are interested in sharing your long-term career opportunities with 11th and 12th graders, sign up for the Career & Job Fair on April 21st at Magic City Campus High School in Minot. This is the first in-person event in over a year for their students focusing on opportunities for future employment.

- Free!
- Promote your part-time and summer job opportunities to Minot High School juniors and seniors.
- Highlight your company's long-term careers.
- Interview students on the spot!
- Only 50 spots available!
- Register by April 9th!
- Contact Kellie Meyer at kellie.meyer@minot.k12.nd.us with any questions

Register at www.bit.ly/3ebof2m.

2021 LINEUP

ON SALE MARCH 31 AT 8AM!



NORTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR ANNOUNCES CONCERT LINEUP FOR 2021

Tickets are on sale now! Lynyrd Skynyrd, Dan + Shay, Ashley McBryde, Sawyer Brown, Casey Donahew, Billy Idol, and Kane Brown will be at the 2021 North Dakota State Fair to be held July 23-31. To purchase tickets go to <https://ndstatefair.com/> and click 'Tickets'.

In addition to the concerts, the Bull Riding Challenge and Ranch Bronc Riding will be held July 26 and 27 and the Ranch Rodeo will be held July 28 and 29. All five country concerts plus two auto events are on the Grandstand Showpass for one price, \$110.

Showpass

Saturday, July 24th – Dan + Shay
Sunday, July 25th – Ashley McBryde
Monday, July 26th – Enduro Races
Tuesday, July 27th – Freestyle Motocross
Wednesday, July 28th – Sawyer Brown
Thursday, July 29th – Casey Donahew
Saturday, July 31st – Kane Brown

Rock Concerts

Friday, July 23rd – Lynyrd Skynyrd – \$50
Friday, July 30th – Billy Idol – \$40

The North Dakota State Fair is the largest annual event in North Dakota. The nine-day event is host to around 300,000 people and is held the third week of July.



MEMBER RENEWALS

AGT Foods USA

Aksal Group, LLC

All-State Contracting

Allstate Insurance Company, The Kim Albert Agency

Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC.

API Bakken Chapter

Ask Performance and Fitness

Braun Intertec Corporation

Broadway Bean and Bagel Co.

Broadway Family Dentistry

Randy Burckhard, State Senator District 5

Culvers Restaurant

Delta Dental of Minnesota

Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Inc.

Don Bessette Motors, Inc.

Ebenezer's Eatery & Irish Pub

Edward Jones Financial Advisor: Brenda Cook

Edward Jones Financial Advisor: Mark Kohlman

Edward Jones Financial Advisor: Jessie Seideman

Edward Jones Financial Advisor: Greg Tschetter AAMS

El Azteca

Electrical Workers Union #714

Farden Construction, Inc.

Gratech Company, LLC

Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham

Heartland Payment System

Home of Economy

Tyrone O. Langager

Law Office of Diane K. Lutt, PLLC

Magic City Apartment Association

Magic City Garage Door & Awning

Marco

Mattress Firm

Minot Area Homeless Coalition

Minot Housing Authority

Montana Dakota Utilities Company

My Place

Norsk Hostfest Association

North Country Mercantile & Equipment

Our Redeemer's Christian School

Duane Poynter

ProIT

Roughrider Campground

Ryan Chevrolet

Minot Dakota Square Scheels

Souris River Designs & Home Improvements

Souris Valley Animal Shelter

Michael E Braun - State Farm Insurance

Strengthen ND

Visiting Angels

Walmart Super Center

Wingate by Wyndham

NEW MEMBERS

Prestwich Orthodontics

(701) 852-2646 minotbraces.com info@minotbraces.com

Town and Country Center, 1015 S. Broadway #17, Minot, ND

Prestwich Orthodontics is an orthodontic practice in Minot specializing in creating awesome smiles that help our patients feel comfortable to be their true selves.

MEMBER NEWS

MINOT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS \$250,000 TO ROOSEVELT PARK ZOO

The Minot Area Community Foundation (MACF) is excited to announce a grant awarded to The Roosevelt Park Zoo's Amur leopard habitat in the amount \$250,000.

The Roosevelt Park Zoo (RPZ) is North Dakota's oldest zoo. After enduring two major flood events in 1969 and 2011, an effort was launched in 2017 to dramatically improve the quality of the zoo with new exhibits for the big cats. The first phase of the New Habitat for a New Century opened in September of 2019 with the African Lion Savanna and was quickly followed by the Amur Tiger River Valley in June of 2020.

The Amur leopard habitat, which is phase 2 of this effort, will work to help save the world's most endangered big cat from extinction. There are currently only about 85 Amur leopards left in the wild. Through breeding efforts designed into this new habitat, RPZ has the opportunity to participate in an international effort to save this animal from extinction.



"The Amur leopard habitat will create a modern, natural and dynamic living environment for the animals; a space that will inspire a connection between our guests and the Amur leopards; a space that meets a new habitat standard we as a community have set together," says Jennifer Kleen, GMZS Executive Director. "By investing in the quality of life for the animals in our care, MACF is also improving the quality of life for our community."

The \$250,000 grant from The Minot Area Community Foundation is made possible by The Mike & Dorothy Dolan Fund and The Arnold I. Besserud Fund and will go towards the east and west Leopard Mountains.

Jason Zimmerman, MACF President says, "The Minot Area Community Foundation is once again pleased to be partnering with the Roosevelt Park Zoo to complete this new exhibit that will not only enhance the wonderful facilities of the Zoo but build on the Foundation's desire to positively impact the quality of life in our community."

NEW AGENT JOINS ELITE REAL ESTATE

Serena Laumb has joined the Elite Real Estate agency. Serena was born and raised in the Minot area and received her degree from Williston State College in Marketing Management. Serena also has a lot of experience in property management as she has been doing so for 14 years! She currently holds a Property Supervisor position with CPM.

When Serena is not working she enjoys lifting weights at the gym and spending time with her daughters.



Serena Laumb

MEMBER NEWS

FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK & TRUST ACQUIRES SODAK HOME LOANS, EXPANDS INTO SIOUX FALLS, SD MARKET

First International Bank & Trust (FIBT) successfully closed on the acquisition of Sioux Falls-based full-service mortgage brokerage company, Sodak Home Loans. Justin Walseth, Chief Growth Officer for FIBT shares, “We are thrilled to welcome the team at Sodak Home Loans to FIBT. Their established and well-known lenders will be wonderful ambassadors for the FIBT brand.”

Brent VanderGriend, former Broker and Owner at Sodak Home Loans and now Mortgage Market Manager comments, “This marks a new beginning for us. We are excited to be a part of First International Bank & Trust. Being backed by a community bank will allow our lenders to better serve our customers with a wider range of products and enhanced services.”

The mortgage group will stay at its current location near 57th and Western in Sioux Falls. The acquisition of Sodak Home Loans assets marks the North Dakota-based bank's official entry into South Dakota as a Loan Production Office. Family-owned for four generations, FIBT traces its history to Farmer's State Bank in Arnegard, North Dakota, which opened for business on May 1, 1910. Brothers Odin and Gerhard Stenehjelm were the only employees. Today, Stenehjelm bankers continue to lead FIBT operating offices in North Dakota, Minnesota, Arizona, and now South Dakota employing over 700 people in the communities it serves.

Peter Stenehjelm, President and fourth-generation banker, shares his excitement about entering the Sioux Falls market. “Today is the starting point of a long-term commitment to the Sioux Falls market. I look forward to expanding FIBT's services for businesses and consumers alike and playing a part in supporting the growth of this vibrant city and region.”

FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK & TRUST DONATES \$1,500 FOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

First International Bank & Trust (FIBT) is pleased to announce a \$1,500 donation was recently awarded to the Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry, on behalf of Vickie Phippkins. Vickie was selected by Mayor Shaun Sipma, as the 2021 Minot Citizen of the Year. FIBT donated \$1,000 and the Minot FIBT Employee Fund added another \$500 to the donation.

Vickie's charity of choice to receive the funds was The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry - one of several organizations to which she volunteers her time. First International Bank & Trust, along with the Minot community, would like to congratulate Vickie on this prestigious award and thank her for volunteering her time in the community.



FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK AND TRUST KICKS OFF LIVE FIRST COMMUNITY GIVING CAMPAIGN

First International Bank and Trust's annual **Live First Community Giving Campaign** is kicking off **April 1st**. They will be granting a total of **\$35,000** to non-profit organizations and community projects across our footprint.

This year we will be granting

- **Grand Prize \$10,000**
- **Rising Star (4) \$5,000** - Four grant winners will be selected from across our footprint to receive \$5,000 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 Stars (3) \$1,000** - Three grants of \$1,000 each will be awarded based on the most likes on social media
- **Discretionary (4) \$500** - Four grants of \$500 will be awarded

Submissions will be accepted April 1 - April 15.

MEMBER NEWS

CASSIDY HJELMSTAD PROMOTED TO CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER AT SRT

Cassidy Hjelmstad has been promoted to chief marketing officer (CMO) at SRT Communications, Inc. Hjelmstad has served as the director of corporate communications since 2010, and will continue to lead SRT's corporate communications and customer service and billing department while assuming the additional responsibilities of corporate officer.

SRT CEO and General Manager Steve Lysne said, "Cassidy has provided leadership in our most customer-facing departments, which has created relationships with our members that exemplify our mission at SRT. Cassidy has a wealth of expertise and plays an integral role in the direction of the company. We are confident that she will excel in her role as chief marketing officer."

In her time at SRT, Cassidy has been instrumental in leading teams to implement effective strategies for product sales growth and exceptional member experience. With her data driven approach, Cassidy has directed marketing, education efforts, and digital strategy to increase customer acquisition and satisfaction on SRT's growing fiber optic network.

Cassidy has a passion for integrating technology and rural economic development opportunities. She has contributed to national advocacy discussions promoting rural broadband availability as part of her work on the NTCA – the Rural Broadband Association Marketing Committee and Smart Rural Community Advisory Group.

Hjelmstad stated, "Ten years ago, I began my SRT career. Since then, I have worked with countless employees, members, and community and industry leaders that have challenged me to become a better marketer, communicator, and leader. Each day, I get to work with and learn from some of the best in the industry, to whom we owe much credit for SRT's continued growth and expansion. I look forward to the opportunity to continue SRT's mission to meet and exceed the needs of the members and communities we serve."



Cassidy Hjelmstad

EXPERIENCED AND INVOLVED

JOHN STEWART, CPA FINANCIAL CONSULTING BUSINESS & PERSONAL



20 YEARS AS A CPA IN PUBLIC ACCOUNTING

FORMER PARTNER - *BRADY, MARTZ, AND ASSOCIATES*

FORMER BOARD CHAIR - *MINOT HOUSING AUTHORITY*

FORMER BOARD CHAIR - *MINOT AREA DEVELOPMENT CORP*

FORMER BOARD CHAIR - *MINOT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE*

FORMER CHAIR - *BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA ADVISORY BOARD*

FORMER CHAIR - *MINOT FAMILY YMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

FORMER PRESIDENT - *MINOT KIWANIS CLUB*

18 YEARS OF PUBLIC COMPANY BOARD EXPERIENCE
INVESTORS REAL ESTATE TRUST • COMMAND CENTER

CURRENT BOARD MEMBER
KALIX • OPPEN FOUNDATION • MINOT FAMILY YMCA

701.833.8821

jstewart@srt.com

PUT MY EXPERIENCE TO WORK FOR YOU!

MEMBER NEWS

HENDERSON PROMOTED AT TOWN & COUNTRY

Recently, Jessica Henderson was promoted to Assistant Vice President, Accounting at Town & Country Credit Union. A Burlington native, Henderson graduated from Minot State University with a degree in accounting. She has over 19 years of banking experience, including nearly 13 years in bank accounting. She joined the credit union as the Accounting Manager in 2020.

In her new position, Henderson is responsible for all daily activities related to financial reporting, directing the activities of the accounting department, and assisting senior management. She also serves as the Treasurer of the Board for the Magic City Discovery Center.

Henderson is based in Town & Country Credit Union's main office in Minot.



Jessica Henderson

SOURIS VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER ANNUAL GALA SET FOR APRIL

The Souris Valley Animal Shelter (SVAS) is proud to announce that SVAS will be holding it's annual gala in partnership with Good Night Minot on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at the Grand Hotel. During the past 15 years, the gala has raised over \$645,000 to provide safe housing for lost and unwanted animals in the Minot community. This year alone, SVAS is anticipated to serve more than 1,500 cats and dogs, over 1,000 children through Rescue Readers, and 200 pets through our emergency housing program - all thanks to community donors like you!



Sponsorship levels are available to help SVAS raise the desperately needed funds for the cats and dogs in Minot! The SVAS team cannot do it without support from our local companies, organizations, and friends.

Please contact the SVAS with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE! - AUGUST 11, 2021 32ND ANNUAL GREAT TOMATO FESTIVAL

The Great Tomato Festival will be back this year. The 32nd Annual Great Tomato Festival will be held on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at the ND State Fair Center, 4H Hall, 2005 Burdick Expressway East. The classic community fundraising event was established in 1989 by Jeff and Peggy Miller. It has become the annual end of summer gourmet picnic to attend! The menu consists of smoked pork chops cooked to perfection by master chefs, a top secret recipe of roasted tomatoes stuffed with rice, along with chips and salsa, tomato and cucumber salad, beer batter bread and brownies.



Keep an eye out for more details through the Great Tomato Festival Facebook page and greattomatofestival.com. They are excited to get back into things and provide a safe and familiar experience that will surely be the highlight of the summer.

The Great Tomato Festival is a community fundraiser, which has benefitted a number of non-profit organizations since its inception. The mission of the fundraiser is "Working together with the purpose of raising funds to enhance the services of the specific nonprofit organizations". It currently benefits the Taube Museum of Art and the Minot Symphony Orchestra. All net proceeds from ticket sales and silent auction are directly granted to the sponsoring organizations.

For more information please contact:

greattomatofestival@srt.com

Rachael Alfaro - Taube Museum of Art - 838-4445

Ellen Fenner - Minot Symphony Orchestra - 858-4228

MEMBER NEWS

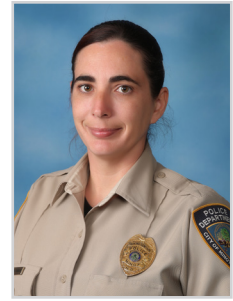
MINOT POLICE DEPARTMENT SELECTS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AND OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The Minot Police Department has selected the Employee of the Year and Officer of the Year for 2020 and they were recognized at a ceremony held at Minot City Hall. Each year, employees are nominated by other members of the department and a selection panel is assembled to review the nominations. The selection panel is made up of officers and civilian employees who have received the award in past years.

This year 4 civilian staff members and 8 sworn officers were nominated for the award. All employees are deserving of recognition for their hard work and sacrifices in 2020, but this year the Minot Police Department is proud to announce this year's recipients of the award.

Employee of the Year - Thereisa Thompson, Parking Control Officer

Thereisa is a non-sworn member of our Patrol Division who is specifically assigned to enforce parking ordinances in the City of Minot. She started with the Minot Police Department November 2011 and has served in the capacity of Parking Control Officer since that time.



Thereisa Thompson

Officer of the Year - Robbie Sumlin, Detective

Robbie is a sworn officer and currently holds the rank of Master Police Officer. He was hired as a police officer in July 2014. Robbie was assigned as a detective in the Investigations Division in September 2016 and remains in the position today. Robbie is an instrumental part of the investigations team and has a wealth of knowledge of gangs and guns and their connection to the City of Minot.



Robbie Sumlin

MINOT POLICE ACADEMY TO START IN MAY

The Minot Police Department is excited to announce they are taking applications for the 2021 Citizens Police Academy. This four-session event is scheduled for May 4th through May 25th, on Tuesday evenings 6pm – 9pm each meeting. All sessions and events will be conducted in compliance with ND Smart Restart guidelines and local public health recommendations.

The purpose of the Citizens 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 informal atmosphere encourages participants to ask the "tough questions" and facilitates open discussions on the challenges facing law enforcement today. With law enforcement being "under the microscope" as much as it is today, they recognize the ongoing need for transparency and open dialogue with the community to maintain its trust in its law enforcers. Feedback from previous Citizens Academy participants has shown this event is a valuable tool to achieve this critical goal.

The minimum age to apply for participation is 18, and applicants must consent to a background check. Some negative history with law enforcement or the judicial system is NOT automatically disqualifying. All interested area residents are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is Friday, April 23rd. People interested in receiving an application or have questions can email or call Master Police Officer Aaron Moss of the Community Outreach Division at aaron.moss@minotnd.org or at 701-857-4711.

MEMBER NEWS

CENTURY 21 ACTION REALTORS RECEIVES 2020 PRESIDENTS AWARD FOR COMMITMENT TO QUALITY SERVICE AND PRODUCTIVITY. REALTORS RECEIVE OUTSTANDING AWARDS AS WELL.

Century 21 Real Estate LLC recently honored CENTURY 21 Action Realtors with the 2020 CENTURY 21(r) President's Award. The annual award is bestowed upon those independent CENTURY 21(r) offices that earn the CENTURY 21 CENTURION(r) 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 \$2,520,000 or 445 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 Michael Miedler, president and chief executive officer, Century 21 Real Estate LLC., "This is an outstanding honor since only a small percentage of C21(r) franchisees in the United States receive this award."

Century 21 Real Estate LLC recently recognized the following local sales affiliates with the CENTURY 21 2020 Quality Service Pinnacle Producer Award.

Ashlee Kelleher, Bonnie Domsteen, Jamie Wald, Jan Tucker and Jane Meyer

"The Quality Service Pinnacle Producer Award is an integral part of our brand's commitment to excellence and recognizes dedication to making each and every client interaction a positive one," said Michael Miedler, president and chief executive officer, Century 21 Real Estate LLC.

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.

Each recipient will receive a customized glass trophy, in addition to being recognized at the CENTURY 21 Global Conference.

CENTURY 21 Action Realtors is a full-service brokerage located at 500 20th Ave SW in Minot.

WATCH NOW

**COAL MOVIE:
POWERING THE PAST,
PRESENT & FUTURE**

WATCH MOVIE HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=ABNT2BLM53K](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABNT2BLM53K)

MEMBER NEWS

FULLERTON RETIRES FROM CORNERSTONE BANK

After a distinguished career of more than 40 years in banking, Pete Fullerton will retire on March 31, 2021. Fullerton began his banking career in 1980 with Norwest/Wells Fargo, and for the last 10 years he served as President/CEO of Cornerstone Bank.

Gary Petersen, Chairman of Cornerstone Bank said, "I congratulate Pete and his wife Pat on Pete's retirement. Pete represents the best of what it means to be a community banker, a leader in the bank and the community, and a devoted family man. The shareholders and board of directors of Cornerstone Bank appreciate his leadership and immense contributions to the success of the bank."



Pete Fullerton

Fullerton will continue to serve on the Cornerstone Bank Board and will work limited time on special projects for the Bank.

Jeff Thomas was promoted to President/Chief Executive Officer early last year. Thomas has been working side by side with Fullerton ensuring a smooth transition. Thomas joined Cornerstone Bank in 2014 as a SVP/Business Banking Manager and was later named the Market President of the Fargo Market. Over his career, Thomas has served in a variety of roles giving him an expansive knowledge base about the banking industry.

Cornerstone Holding Company, based in North Dakota, is the parent company of Cornerstone Bank. One of North Dakota's ten largest financial institutions, Cornerstone has 11 locations in North and South Dakota. Cornerstone Bank provides an expansive product offering while staying true to their mission of providing access to financial experts who give straight answers and the best possible financial options. Cornerstone's offerings include business and personal loans, deposits and cash management services, online and mobile banking.

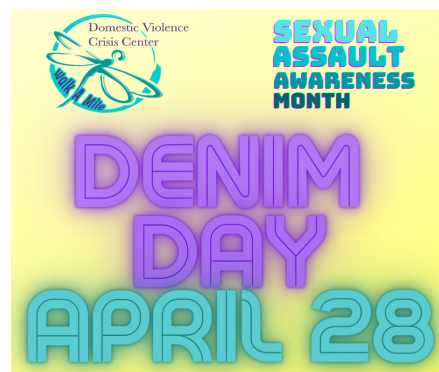
WEAR JEANS WITH PURPOSE - DENIM DAY, APRIL 28

The Domestic Violence Crisis Center has sent an invitation to the Minot business community to be a part of DVCC's sexual assault awareness campaign during the month of April.

Each year DVCC joins national and global organizations in celebrating Denim Day. Denim Day grew out of a 1988 Italian Supreme Court decision that overturned a rape conviction because the victim wore tight jeans. It is now a day to celebrate survivors and say we believe.

Wednesday, April 28: Denim Day: Wear Jeans with a Purpose

- Learn more about the campaign at www.denimdayinfo.org.
- Consider donating to the Domestic Violence Crisis Center
- Post selfies to social media with #DenimDay2021 to show support to survivors of sexual violence



IMM RESIDENT REWARDS PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

IMM is looking for businesses to participate in their resident programs that have a potential reach of over 2,500 IMM households in the Minot area. If interested, email jlambert@immapartments.com or call 701-418-4713.

IMM Residents Rewards Programs

Discounts or special offers for being an IMM Resident

Promotional Fliers for our Move-In Welcome Packets

8.5" x 11" (or smaller) business promotional fliers to be included in new resident packets



UNITED IN GIVING BACK

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 \$16,625 to the Souris Valley United Way this year.

That's the power of human connections.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
www.verendrye.com



**Verendrye
Electric
Cooperative**

MEMBER NEWS

MINOT STATE GIVING DAY SET FOR APRIL 14

The Minot State University Development Foundation proudly presents the University's third Giving Day April 14.

Minot State Giving Day is a 24-hour, online event where alumni, friends, students, faculty, and staff can support what they love most about Minot State, from academic and athletic programs to scholarships and student support funds.

"We are excited to reinstate our annual Giving Day after a pause due to COVID-19 last spring," said Minot State Development Foundation Executive Director Rick Hedberg. "This is an excellent opportunity for individuals to give to Minot State, specifically to the program or department of their choice, in any dollar amount, making an impact on student lives. Together we can make a big difference in a short amount of time."

Giving Day will start at midnight and run until 11:59 p.m. (CDT). Gifts can be made to support the University's greatest priorities and opportunities, including scholarships, or can be made in support of a specific college or program.

The MSU Development Foundation will match 50% on all gifts up to \$1,000 and, in addition, exclusive 1:1 matches are available for the Minot State general scholarship fund, Staff Senate scholarship fund, student emergency fund, and football.

The MSU Development Foundation is encouraging both participation and engagement from alumni, friends, and donors leading up to and during the MSU Giving Day. Special MSU Giving Day profile photos and social media banners have been made for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and are available for download. The hashtag #MSUGivingDay is also encouraged for social media posts.

Log into the MSU Giving Day website Give.MinotStateU.edu for more information on the event and information on the 52 projects listed. For more information, contact MSU Donor Relations Coordinator Kate Marshall at kate.marshall@minotstateu.edu or by phone at (701) 858-4158.

SHANE D. ZABACK NAMED TO FORBES LIST OF BEST-IN-STATE WEALTH ADVISORS

Shane D. Zaback, Branch Manager, of Zaback Wealth Management located at 1408 20th Ave. SW Ste. 2, Minot, ND was among the Raymond James-affiliated advisors named to the 2021 Forbes list of Best-In-State Wealth Advisors. The list which recognizes advisors from national, regional and independent firms, was released online February 11, 2021.

The Forbes ranking of Best-In-State Wealth Advisors, developed by SHOOK Research is based on an algorithm of qualitative criteria, mostly gained through telephone and in person due diligence interviews, and quantitative data. Those advisors that are considered have a minimum of seven years' experience, and the algorithm weights factors like revenue trends, assets under management, compliance records, industry experience with those that encompass best practices in their practices and approach to working with clients.

Zaback, who joined Raymond James in 2017, has more than 23 years of experience in the financial services industry. Zaback offers comprehensive investing and planning solutions for his client's individual goals. This process helps clients adapt their strategy in a way that can help clients best reach their goals and respond to changes in the market or in their life.

To reach Zaback or the advisors at Zaback Wealth Management, more information can be found at www.raymondjames.com or by calling 701-852-5566.

MEMBER NEWS

UCB ANNOUNCES VANGSNESS' RETIREMENT AND APPOINTS NEW MINOT PRESIDENT

United Community Bank (UCB) has announced that Minot President, Todd Vangsness is set to retire effective April 15, 2021 after 17 years with UCB and 44 years in the banking industry. Vangsness began his role with UCB as an ag lender, has served as Senior Vice President and now oversees the Minot location. Vangsness will be employed part-time with UCB through the end of the year and continue to hold a place on the United Community Bank Board of Directors.

"Todd's commitment to this company and genuine care for helping our customers cannot be overstated. His numerous contributions over the past two decades have helped shape UCB into the bank it is today," says Bill Kuntz, UCB CEO & President. "We are grateful to Todd for his investment in this company and look forward to carrying on his legacy of customer service."



Todd Vangsness

"Working with the employees and customers of UCB has been an honor," says Vangsness. "I am passionate about United Community Bank and I feel that I have been privileged to be part of this very special culture. I am confident the bank is positioned well for continued growth across our markets."

The Board of Directors has promoted Kelly Perrin to the position of Minot President. Perrin, who currently operates within UCB as Chief Financial Officer, has been employed with the bank for eight years. During this time, Perrin has provided supervision and management in the areas of credit risk, the ALCO committee (asset-liability), UCB's investment portfolio and serves as a UCB Board of Director where he provides a fresh perspective to the management and strategic planning of United Community Bank.



Kelly Perrin

"Throughout his time at UCB, Kelly has showcased a strong sense of leadership, a driven attitude, and a dedication to continuing UCB's culture and commitment to customers," says Bill Kuntz, UCB President/CEO. "We are fortunate to have his expertise within our organization and look forward to watching him share his experience with the staff."

An open house will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2-4 p.m. The community is invited to stop by the Minot UCB location (925 20th Ave. SW) to congratulate Todd, and visit with Kelly and the Minot staff.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE RELAY FOR LIFE LIGHT THE WAY 5K

Location: Oak Park

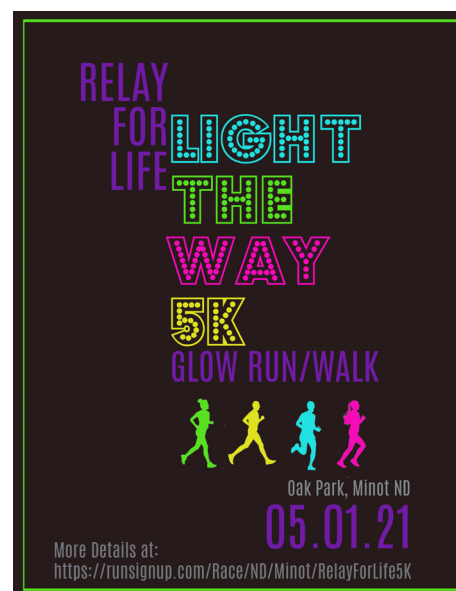
- Team Fundraising and Registration will be in the area by new stage
- Run/Walk will be on the driving path

Timeline:

- 7:00 Team Fundraising
- 7:00 Registration
- 8:00 Take Off
- 10:00 Luminaria Ceremony

Cost for Run/Walk: \$30 but there will be plenty of activities the Teams are sponsoring if not interested in Run/Walk for family to join - food, activities, Luminaria Ceremony

Pre-Registration: <https://runsignup.com/race/ND/Minot/RelayforLife5K>





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

April 2021 - Chamber EDC Meetings and Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Military Affairs Committee noon Grand Hotel	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Developing a Resilient Workforce: 8:30 a.m. Grand Hotel Ribbon Cutting 1:30 p.m. American Family Insurance Emily Grossman Agency 811 S. Broadway	9 Infrastructure Committee 7:30 a.m. Homesteaders Restaurant	10
11	12	13 Eagle Awards Presentation 10:00 a.m. Chamber EDC Office	14 Board of Directors 7:30 am Verendrye Electric Cooperative	15	16 CLI Planning Committee noon Chamber EDC Office	17
18	19	20	21 Coffee with the President 1:30 p.m. Chamber EDC Office	22 Energy Committee 11:30 a.m. Buffalo Wings and Rings	23	24
25	26	27	28 Right Start Presentation 9:50 a.m. MAFB	29 Ribbon Cutting 2:00 p.m. Clean Cut/ Doody Calls 2001 8th Ave SE Suite D	30	