

MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC COMMUNICATOR


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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS Legislative Update

NORTH DAKOTA 67TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

North Dakota's 67th Legislative Assembly is underway and reached the halfway point at the end of February. Nearly 900 bills were introduced in the first half of this session.

The Minot Area Chamber EDC Governmental Affairs Committee works to keep up to date on the legislative issues facing business both locally and statewide. This group prepares the Chamber EDC's Legislative Agenda and hosts an open forum during the session for the community to connect with local legislators. The Chamber EDC also aligns with key partners, like Greater North Dakota Chamber (GNDC). Collaborative in nature, GNDC's work throughout the session can be best summarized in three objectives:

1. Stop legislation that would hurt ND business
2. Advocate for solutions to our three primary policy areas: Business Climate, Workforce Development, Infrastructure
3. Support and promote bills that are positive for the state's business community

The work here is non-partisan, and the approach is bipartisan focusing on promoting the best business climate possible. Here are a couple of bill highlights from both the House and Senate the Minot Chamber EDC supported.

COVID-19 Business Liability Protection

Minot Area Chamber EDC is a coalition partner working alongside GNDC and others on COVID-19 business liability protection. A coalition of over 20 organizations called for legislation that protects businesses and workers that rely on them. HB1175 is based on model legislation from Iowa, which has served as an example for other states. By offering civil liability protection, the bill recognizes that businesses and organizations from all industries have worked hard to stay open and provided ongoing goods, services, and employment that ND relies on.

Intermodal Transportation Assistance Program

Intermodal service is the movement of international containers so producers and processors can directly load containers on rail in Minot to ship to international destinations. The largest beneficiaries of establishing the port are agricultural producers, processors, and shippers across the state. The Intermodal Transportation Assistance Program is an appropriation to the Department of Commerce to sustain the stable operation of intermodal service in ND that commenced under new management in October 2020. While the facility is in Minot, the benefits of the strategic location serve the entire state and region.

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CHAMBER EDC BOARD

Chair- Jonn Knecht,
American Bank Center

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Verendrye Electric Cooperative

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Jason Zimmerman, Minot Area Community
Foundation



MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS IDENTIFIES KEY INITIATIVES

The Minot Area Chamber EDC board of directors has identified key initiatives to focus on as the new organization rolls into the first year as one entity. Key initiatives are focused on financial stability, organizational structure, economic development, programming, and community outreach. Under each of these initiatives, activity and tactics were developed with a member of the Chamber EDC team and board members assigned to each. The board is committed to focusing on promoting business, leadership, and growth while facilitating attraction, expansion, retention, and advocacy to diversify and strengthen the Minot area. There are many opportunities to be involved by participating in one of the many committees.

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.

COVID VACCINE AVAILABLE FOR AGES 18-64 WITH TWO OR MORE HIGH RISK HEALTH CONDITIONS

First District Health Unit now has COVID-19 vaccines for people 18-64 years of age with two or more specific high risk health conditions. Vaccines are still available for those age 65 and older, regardless of health conditions. Vaccinations are done by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call your local First District Health Unit office. In Minot, call (701) 852-1376.

People age 65 and up are in the priority group in Phase 1B. Because of the limited vaccine available, First District will not begin vaccinating any other priority group in Phase 1B at this time. The timeline for advancing to the next priority group in Phase 1B is dependent on vaccine supply and uptake in the current priority group.

Individuals in the Phase 1A priority groups who have not yet been vaccinated can also call for appointments at this time.

SOARING EAGLE OUTERWEAR COMMITMENT TO MINOT

Austin Hall, president of Soaring Eagle Outerwear, credits a commitment to efficiency and hard work, their employees, and their choice of location, Minot, for their success.

Hall grew up in the garment business, learning how the industry worked from the bottom up. He was doing consulting work in Winnipeg when he was recruited to North Dakota to assist with an operation in Dunseith. That operation eventually shut down its Dunseith location, and with the help of the then Minot Area Development Corporation, Hall relocated his business to Minot in July of 1991.

Minot was and continues to be the right location for Soaring Eagle Outerwear. With access to transportation, a loyal workforce that values longevity, and the Minot Area Development Corporation's support and assistance, Soaring Eagle Outerwear has found years of success.

"For about ten years, we worked and struggled, but what kept us going was our efficient and hardworking employees," says Hall. He credits much of their success to his wife and her ability to hire and train good people. "We do everything we can to meet our employees' needs and keep our employer relationship good." Their diverse workforce includes individuals from different cultures, countries, and generations. Soaring Eagle's employees share their commitment to efficiency and quality.

The majority of Soaring Eagle's current work is anti-static smocks, which they can produce over 300 per day or between 1200 and 1500 per week. Soaring Eagle also makes rain suits and ponchos for Dakota Outerwear, a North Dakota company. These goods are shipped all across the US and even internationally from Minot.

"Soaring Eagle Outerwear is a shining example of the many types of industry Minot can host well. Austin continues to be a servant leader who values his employees and the work they do. We are proud to be a part of their story in the Magic City," said John MacMartin, President of the Minot Area Chamber EDC.

Soaring Eagle Outerwear, a garment manufacturer in east Minot, has repaid its investment loan to the Minot Area Development Corporation.



RIBBON CUTTINGS



FIREHOUSE SUBS

3112 16th Street SW
Ste D
Minot, ND 58701
(701) 852-7827
firehousesubs.com

*A familiar restaurant is back in business and the new owners celebrated with a ribbon cutting!
Firehouse Subs is owned by Eli Edwards and Eric Engelstad.*



POWER YOU CAN RELY ON

From home to work, to working from home, our communities need reliable electricity. At Verendrye Electric Cooperative, we're proud to have kept power outage time in 2020 to a near record low — one half to one third of state and national averages. Even as the nation's power grid was strained recently, our aggressive maintenance and construction, outage management technology and hard-working employees have provided power that our members can depend on.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
www.verendrye.com



Verendrye
Electric
Cooperative

EAGLE AWARDS

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



Venitia Falcon
Denny's Restaurant



Jenna Hurt
Minot Police
Department



**Officer Kayla
Kudronowicz**
Minot Police
Department



**Senior Patrol Officer
Brian Williams**
Minot Police
Department



Brenda Ryan
Town & Country
Credit Union



Emily Keller
Surrey School



Michael Schott
ND Highway Patrol



Trooper Jed Dahnke
ND Highway Patrol



Tracey Hulm
Marketplace Foods



Lauren Young
Trinity Cancer Care



Kim Thompson
Good Vibrations
Modern Quilt Shop



Kriss Allard
Sunrise Delivery & Pride
Dairy



Kim Nelson
YMCA



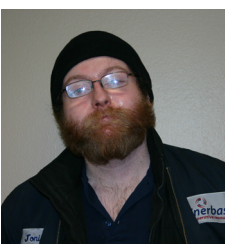
Courtney Cello
Marketplace Foods



Bryce Allen
Enerbase Downtown



Sultan Ahmed
Enerbase Downtown



Jonis Houser
Enerbase Downtown



Josh Ogle
Ward County Sheriff's
Department



Hollie Krueger
Modern Dental



Steve Hodgson
Sanford Healthcare
Accessories

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



Life is about leaving your mark

Winner of Three Minot Daily News Readers' Choice Awards Best Bank • Best Place to Work • Best Mortgage Company

Living First for more than 110 years

The lenders, bankers, and support staff at First International Bank & Trust have a singular focus: making dreams come true for their clients, customers, and communities. Their focus has remained the same since 1910, when brothers Odin and Gerhard Stenehjelm founded the bank to serve farmers in western North Dakota. It is now a multi-billion dollar, full-service financial institution serving customers at 28 different locations in three states.

Source of Pride

With 2021 being a new year, First International Bank and Trust has been selected Best Bank and Best Place to Work and Best Mortgage Company for the Minot Daily News' Reader's Choice Awards. John Drady, Market President for Central North Dakota, said employees are honored to be selected as a Reader's Choice winner.

"We always hold ourselves to a high standard when it comes to the communities we serve and the customers that honor us by giving us their business," said Drady. "All of our employees take their responsibilities to our customers very seriously, so to receive this honor truly is a reflection on the great staff we have in Minot."



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ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MINOT AIR FORCE BASE UNVEILED

The Military Affairs Committee of the Minot Area Chamber EDC heard the 2020 economic impact from the budget office of the 5th Bomb Wing Comptroller. The group participated in the meeting via Zoom as the presenter showed the PowerPoint slides depicting number of personnel, annual payroll, and construction costs. The total economic impact is estimated at \$622,396,699. That's up 7% from last year and the highest overall. With a total of 12,405 personnel, they are the area's largest employer.

"The connection between the Minot area and Minot AFB is vital to our community's ongoing growth and resilience," said Randy Hauck, Minot Chamber EDC Military Affairs Committee Chair. Hauck added, "They are our friends, neighbors, and for some of us, they are family. They fight for their country and make sacrifices, so we don't have to. It is a relationship we are proud to have and we are so thankful to have Minot Air Force Base a part of our community."



Learn Life-Saving Steps STOP THE BLEED® Training

Someone who is severely bleeding can bleed to death in as little as 5 minutes. In fact, bleeding is the #1 cause of preventable death after an injury. That's why bleeding control—keeping the blood inside the body—is the purpose of STOP THE BLEED® training. This course empowers trained bystanders to take life-saving action if quickly needed—regardless of the situation or cause of severe bleeding. STOP THE BLEED®, a national public awareness campaign, was launched in 2015 to train people as immediate responders until professional help arrives.

We continue to witness or experience unexpected violence and injuries in our daily lives—on the highway, in the workplace, on the farm, at schools, at sporting events, and in other public places where we gather with an expectation of safety. **Let Trinity Health Trauma Services train you in the life-saving steps to stop severe bleeding. STOP THE BLEED® and save a life.**

This one-hour course is available for your business, your school, your coaches, your family, and your community.

Please call Trauma Services at 857-5700 for more information and to schedule a class. The class is free; STOP THE BLEED® kits are available to purchase for \$20 or you can receive a list of items needed to make your own kit. Safety depends on everyone wearing a face covering. Please remember to bring yours.



More than 1 million people around the world have been trained to save a life through the STOP THE BLEED® program.

Source: stopthebleed.org

MEMBER RENEWALS

1st Minot Management

Affinity First Federal Credit Union

AFLAC - Cassie Loard

American Cancer Society

Beyond Shelter, Inc.

Broadway Liquor

Cash Wise Foods

CDJ Opportunities

Conlin's Furniture

Cross Roads Baptist Church

Culligan Water Conditioning

Cummins Sales and Service

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Thrift Store

Dakota Inn

Eagles Wings Community Fellowship

Elite Real Estate

FirstLight Home Care

Team Resources Inc.

H&R Block

Heritage Baptist Church

Heritage Insurance Services

Independence, Inc.

Blake Krabseth, Comedian/Magician

Dr. Lowell Latimer

Judge Gary Lee

Magic City Discovery Center

Judge Douglas Mattson

Minot Automotive Center

Minot Daily News

Minot Paving Co., Inc.

Minot Public School District #1

Minot Public School Foundation

Muus Lumber and Hardware

Nelson & Sons

North Country Sportswear/School & Office Supply

North Star Community Credit union

Northwest Building Improvement

Northwest Projector

Northwestern Mutual

Optical Outlook

Pinkerton Animal Hospital

Precise Transport LLC

Professional Hearing Services

Schatz Crossroads Truck Stop

Sleep Inn & Suites

Dean Somerville

The Starving Rooster

Synergy Medical Massage

Team Consulting LLC

Terracon Consultants

Thomas Family Funeral Home

Thompson Larson Funeral Home

Thrifty White Pharmacy

Tires Plus Total Car Care

Duane Tollefson

Total Beauty Supply

Trinity Health

United Mailing Services

Vallely Sport & Marine

Verendrye Electric Cooperative

Waste Management of ND - Minot

Watne, REALTORS

Westlie Motor Co.

Worthington & Schultz, PC

NEW MEMBERS

Redfox Connect

(701) 822-1559

www.redfoxconnect.com

kblackaby@redfoxconnect.com

Redfox Connect is a locally owned and operated staffing recruiting agency. Redfox Connect is dedicated to helping employers with their staffing solutions, along with finding employees a job they are passionate about and thrive in!

MEMBER NEWS

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.



Course content includes instruction in the areas of Patrol Operations, Crime Scene Response Unit, Special Operations (SWAT, K9, Bomb Squad), Use of Force and Weapons Familiarization. Academy instructors have a wide range of law enforcement and training experience and enjoy the opportunity to not only show what it is they do, but why they perform duties the way they do them. Each participant is also invited to join a Patrol Officer for a ride-along to see first-hand the duties and responsibilities of their law enforcement officers in the Magic City.

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

LARGER SCHEELS LOCATION COMING TO MINOT'S DAKOTA SQUARE MALL IN 2022

A new 100,000 square foot store will open in the vacant Sears space next year.

SCHEELS, an employee-owned All Sports retailer, is excited to bring a larger location to Minot, N.D. scheduled to open in 2022.

The new shopping destination is planned for the Dakota Square Mall after a full renovation of the former Sears space, and will feature over 100,000 square feet of retail adventure for the entire family.

"SCHEELS has been welcoming customers through our doors in Minot since 1974, first as a hardware store on Broadway, then at our current location in Dakota Square Mall," said SCHEELS CEO Steve M. Scheel. "We are looking to the future in Minot and believe this larger store will bring an improved SCHEELS experience to a community that has supported our store for nearly five decades."

"This change means our entire SCHEELS Family will be able to come together under one roof to better serve our customers," said Dakota Square SCHEELS Store Leader, Ryan Labarge. Through expanded product selection and unique in-store experiences, this move ensures we can provide our customers the experience they deserve for decades to come. We can't thank the community enough for supporting us since our beginnings as a hardware store on Broadway in 1974," said Ryan LaBarge, Store Leader of Dakota Square SCHEELS

More space allows SCHEELS to significantly broaden the product selection for sports enthusiasts, outdoor adventurers, and those seeking the best in fashion, footwear and home decor. The space will be home to 65 specialty shops with the top brands under one roof, all staffed by trained experts who focus on helping customers achieve their goals. Aside from more variety, the new location will feature fun experiences for visitors of all ages. Family-friendly attractions include photo opportunities, an archery lane and shooting gallery, sports simulators, and interactive arcade games. The current SCHEELS store will remain open throughout the renovation process and the team of Minot associates, all employee-owners, looks forward to bringing a larger store to the community next year.



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)

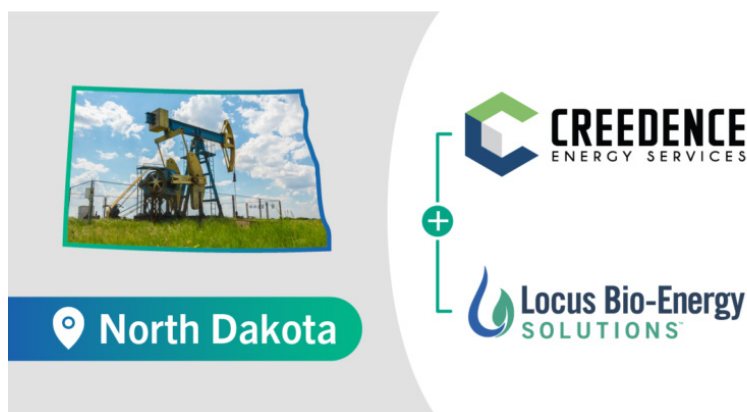
MEMBER NEWS

ND INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION APPROVES GRANT TO TRIAL GREEN ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY (EOR) TREATMENTS

Creedence Energy Services, in partnership with Locus Bio-Energy Solutions, will utilize funding from the Oil and Gas Research Program to trial ESG-friendly biosurfactants

Amid growing ESG and financial pressure on oil & gas operations nationwide, the North Dakota Industrial Commission (NDIC) has approved a grant to trial new green oilfield chemistries in wells across the state. In a 7-0 unanimous vote, funding was recommended for approval to Creedence Energy Services through the commission's Oil and Gas Research Program (OGRP) for use of biosurfactant treatments developed by green tech startup, Locus Bio-Energy Solutions® (Locus BE). Beginning in Q1, the trials will evaluate the treatments' ability to sustainably increase oil mobility and production—providing operators with economically feasible means to do more with current assets to overcome depressed oil prices and reduced capital available for new well completions.

Locus BE's biosurfactant technology has already been successfully used to replace and outperform synthetic chemicals, enhance oil recovery, extend well lifespans and minimize new drilling across top U.S. oil and gas producing basins, including the Permian, Appalachian and Eagle Ford. Based on proven results, a multitude of industry experts have confirmed the effectiveness of this renewable and sustainable technology. Through the OGRP grant, Creedence will trial the novel biosurfactants in both legacy conventional and Bakken/Three Forks nonconventional wells in North Dakota.



"Locus BE's team of experts and the NDIC's meaningful contribution are both paramount in our effort to advance the sustainability and financial security of North Dakota's oil industry," said Kevin Black, President at Creedence Energy Services. "Our shared efforts in deploying this award-winning EOR technology will help create untold potential for not only oil producers, but also for the agriculture community by creating a bridge through value-added manufacturing of these nature-based products."

Established in 2003, the OGRP encourages use of environmentally sound exploration and production methods and technologies. The program is funded from the state's share of the oil and gas production tax and oil extraction tax, with up to \$10 million available each biennium. The NDIC has agreed to use a portion of the program's funds to subsidize costs of the Locus BE/Creedence well stimulation trials, which will span over 18 months. The treatments are anticipated to successfully recover oil from current production assets left behind by previous technologies—enhancing oil production and subsequent tax revenues for North Dakota.

"Environmental regulations and drastically lowered budgets are driving a search for green chemistries that improve safety, performance and production, and North Dakota oil operators will soon have a solution to all three," said Jonathan Rogers, CEO of Locus BE. "The financial support of the NDIC's grant allows us to accelerate the deployment of these ESG-friendly treatments across the state and prove out their success at a crucial time for the industry."

This is the second governmental approval for Locus BE's biosurfactants. Last year, the Texas Railroad Commission approved them as an EOR technology eligible for a 50% severance tax credit on all oil produced for 10 years. The solutions have also received global recognition for their unique properties allowing them to reach otherwise immobile oil and provide longer term benefits at significantly lower costs. S&P Global Platts deemed them an emerging technology of the year and last month World Finance picked them as a top upstream solution to drive economic growth.

For more information on Locus Bio-Energy's biosurfactant stimulation treatments or the trials with Creedence, visit LocusBioEnergy.com.

MEMBER NEWS

ANNE CARLSEN ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Anne Carlsen Center has named Michael (Mike) Meyer as Chief Development Officer; Meyer joins the organization to lead and serve the development and marketing teams. Most recently, serving as the managing director of development at North Dakota State University Foundation in Fargo, Meyer brings over 30 years of marketing and fundraising experience along with a strong grasp on managing a development team. Although serving Anne Carlsen statewide, he will be officed in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

"Mike brings strong relationship skills and a very caring heart to the role of leading the development team at Anne Carlsen," Tim Eissinger, Chief Executive Officer says. "He will play a key part as we finalize our capital campaign and prepare to celebrate our 80th anniversary this year. We feel very fortunate to add a person of Mike's abilities to the Anne Carlsen team."

Bringing extensive background in development and fundraising in previous roles including Special Olympics of North Dakota, University of Minnesota – Crookston, University of North Dakota (UND), associate vice president at California Baptist University and vice president at Life Pacific University. Meyer also brings a diverse background in marketing and a passion for Anne Carlsen's mission of making the world a more inclusive place where independence is a gift to all.



Mike Meyer

Anne Carlsen is a non-profit organization providing individuals with development disabilities or delays with services and supports for 80 years. Anne Carlsen has positioned itself on the cutting edge of innovation with unique programs, creative therapies and advanced assistive technologies that provide life changing programming to those served. Learn more at annecarlsen.org.

ST. JOSEPH'S COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION 4TH ANNUAL TWICE BLESSED PROGRAM RESULTS REACH \$1,137,543.07

St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation shared results and distributed checks from the 4th Annual Twice Blessed Program on January 28. The Twice Blessed Program is a matching gift program to double contributions given between November 15 – December 31 to preselected organizations. Checks totaling \$935,735.57 were distributed at the Grand Hotel for projects that impact the mental, physical, spiritual and/or emotional well-being of people in the counties of Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, McLean, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, Rolette, Sheridan, Ward and Wells. Another \$201,807.50 was given to a variety of Agency Endowments within the Foundation.

Contributors went to one website, twiceblessednd.com, to read about the mission and goals of each of the area organizations participating in the program. They donated through the website or sent contributions directly to the Foundation or to the participating

organizations. No gift was too small and gifts were matched accordingly by predetermined levels up to a grand match total of \$350,000 provided by St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation.

Community swimming pool improvements, updates to hospital surgical equipment, AED's and upgraded radio equipment for first responders, university scholarships for nurses, senior meal program, food pantries, summer theatre improvements, summer camp opportunities, fire truck equipment, children's discovery center and much more were impacted by the grants given.

"We are thankful for the many organizations, board members, staff and volunteers who work tirelessly in our region to secure a better quality of life by identifying and serving the needs in their communities," Shelly Weppner, President, SJCHF. "We are especially thankful to the hundreds of donors who made gifts this year during the Twice

Blessed Program. Their gifts make a big difference to many."

St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) public charity community foundation formed in June of 1998. The Foundation has awarded over \$9.6 million in grants to organizations for many worthwhile projects to assist with programs that address quality of life issues in our communities.

Another \$201,807.50 was given to a variety of Agency Endowments within the Foundation with 5 new endowments created with contributions for the following organizations: International Music Camp, Rugby Area Health Endowment Fund, Minot Social Club for Exceptional Persons, 2nd Story, Companions for Children, Sanctuary for Sober Living, and Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports. A listing of all agency endowment funds can be found on the Foundation website at sjchfnd.com.

MEMBER NEWS

HEI WELCOMES A NEW PRESIDENT/CEO

Houston Engineering, Inc.'s (HEI) President and CEO Jeff LeDoux announced he has stepped down from the position. The move coincides with his desire to spend more time with his family and other aspirations. Jeff will remain at HEI as a Senior Advisor to assist with business management, business development, and marketing.

HEI's Board of Directors chose Gregg Thielman to be the company's next President and CEO.

"I am delighted that Gregg is now the company's President and CEO," said LeDoux. "Gregg has demonstrated exceptional leadership and brings the vision and values to lead HEI into the future. We have had a strong focus on succession planning over the past year, and this has enabled us to have a seamless transition of this important position for our company."

"I'm truly excited and appreciative of the opportunity the Board of Directors has given me to serve as President and CEO of HEI," said Thielman. "I'd like to congratulate Jeff on his retirement from the role, and thank him for his years of leadership that saw significant growth and success at HEI. I look forward to leading Houston Engineering, working with our talented employees and valuable clients as we look to the future," said Thielman.

Thielman joined the company in 1997 and has held many positions of responsibility, including Chairman of the Board, vice president, and business sector leader.



JOHN STEWART, CPA **FINANCIAL CONSULTING** BUSINESS & PERSONAL



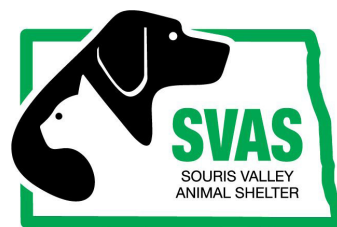
Are you sure?

Let's talk it through...

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SOURIS VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER ANNUAL GALA SET FOR APRIL

The Souris Valley Animal Shelter (SVAS) is proud to announce that SVAS will be holding its 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.

KMOT AG EXPO SET FOR MARCH 3 - 5

The KMOT Ag Expo is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. The KMOT Ag Expo fills the entire ND State Fair Center with over 1,000 booths and over 325 exhibitors all pertaining to the agriculture industry.

The KMOT Ag Expo will not be hosting the living Ag Classroom this year due to the schools not allowing field trips.

The KMOT Ag Expo normally has an estimated 25,000 people attend the show and is expecting around the same amount this year.

The hours are:

Wednesday, March 3rd 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Thursday, March 4th 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Friday, March 5th 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.



YOU CAN BANK ON US.

Football and banking have a lot more in common than you might think. Like experienced coaching and trust. First Western is a locally owned, community bank and has been a trusted name in banking for over 50 years. We are your friends and neighbors, people you can count on, providing local decision making.



FIRST WESTERN
BANK & TRUST
You can bank on us



MEMBER NEWS

FIRST WESTERN BANK & TRUST: ALLER, BAKER, GASMANN, HANSEN, HIATT, PETERSON PROMOTED

Kelsey Aller has been promoted to Human Resource Officer at First Western Bank & Trust. Aller is a Minot native, who graduated from Minot High School and Minot State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, Marketing, and International Business & Spanish. She is located in the Minot Main Bank location. Aller is a member SHRM, Society for Human Resource Management, and is a SHRM-certified professional. She is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Minot and has been with First Western Bank & Trust since November of 2013.



Kelsey Aller

Ilene Baker has been promoted to VP Human Resource Manager at First Western Bank & Trust. Baker is a ND native, and earned a Bachelor's degree in Accountancy from the University of North Dakota. She is located in the Minot Main Bank location. Baker is a member of SHRM, Society for Human Resource Management, and is a PHR & SHRM-certified professional. She is a current member of Central Dakota HRA. Baker is a trustee of ND Banks Benefit Trust and has been with First Western Bank & Trust since October of 2013.



Ilene Baker

Marla Gasmann has been promoted to Customer Relations Manager and BSA Officer at First Western Bank & Trust. Gasmann grew up in Minot, she is located in the Minot Main Bank location. Gasmann has volunteered for Meals on Wheels, Magic Day of Giving and is very involved in competitive equine events in western ND. She has been with First Western Bank & Trust since 1994.



Marla Gasmann

Angie Hansen has been promoted to VP Loan Operations Manager at First Western Bank & Trust. Hansen is a Minot native, who graduated from Surrey High School and Minot State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and a Finance minor. Hansen served as the treasurer for the Y Men's Tough Enough to Wear Pink program for 12 years. She has been with First Western Bank & Trust since September of 1997, and is located at the Minot Main Bank location.



Angie Hansen

Lisa Hiatt has been promoted to Bank Operations Manager at First Western Bank & Trust. Hiatt is a Bottineau native, who earned a Bachelors' degree in Business Administration with a minor in Management Information Systems from University of Mary in 2007. She is located in the Minot Main location. Hiatt serves as a youth basketball coach for the YMCA & volunteers with Backpack Buddies, and she has been with First Western Bank & Trust since September of 2019.



Lisa Hiatt

Shelly Peterson has been promoted to Loan Administration Manager at First Western Bank & Trust. She is located in the Minot Main Bank location. Peterson is a Minot native and has volunteered for the Magic Day of Giving. She has 14 years of banking & financial experience.



Shelly Peterson

MEMBER NEWS

ELITE REAL ESTATE WELCOMES BRIANNA MATEJOVSKY

Elite Real Estate has a new agent. Brianna Matejovsky grew up in Oxbow, Saskatchewan and attended Minot State University, where she met her husband. The family now lives in Kenmare, after losing their house in Minot in the flood. Brianna and her husband run Great Northern Trucking, an oil trucking company both in the states and in Canada. Brianna is also an EMT with the Kenmare Ambulance. They have two children who are busy with outside activities, but they love to spend time at their cabin at Lake Metigoshe.



Brianna
Matejovsky

STRENGTHEN ND TO HOST GRANT WRITING HELP SESSIONS

Every other month, Strengthen ND is hosting Grant Writing Help Sessions for individuals, organizations, and communities to receive no-cost technical assistance on grant seeking and grant writing. The Grant Writing Help Sessions are limited to individuals, organizations, and communities that have signed up as Annual Members. Pre-registration is required through Zoom.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

An annual membership fee is \$25, and membership fees support Strengthen ND's current and future work. In addition to receiving support through Grant Writing Help Sessions, members are also able to access Strengthen ND's full resource library.

Visit www.strengthennd.com to learn more.

2021 GRANT WRITING HELP SESSIONS SCHEDULE

Friday, March 19, 2021 | 11:00 am

Friday, May 21st, 2021 | 11:00 am

Friday, July 16th, 2021 | 11:00 am

Friday, September 17th, 2021 | 11:00 am

Friday, November 12th, 2021 | 11:00 am

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MEMBER NEWS

ENJOY “A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIK” WITH THE MINOT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Minot Symphony Orchestra will present “A Little Night Musik” featuring music by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, and a world premier by one of our own musicians, Matthew Benbenek.

The Minot Symphony Orchestra will welcome a limited socially distanced live audience to attend the performance at MSU Ann Nicole Nelson Hall on Saturday, March 6 at 7:30pm. The performance will also be available via livestream. Tickets for the performance must be purchased in advance and are available at www.minotsymphony.com. Following the MSU Beavers Restart guidelines, musicians and patrons will be required to wear a mask at all times.

The performance will feature the winner of the annual MSU Honors competition, Hannah (Veazey) Deplazes, who will perform Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme. Hannah is a Minot native and will graduate from Minot State University with a degree in Cello Performance with Dr. Erik Anderson in May. She has studied cello since the age of 8, including work with Caroline Busser while living in Germany from 2014-2016. Hannah has attended summer festivals including the Eastman Cello Institute, Dakota Chamber Music, University of Utah Chamber Music Workshop, High Peaks Music Festival, and Texas Music Festival: Orchestral Institute. She won the Minot Symphony Orchestra High School Soloist Competition in Minot in 2014 and placed third in the national Jugend Musiziert Wettbewerb in 2016. She has also competed in the MTNA Competition and the Bismarck Concerto Competition. Hannah hopes to play for a professional orchestra for her career.

“Hannah has such an amazing story, balancing work, study, practice, and motherhood. Soft-spoken, kind, and serious in purpose, no added difficulty



Matthew Benbenek



Hannah Deplazes

seems to slow her down. I am so excited that she will get to perform this great repertoire with the Minot Symphony before leaving for graduate school next fall. This is a great fit for her, as a highly creative, musically deep performer. Each variation will sparkle like a short story in a larger volume. If you don't giggle just a little, you're not listening” said Erik Anderson, DMA, Chair, Division of Performing Arts, Professor of Cello & Bass, Minot State University, principal cellist.

“A Little Night Musik” will feature the world premiere of Five Brief Maneuvers for Wind Quintet by Matthew Benbenek, a violinist in the symphony. This piece will feature The SubZero Winds, a woodwind quintet of MSO musicians; Elizabeth Demme, Kari Files, Deanna Carpenter, Sheri Lien and Charlie Young.

“I have found he has a very unique voice and talent which will be very apparent after you listen to what will be the world premiere of his piece.

“Five Brief Maneuvers for Wind Quintet” shows a clear understanding of how to write for winds efficiently and idiomatically while being a piece full of wit and humor,” said Efraín Amaya, MSU Assistant Professor, Composition and Theory, and Music Director of the Minot Symphony Orchestra. Mozart's A Musical Joke and Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (A Little Night Musik) will also be included in the program.

A pre-concert talk featuring both

Mrs. Deplazes and Mr. Benbenek providing engaging overview of the works being performed will be held via Zoom on Wednesday March 3 at 7pm. The talk will be shared to the Minot Symphony Orchestra Facebook and YouTube pages. Ticketholders will receive an email with the Zoom link to join in the conversation. This pre-concert talk will be hosted by Dr. Erik Anderson.

The Minot Symphony Orchestra musicians and board members thank everyone for being flexible and understanding during this time of challenges and uncertainty.

The Minot Symphony Orchestra is a unique blend of student, community, and professional musicians from the Minot area. The symphony is directed by Maestro Efraín Amaya, assistant professor of music at Minot State University.

This project is supported in part by grants from Arts Midwest and the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Subzero Winds: Elizabeth Demme, Sheri Lien, Deanna Carpenter, Kari Files, and Charlie Young



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.



MINOT

MAGICINMINOT.COM

March 2021 - Chamber EDC Meetings and Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Military Affairs Committee noon Zoom Ambassadors Committee 4:30 p.m. Badlands Restaurant	5	6
7	8	9 Agribusiness Committee 8 a.m. Chamber Office Eagle Awards Presentation 10 a.m. Chamber Office	10 Board of Directors 7:30 a.m. Verendrye Electric Right Start Presentation 9:30 a.m. Zoom	11	12 Infrastructure Committee 7:30 a.m. Homesteaders Restaurant	13
14	15	16	17 Coffee with the President 1:30 p.m. Zoom	18	19 Right Start Committee noon Zoom	20 Legislative Forum 9 a.m. ND State Fair Center FFA Room
21	22	23	24 Right Start Presentation 9:30 a.m. Zoom	25 Energy Committee 11:30 a.m. Buffalo Wings and Rings	26	27
28	29	30	31			