

# MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC COMMUNICATOR



WWW.MINOTCHAMBEREDC.COM

## L. JOHN MACMARTIN ANNOUNCES PLANS TO RETIRE IN 2022

### MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC BOARD SUCCESSION PLANNING UNDERWAY



Minot Area Chamber EDC announces that President L. John MacMartin will be retiring in 2022. The Board of Directors started succession planning earlier this fall and will be announcing further details after the first of the year.

"John's passion, commitment and hard work on behalf of our organization and community is greatly appreciated. One of John's greatest strengths is how he collaborates with community partners and brings people together," said Minot Area Chamber EDC Chair Jonn Knecht.

Randy Hauck, Search Committee Chair added, "We are fortunate to have steady leadership in place as we made the transition into a newly merged organization this past year. As we look for our next President, we are focused on finding a strong leader who believes in our mission and can continue to advance key initiatives forward."

It is the mission of the Minot Area Chamber EDC to advocate for and invest in business activity by being a collaborative partner in the community, focused on improving quality of life for all.

"I will continue to be an advocate and champion for business and growth in our region and I couldn't be more proud of all that our community and region has accomplished," said MacMartin. "I look forward to working alongside the board as they start the search for a new President and will help wherever I can with the transition to new leadership for our great organization."

John MacMartin came to Minot to serve as president of Minot Area Chamber of Commerce and started August 15, 1990. In October 2019, John was named the interim President for Minot Area Development Corporation, while continuing in his role at the Chamber. In December 2020, the two organizations merged into the current Minot Area Chamber EDC and named John as the President.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

■ *Minot Public Schools Realignment Project Bond Election - Page 2*

■ *Eagle Awards - Page 3*

■ *Ribbon Cuttings - Page 5*

■ *Showcase the Magic - Page 8*

■ *Air Force Global Strike Challenge 2021 - Page 11*

■ *Member News - Page 12*

■ *December 2021 Chamber EDC - Page 34*



**MINOT AREA  
CHAMBER EDC**

Minot Area Chamber EDC  
PO Box 940 | Minot, ND 58702-0940  
(701) 852-6000  
www.minotchamberedc.com  
Facebook.com/minotchamberedc  
Instagram.com/minotchamberedc

#### CHAMBER EDC STAFF

L. John MacMartin, President  
john@minotchamberedc.com

Chanda DeCent, Finance Director  
chanda@minotchamberedc.com

Carla Dolan, Vice President  
carla@minotchamberedc.com

Jaime Hauge, Executive Assistant  
jaime@minotchamberedc.com

Mark Lyman, Economic Development Specialist  
mark@minotchamberedc.com

Lisa Moldenhauer, Program Assistant  
lisa@minotchamberedc.com

#### MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT

Carla Vannett, Manager  
Lacey Coleman, Clerk  
Tammy Hanson, Clerk  
Wendy Keldson, Clerk  
Tracey Oja, Clerk  
Kim Reedy, Clerk

#### CHAMBER EDC BOARD

President - Jonn Knecht, Bravera Bank

Chair Elect - Randy Hauck,  
Verendrye Electric Cooperative

Vice Chair - Kevin Black,  
Creedence Energy Services

Treasurer - Missy Feist-Erickson,  
Peoples State Bank

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

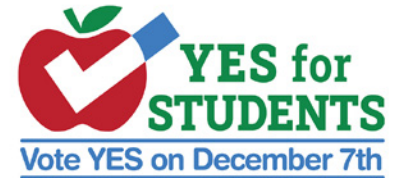
Dr. Mark Vollmer, Minot Public Schools

Jason Zimmerman, Minot Area Community  
Foundation



# MINOT PUBLIC SCHOOLS REALIGNMENT PROJECT BOND ELECTION – DECEMBER 7, 2021

Minot Public School Board scheduled a special election for December 7, 2021. The bond referendum for the Minot Public School Realignment Project, includes remodeling and adding school facilities to create a third middle school and two 9-12 grade high schools in Minot. A second question includes a pool and athletic complex.



## BOND REFERENDUM QUESTIONS:

### QUESTION 1: \$84.8M for two comprehensive high schools and a third middle school

The project includes construction, remodeling, and repurposing of the former Cognizant Building, a 115,000 square-foot facility, including development of green fields for physical education and a turf competition field. The project also includes improvements and remodeling at Magic City Campus to a comprehensive nine-through-twelve high school building including science classrooms, Career and Technical Education space, and an additional gymnasium, and improvements to Central Campus from its current nine and tenth-grade configuration to a comprehensive sixth-through-eighth grade middle school.

### QUESTION 2: \$24.2M for a pool and athletic complex

Addition of a 50-meter competition pool and an athletic complex with full stadium amenities on the turf field at the north high school property.

### QUESTION 3: Increase the debt limit of the district

Be sure to get out and vote on Tuesday, December 7th! Election day voting will be at the Minot Municipal Auditorium from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Minot Area Chamber EDC board of directors unanimously passed a resolution of support for this important project for our community. Other organizations with resolutions of support include:

- Downtown Minot Business & Professional Association
- Visit Minot
- Bakken API Chapter
- Magic City Aquatics
- Minot Association of Builders
- Minot Board of Realtors
- Minot Family YMCA
- Minot Infrastructure Committee
- Minot Swim Club

Don't miss this opportunity to say YES for students and YES for our community!

# EAGLE AWARDS

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



**Kasey Cope**  
Spicy Pie



**Skylynn Saari**  
Perkins Restaurant



**Dr. Jaime Haaland**  
Optometrist



**Gus Kruse**  
Trinity Health



**Tina Elzea**  
Gate City Bank



**Virginia Pope**  
Walmart

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

# TEAM MINOT COOKIE DRIVE

**DROP OFF COOKIES**  
**DECEMBER 13 & 14**  
**FROM**  
**9 A.M. – 4 P.M.**

It is that time of year for TEAM MINOT to provide some Christmas goodies for our friends to the north. Yes, it's time to bake cookies again! The cookies are distributed to nearly 1200 first-term airmen who live in the dorms on Minot Air Force Base. The airmen are between the ages of 18-20 and are required to live in the dorm. It is probably the first time they have been away from family for the holidays.

Baking cookies is just one small way the City of Minot can show its appreciation to the men and women serving our country. The overall goal between the Base and downtown is 1200 dozen, which means one dozen homemade holiday goodies per person for the first-term airmen.

We are asking you to bake a few dozen cookies, as home-baked cookies are really appreciated, and drop them off at the Chamber EDC office, 1020 20th Ave. SW. **The drop off time is December 13 & 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The cookies will be delivered on the 15th to the Base so they can be packaged and distributed to the first-term airmen.

In order to keep up with safe practices, *please be sure to have your cookies in a resealable container or bag.* The cookies can be dropped off on the table in our entryway.

Please help us support the young men and women of Minot Air Force Base! If you have any questions, please call the Chamber EDC at 852-6000.



## DECEMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



**Minot Area**  
Council of the Arts

**Hosted by Minot Area Council of the Arts**  
**Wednesday, December 8, 2021 | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. |**  
**Carnegie Center**

Learn about area organizations with our non-profit showcase at the historic Carnegie Center. Enjoy appetizers from Prairie Sky Breads and a cash bar from the Blue Rider. \$5 at the door to the Chamber EDC.

The event will be held in the Carnegie Center at 105 2nd Avenue SE.



# NOMINATIONS FOR 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Minot Area Chamber EDC nominating committee met and is recommending the following candidates to serve an additional board term: Ryan Ackerman President/Chief Executive Officer Ackerman-Estvold, Cassidy Hjelmstad Chief Executive Officer SRT Communications, Dr. Steven Shirley President Minot State University, and Dr. Mark Vollmer Superintendent Minot Public School District. Nominees have been proposed for three-year terms on the Minot Area Chamber EDC Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2022. Any questions on the nominating process, please contact the Chamber EDC office. The membership at large can, through a petition nominate a candidate(s) with a petition consisting of 15% of the voting membership (main representative of the member/investor), which must be submitted to the Chamber EDC office by December 17.



**Ryan Ackerman**



**Cassidy Hjelmstad**



**Dr. Steven Shirley**



**Dr. Mark Vollmer**

## SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 20



**BeMobile at Dakota Square – Thursday,  
January 20, 2022 | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. |  
2400 10th St SW**

There will be delicious food, prizes—and of course—a chance to visit with other business member investors

## SAVE THE DATE: SPORTSMEN'S FEED JANUARY 30

 **MINOT AREA  
CHAMBER EDC**

# SPORTSMEN'S FEED

2 p.m. Jimmy Doolittle Center

Enjoy delicious food, fun games and the AFC/NFC Playoffs. The day will include heavy appetizers all day. Cost is \$25 per person. Purchase your ticket, and an airman will get in for free.

# RIBBON CUTTINGS

## HOUSTON ENGINEERING

3900 13th Avenue SE, Minot ND 58701

701.852.7931

[www.houstoneng.com](http://www.houstoneng.com)

**Key Contact: Dave Schwengler**

Since 2004, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) has been a proud member of the Minot community providing infrastructure solutions across the region, and they are excited for their new location to better serve clients and the growing team of engineers, surveyors and technical professionals.



## DYNAMIC MUSIC & INNOVATIONS (DMI) ENTERTAINMENT

P.O. Box 103, Minot, ND 58702

763.370.4738

[www.dmi-entertainment.net](http://www.dmi-entertainment.net)

**Key Contact(s): David Turnbull**

DMI Entertainment was created by the owner to bring new creative ways of providing entertainment to others throughout the North Dakota and Minnesota areas. Their company utilizes all types of entertainment services DJ/VJ/KJ for nightclubs and bars to weddings and other large events.



They have recently expanded their services to provide install of all technology in the home and workplace. Internet solutions, entertainment displays, anything low voltage, or has anything to do with sound and lighting.

## TRU'S DEEP CLEANING SERVICES

701-340-7099

**Key Contact: Gerald Osby, owner**

Ambassadors welcomed Tru's Deep Cleaning Services to the business community with a ribbon cutting. Tru's works hard to make your carpet/vehicle as good as new!



# MEMBER RENEWALS

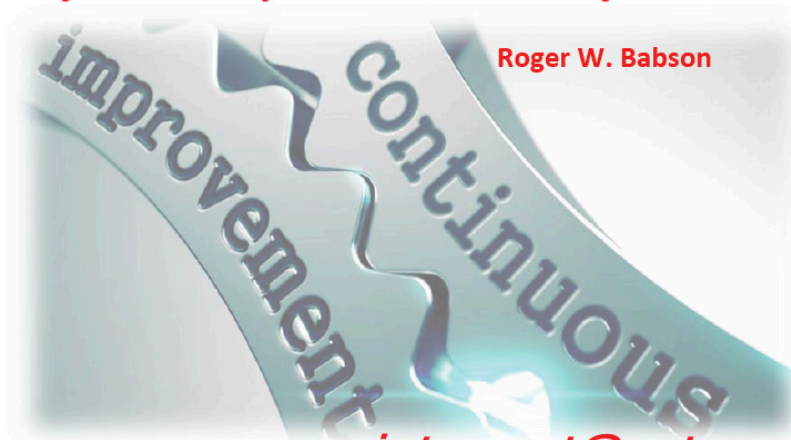
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC.  
BeMobile  
Benchmark Mortgage  
Bravera  
Bray's Saddlery  
Cookies For You, Inc.  
DQ South Broadway  
FirstLight Home Care  
FMC Technologies Completion Services  
Gemar Photography  
Glik's  
HighAir Ground  
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Minot  
Indigo Signs  
Kemmet Dental Design  
Kemper Construction Co.  
LOOK Aesthetic Atelier

Magnum LTL, Inc.  
Maintenance Plus Inc.  
North Central Human Service Center  
North Country Mercantile & Equipment  
North Hill Grill N Chill DQ  
Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center  
Olson & Burns, P.C.  
Organized Spaces  
R & J Fuel and Service, Inc.  
Ready Builders, Inc.  
St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation  
State Farm Insurance - Paul Siebert  
United Community Bank  
Vision Source Minot, PLLC  
West Central North Dakota SCORE  
Wold Engineering, P.C.

## JOHN STEWART, CPA FINANCIAL CONSULTING BUSINESS & PERSONAL



*There isn't a plant or business on earth that couldn't stand a few improvements and be better for them. Someone is going to think of them. Why not beat the other fellow to it?*



Roger W. Babson

701.833.8821 [jstewart@srt.com](mailto:jstewart@srt.com)





# WHEN THERE'S A NEED, OUR MEMBERS ROUND UP HELP.

When there's a need in the community, Verendrye Electric Cooperative members step up by rounding up their electric bills to the next dollar. This year, our members have raised \$71,000 to help 41 local organizations like the Happy Hour Senior Citizens Center in Ryder for roof repairs. In fact, Operation Round Up has given \$1.3 million to more than 1,200 great causes since 1996. That's the power of human connections.







Participants and businesses had a great evening at the annual Showcase of Business sponsored by SRT. The evening featured 74 booths with five of them providing food. The stage was set with the colors of the Chamber EDC logo highlighted with lights to the theme "Showcase what makes your business Magic!" A big thank you to SRT for sponsoring this event and to all our member investors who participated. Thank you media sponsors KMOT and Hometown Radio Group and thank you to Delta Vacations for providing a trip valued at \$2,000.



# START UP MINOT TO WORK WITH ENTREPRENEURS AND START-UP COMPANIES TO GROW THEIR BUSINESS

Start Up Minot will begin in 2022 as a new effort to invigorate, encourage and entice entrepreneurs in the Minot region to execute their business idea. A regional coalition of support is in place for start-up companies, anyone with an idea for growing or starting their own business, or if an existing business is stuck and needs some help. Start Up Minot is two-pronged, with a cohort-based 10-week class called Start Up Minot Academy powered by CO.STARTERS, and a monthly coffee/networking event under the name Start Up Minot that will focus on sharing the story of new and growing companies while connecting like-minded business leaders.

**START UP MINOT ACADEMY**  
POWERED BY **CO.STARTERS**

The coalition of support includes the following groups and businesses: Small Business Development Center, Minot Area Chamber EDC, MSU Severson Entrepreneurship Academy, Strengthen ND, Creedence Energy, Souris Basin Planning Council, Dakota Business Lending and others.

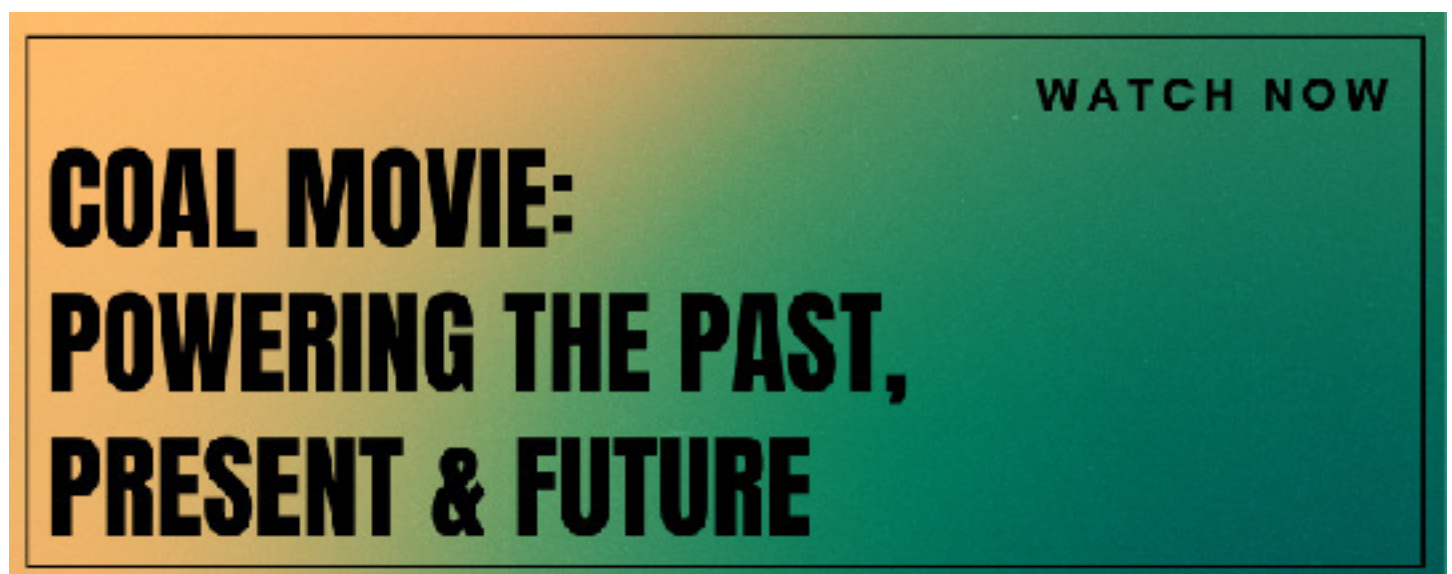
The Start Up Minot Academy powered by CO.STARTERS is a cohort-based program with the goal of giving fresh minds the tools, insights and relationships needed to succeed in implementing their business idea. The Academy goes for 10 weeks, meeting one day a week for three hours. It is a hands-on course – NOT a lecture – where you will join like-minded individuals on a journey to figure out how your business will work. Guest speakers, experts in their field from the community, will be at every class to help bring real-life answers to your real-life questions.

Start Up Minot Academy, a facilitated class, would typically cost between \$750 and \$1,000 for the 10 weeks, but for this first year it is being offered at \$100/person. This reduced cost is made possible due to the generous support of the Small Business Development Center and other sponsors.

The first cohort of classes for Start Up Minot Academy powered by CO.STARTERS begins on Jan. 13, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Carnegie Center in downtown Minot. This continues for ten weeks and ends on March 17 when we celebrate your success! Other cohort classes start in May and in September.

To sign up for the class, please contact Mark Lyman at the Minot Chamber EDC, 852-6000 or [mark@minotchamberedc.com](mailto:mark@minotchamberedc.com) and he will walk you through the simple registration process, or go online to [www.minotchamberedc.com/doing-business/start-up-minot/](http://www.minotchamberedc.com/doing-business/start-up-minot/). Anyone can be a student in the class, you are not required to be a Chamber EDC member.

Look for more details in the next Communicator on the monthly Start Up Minot coffee/networking event.



# CITY OF MINOT CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTS SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT CENTER FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

The City of Minot City Council unanimously approved the sub-recipient agreement with Dakota College at Bottineau (DBC) to rehabilitate, equip, and operate a Center for Career and Technical Education (CTE).

There has been ongoing discussion led by Mayor Sipma who appointed Lisa Olson, President of Minot City Council, to chair a committee to create a CTE Center in Minot. Through those discussions several community partners came together to advance the idea including the City of Minot, Trinity Health, Minot State University (MSU), Dakota College at Bottineau and the Minot Area Chamber EDC. The National Disaster Resiliency (NDR) Fund is a major funding partner for the project bringing \$3,400,000 to be used towards the renovation and initial equipment, technology (IT) needs and more to complete a turn-key facility.

Lisa Olson, CTE Committee Chair said, "It is exciting to see this project moving forward with such strong support from the city to leadership across the state. The skills and training provided in postsecondary CTE plays a significant role in addressing the changing workforce needs of today's economy." Olson added, "This project is a win for not only Minot, but the region, and I want to thank all the partners who came together to get this done."

Key aspects of the sub-recipient agreement with Dakota College at Bottineau includes Minot State University Development Foundation using \$800,000 in MAGIC Fund dollars to purchase the property located at 120 Burdick Expressway, with Dakota College at Bottineau leasing the property for a minimum of ten years. Minot Area Chamber EDC sponsored the \$800,000 request.

Trinity Health President and CEO John M. Kutch noted, "At Trinity Health we believe that by working together we can make more possible for our patients, residents and communities – the CTE project is a great example of that. As we move towards completion of our new healthcare campus and medical district, we seek opportunities to repurpose identified Trinity Health assets in concert with Minot's revitalization plans, for the good of the community," Kutch said, "The CTE center will greatly benefit the entire Minot region and we are excited to be part of this project," Kutch added.

The CTE Center must operate for ten years from the date of the certificate of occupancy granted by the City of Minot in order to meet the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards and qualify for the NDR funds. CTE will offer one- and two-year certificate programs, customized technical training for area businesses and associate degree programs.

"DCB and MSU are most appreciative for the support from the City of Minot and look forward to the next steps in preparing to open this Center for Career and Technical Education in Fall 2023," said Minot State and DCB President Dr. Steven Shirley. "This CTE Center will create important new educational opportunities for residents of Minot and the surrounding region and will also help area businesses and organizations by creating a more diversified and well-prepared labor force in our community. This will be yet another important asset as Minot continues expanding and demonstrating its community resilience."

Jerry Migler, Campus Dean at DCB added, "This is exciting news and we look forward to providing CTE programs to Minot and the region. Having access to postsecondary CTE programs is a key factor in retaining our local talent. With programs available locally, students won't have to relocate, and possibly not return to the area. This announcement is great news for the community and north central North Dakota."

All requirements for operation need to be in place prior to the September 30, 2023, HUD NDR deadline. The rehabilitation is scheduled for completion in 2023 ahead of deadline.

The Minot Symphony Orchestra and Western Plains Opera present

# Amahl and the Night Visitors

by Gian Carlo Menotti

2021-2022  
MINOT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
Efrain Amaya - Music Director

Featuring over 150 local musicians from  
the Minot Symphony Orchestra, Western  
Plains Opera, Minot High Choir and Rinat  
Mouzafarov Institute of Dance.

## Dec. 11th

7:30 pm - Ann Nicole Nelson Hall - MSU

TICKETS AND INFO. 701-858-4228 • [www.minotsymphony.com](http://www.minotsymphony.com)



# AIR FORCE GLOBAL STRIKE CHALLENGE 2021

## MINOT TO RETURN BARKSDALE TROPHY

In 2019, Air Force Global Strike Command honored the “Best of the Best” in bombers, ICBMs, helicopters, maintenance and security forces during a scoreposting event called Global Strike Challenge. However, another equally-important honor was handed out for only the second time since it was created in 2017 – the Barksdale Trophy – given to the community with the most outstanding community support to an AFGSC base. Minot took home the trophy and has had it for the past two years.

“They say ‘Only the Best Come North,’ and Minot couldn’t be prouder of Minot Air Force Base and all who serve,” said Brekka Kramer, Vice President of Odney, and a member of the AFGSC Civic Leader Program. “The men and women of Minot Air Force Base are part of our community. They are friends, neighbors, and for some of us, they are family. They fight for our country and make sacrifices, so we don’t have to.”



Task Force 21 members: Pete Hankla, Mark Jantzer, Bruce Christianson, Jessica Merchant, Tom Rafferty, Brekka Kramer, Randy Burckhard, Jonn Knecht, L. John MacMartin, Randy Hauck, Mayor Shaun Sipma

Kramer and fellow AFGSC Civic Leader Bruce Christianson, General Manager and CEO of the Magic City Financial Group, traveled from Minot to cheer on the 5th Bomb Wing and 91st Missile Wing teams at the scoreposting, and were on hand to accept the trophy on behalf of the City of Minot in 2019. They will now travel back to Barksdale Air Force Base, along with Task Force 21 Chair and AFGSC Civic Leader Mark Jantzer.

“Minot, the surrounding area and Minot Air Force Base are one community,” Christianson said. “It was an honor and our very pleasure to accept this award on behalf of all the people who truly made this award possible.”

The Barksdale Trophy is awarded to the community which has provided the highest level of community support to an air force base in the Air Force Global Strike Command over the preceding 24 months, said Murray Viser, President and Chief Operating Officer for Barksdale Forward, Inc. Barksdale Forward manages the award program on behalf of the communities of Shreveport and Bossier City.

“The competition for the Barksdale Trophy is intended to create an air of friendly competition between host communities in order to encourage creativity and ever-increasing levels of community support for each base within Air Force Global Strike Command,” Viser said.

The city of Abilene, Texas won the first trophy in 2017.

The criteria used in judging are:

- Community-based programs that positively impact the quality of life for airmen and their families.
- Community investment in infrastructure designed to benefit airmen, officers and families associated with the base.
- Community assistance and support in securing state and federal funding for infrastructure or programs beneficial to airmen, officers and their families, as well as the overall mission of the base.
- Overall community hospitality, kindness, and acceptance of airmen, officers and their families.

Nominations are judged by Barksdale Forward, Inc., leadership and a select panel of former Air Force Global Strike Command commanders and vice-commanders, Viser said.

“It’s an honor for the city of Minot and our community to be recognized for providing the finest support to an Air Force Base associated with Air Force Global Strike Command,” Jantzer said. “It is a team effort that makes Minot a great community deserving of the Barksdale Trophy.”

# MEMBER NEWS

## ST. JOSEPH'S COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION GRANTS REACH \$9.7 MILLION IN GIFTS TO COMMUNITIES AND BEGINS 5TH ANNUAL TWICE BLESSED PROGRAM

Grants totaling \$107,000.00 were given to support a wide variety of area projects at the regional Grant Awards and Twice Blessed kick-off-luncheon.

Grants were provided to organizations 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. Preparing for on-site healthcare, added thrift store for community resource center and food pantry, parenting and child support programs, meals and transportation for seniors, art therapy for counseled veterans, holistic program awareness, nutrition services for seniors, automatic external defibrillators, replace fire equipment at Glenburn fire station, upgrade grass fire truck, sound-proofing system, strength, balance and mobility program for seniors, handicap ramp and much more will be impacted by the grants given.



Luncheon attendees also celebrated the start of the 5th annual Twice Blessed matching gift program, a program that will double contributions made, up to a combined maximum match total of \$455,000, to 81 area agencies and non-profit organizations between Nov. 15 and Dec. 31, 2021.

"The Twice Blessed program provides an opportunity for charitable giving in north-central North Dakota," said Shelly C. Weppler, SJCHF president. "Donors can go to one website—[twiceblessednd.com](http://twiceblessednd.com)—to learn about the mission and goals of 81 applicant organizations. Donations can be made via the website or by sending contributions directly to St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation or the participating organizations. Gifts given in the amount of or over \$5,000.00 may be eligible for the 40% ND tax credit if given to support organization-designated endowment funds. Call the Foundation at 837-1726 for further details."

"We are especially thankful and grateful to the many organizations, board members, staff and volunteers who work tirelessly in our region to secure a better quality of life by identifying and serving the needs in their communities," Shelly Weppler.

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 \$9.7 million in grants to organizations for many worthwhile projects to assist with programs that address quality of life issues in their communities with \$1.1 million given last January as a result of the Twice Blessed program.





## MEMBER NEWS

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### CORNERSTONE BANK ENTERS FINTECH ARENA WITH CREDOVA AGREEMENT

Cornerstone Bank announced an exclusive agreement with Credova, a buy now, pay later (BNPL) solution emerging in the increasingly popular outdoor recreation, farm, home and ranch markets.

“This exclusive agreement furthers our vision of being who people turn to when they are making important decisions about their money,” says Gary Petersen, Cornerstone Bank Chairman. “Cornerstone Bank and Credova share very similar cultures and approaches to doing business, making this relationship a great pairing. Both organizations will benefit from each other’s areas of expertise,” concludes Petersen.



“This is the next step in our company evolution, to partner with Cornerstone Bank, a pillar in the banking community,” says Dusty Wunderlich, Credova CEO. “It’s not often you find a bank with a nearly 100-year history, be so nimble and forward thinking, but that’s exactly what we’ve discovered in Cornerstone Bank,” continues Wunderlich.

Credova is building a household name in BNPL for outdoor rec, leveraging Cornerstone Bank’s extensive history and experience in traditional banking. Bank partnerships in a BNPL era are key for fintech growth and providing a method for financial institutions to stay viable. In a recent Pymnts.com article, Adam Hughes, CEO at a fintech firm, Amount, says, “The success enjoyed by the Klarnas and the Affirms and the Afterpays of the world — as these tech upstarts gain scale — has awakened banks to the fact that BNPL is here to stay,” Hughes explained.

Cornerstone Bank will be doing business as noka in this agreement with Credova. Noka is a registered name of Cornerstone Bank, a North Dakota state-chartered financial institution, member FDIC, Equal Housing Lender. Cornerstone Holding Company, based in North Dakota, is the parent company of Cornerstone Bank. One of North Dakota’s ten largest financial institutions, Cornerstone Holding Company is a \$1 billion financial institution with 10 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.

### GIRL SCOUTS DAKOTA HORIZONS HOSTS COOKIE UNIVERSITY

Each year Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons hosts an entrepreneurship program called Cookie University. This event, for Girl Scouts Kindergarten through 12th Grade, helps girls get ready for their upcoming Girl Scout Cookie season by bringing them on to a college campus to head to “class”. Girl Scouts earn their Cookie Business badges when they break out into sessions that focus on building age-appropriate skills around goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics.

This year’s event will be hosted at MSU on Saturday, January 26 and Girl Scouts is seeking volunteers for a variety of roles that day! If you are interested, please contact Nicole Gustafson, Senior Troop Engagement Specialist at 910-581-3816 or [ngustafson@gsdakotahorizons.org](mailto:ngustafson@gsdakotahorizons.org).

## MEMBER NEWS

# TRINITY HEALTH ANNOUNCES CONTINUED NURSING PARTNERSHIP WITH MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY, DAKOTA COLLEGE AT BOTTINEAU

Minot State University (MSU) and Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB) will continue a healthcare initiative with Trinity Health, creating increased opportunities for students to pursue nursing education and to assist with the healthcare needs of the region.

Trinity Health has committed to donating \$250,000 per year for the next five years to the Minot State University Department of Nursing and \$100,000 per year for five years to Dakota College at Bottineau. The \$1.75 million, five-year donation will help both institutions prepare and graduate high-quality nurses.

“Both the MSU and DCB campuses are incredibly grateful to Trinity Health for their continuing support and dedication to furthering nursing education in our region,” said Minot State and DCB President Dr. Steven Shirley. “It is an exciting and important time in healthcare, and we have seen the critical role nurses play as we have all lived through the COVID pandemic. Trinity is a wonderful partner with the nursing departments at MSU and DCB, and we are so thankful for the many ways they continue assisting and enhancing our ability to educate the next generation of nursing professionals.”



This marks the third five-year partnership between MSU and Trinity Health. The funds have helped the University fund full-time positions, including two nursing faculty positions, and has ensured MSU admits up to 33 qualified nursing students into its nationally-recognized program each semester, or 66 students per year.

Along with added faculty teaching positions, the donation assists Minot State's continued commitment to providing innovative simulation space. Advanced simulation, along with a variety of clinical experiences for student nurses at Trinity Health, are critical components of MSU's nursing education.

“The partnership between Trinity Health, Minot State, and Dakota College at Bottineau shows our commitment to working together to grow and support the nursing profession,” said Karen Zimmerman, chief nursing officer/vice president for patient care services at Trinity Health. “This partnership has allowed us to add additional students to the MSU program and take steps to meet an increasing need for nurses. It also demonstrates how healthcare organizations can work with academic institutions to support students throughout their academic life and continue that support into their professional life as a nurse.”

DCB, a partner in the Dakota Nursing Program, educates nursing students in Minot at the practical and associate degree levels. Once a student graduates from DCB and is licensed as a registered nurse, they can articulate into the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Completion Program at MSU and complete the BSN degree in three semesters, making them eligible for many leadership positions and graduate school.

“We hold such tremendous gratitude for the ongoing support from Trinity Health. Our partnership provides opportunities to meet the demands of our nursing workforce with continued growth of our pre-licensure and RN to BSN nursing programs,” said April Warren, chair of the Minot State Department of Nursing. “The generous support of Trinity Health also fosters further opportunity to provide an exceptional nursing education with comprehensive clinical opportunities. It is an honor to work collaboratively with Trinity Health and collectively strategize future plans to grow our nursing programs and do our part to create the future of nursing.”



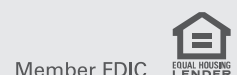


*Life is all about moments*

Hoping the holiday season brings you many joyful memories.



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## MEMBER NEWS



## HESS DONATES TOY TRUCKS TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN NORTH DAKOTA

*New Hess Cargo Plane and Jet Toys will be used to teach STEM in a fun and engaging way.*

Over 6,700 Hess Toy Trucks will be donated to ND elementary schools. Each elementary school will receive a set of 24 trucks with associated STEM curriculum guide.

Hess Corporation announced that it will donate the just-released 2021 Hess Cargo Plane and Jet STEM education kits to every elementary school in North Dakota for the fourth straight year, totaling 6,720 trucks in all. Aligning with the state's Strategic Vision for education, Hess has again partnered with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction to find new opportunities for interactive teaching and learning. The STEM curriculum guide, designed by Baylor College of Medicine's Center for Educational Outreach, uses the 2021 Cargo Plane and Jet model of the iconic Hess Toy Truck line as a learning tool that introduces elementary age students to different STEM, plane concepts in a fun and engaging way.

The first school to receive the toy truck kits this year is Wilton Public School, where 53 students in grades 3-5 will be participating in the STEM lessons. "These Hess toys and curriculum give our North Dakota elementary school educators another way to introduce STEM instruction to our young students. This is an excellent example of collaboration between our schools and private business that benefits students and their families," said Kirsten Baesler, North Dakota's state school superintendent.

The 2021 Hess Cargo Plane and Jet, used in combination with the curriculum, Fun-damentals of Flight, provide a powerful STEM learning experience that engages as it teaches. The Cargo Plane is an impressive, six turbine engine, heavy-load transport aircraft. Colored in white with a green undercarriage, bold green striping, sparkling chrome nose cone and accents, the plane includes free-rolling foldable landing gear and 32 high-visibility lights that provide an impressive glow. A quick press of the taillight will release the rear cargo bay doors to provide access to the Jet. A hidden slide out ramp makes loading and unloading the expansive, internally illuminated cargo bay a breeze. With nearly 14-inch-long fuselage and 15-inch wingspan, the Cargo Plane is the largest Hess vehicle ever. The accompanying Jet completes the flying duo.

Hess will ship the toy trucks to each elementary school in North Dakota, and the STEM curriculum will be available for download or will be distributed electronically. Teachers will be able to use the materials as part of their curriculum going forward. The Hess Toy Truck has been a holiday tradition since 1964 and is one of the longest running toy brands in the U.S.



## MEMBER NEWS



## HESS TO GRANT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS IN NORTH DAKOTA

### Key Highlights:

- Hess to provide \$50,000 worth of scholarships to High School Seniors
- Successful applicants chosen from:
  - students exhibiting at the North Dakota State Fair
  - members of youth development organizations 4-H or Future Farmers of America (FFA);
  - students pursuing secondary education or training related to the oil and gas industry
- Club and chapter grant deadline is February 1, 2022 and the scholarship application closes March 15, 2022

Hess Corporation announced that it would continue its partnership with the North Dakota State Fair Foundation and offer eight scholarships to high school seniors who are current members of either 4H or FFA and are pursuing secondary education or training in a career related to, or in support of, the oil and gas industry.

Todd Berning, President of the North Dakota State Fair Foundation said, “Hess’s investment in the youth of North Dakota is outstanding. 4-H and FFA are incredible programs that foster leadership, life skills and work ethic. The North Dakota State Fair is a pinnacle for these programs, bringing together our state’s youth to compete and showcase what they have learned. This is a great partnership and we know the Hess Scholarships will provide tremendous opportunity for these kids.”

“Hess’ mission is to be the most trusted energy partner wherever we operate and to make a positive impact in the communities where we live and work,” said Brent Lohnes, General Manager for North Dakota. “These scholarships are part of Hess’ long standing commitment to education. We are excited to continue investing in the youth of North Dakota with this program.”

The scholarships will be awarded in several parts. This includes three \$10,000 scholarships and five \$2,000 scholarships for a total of \$40,000 being given to North Dakota students. The partnership will also offer \$10,000 in 4-H and FFA Club Grants bringing Hess’ total support to \$50,000.

Aligning with the North Dakota State Fair Foundation’s mission of enhancing and supporting the work of the North Dakota State Fair, Hess has focused these scholarships on those students who participate and exhibit at the North Dakota State Fair through their 4H and FFA groups. Both 4H and FFA teach and reward civic engagement, responsibility, and leadership while supporting their communities and their state through agriculture and education.

The scholarship is now open to applications and will close on March 15, 2022. Applicants can find more information at [www.ndstatefairfoundation.com/scholarships/](http://www.ndstatefairfoundation.com/scholarships/).

From left to right: Gary Knell, NDSF President; Jessica Bullinger, NDSF Foundation; Brent Lohnes, Hess ND General Manager; Renae Korslien, NDSF Manager; Craig Kleven, ND FFA Executive Secretary; Dean Aakre, ND 4H Youth Development Specialist

## MEMBER NEWS

# HESS DONATES \$25,000 TO 1,000 TREES FOR MINOT PROJECT

Hess Corporation announced the donation of \$25,000 to the 1,000 Trees for Minot project as part of the company's longstanding commitment to protecting the environment.

The 1,000 Trees for Minot project will be advancing community development, improving quality of life, strengthening biodiversity, maintaining good air quality, creating windbreaks and shelters, and educating the public through the goal of planting 1,000 trees in Minot over the next five years. Community partners include the Minot Park District and Minot Area Community Foundation.

The 1,000 Trees for Minot Project was brought forward into the community by Donna Bye and Tim Baumann in an effort to provide younger generations an opportunity to learn about the importance of biodiversity, community participation, and the work-ethic required to achieve a goal. Tim Baumann, co-chair of the 1,000 Trees for Minot Project shared, "We are very happy to kick off this project with so much community support. Minot is our home and being able to do our part to help give back to not only to the community now, but for generations to come is exciting."

The Minot Park District Forestry Department will source, plant and maintain the trees each year. Tree species will be selected to support local biodiversity and strengthen existing ecosystems. Ron Merritt, Minot Parks and Rec Director shared, "The Park District is excited to be a part of the project and see the enhancement of public spaces near our parks and trails. Thank you to Hess for providing this significant donation to kick start the project. Hess has been a great community partner and we are so fortunate to have their North Dakota headquarters here in Minot."

"The 1000 Trees for Minot project is a great initiative that will enhance the community and the environment," said Brent Lohnes, General Manager of Hess North Dakota. "Our support extends beyond this donation as many of our colleagues are active participants with this program and will support in many ways for years to come. We're proud to support bringing more trees to Minot."

"The planting of trees lost as a result of the 2011 flood disaster, construction of the flood protection project and community growth enhances our parks and public areas and elevates the health and quality of life in our community," said Jason Zimmerman, Minot Area Community Foundation Executive Director. "The support of partners like Hess, will help us bring trees back into our community and this donation exceeds the project's year one goal, allowing for additional trees to be planted this first year." The Minot Area Community Foundation is serving as the fiscal agent for the project.

*Pictured in the photo from left to right: Ron Merritt, Brent Lohnes, Tim Baumann and Jason Zimmerman.*



## ABOUT 1,000 TREES FOR MINOT

1,000 Trees for Minot aims to advance community development, improve quality of life, strengthen biodiversity, maintain air quality, create windbreaks and shelters, and educate the public through the goal of planting 1,000 trees in Minot by 2026.

For more information contact:  
Tim Baumann [environmentminot@gmail.com](mailto:environmentminot@gmail.com) or Donna Bye [dbye@houstoneng.com](mailto:dbye@houstoneng.com)

Thank You.



CIVIL ENGINEERING | ARCHITECTURE

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## MEMBER NEWS

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### **BRAVERA BANK AMERICAN BANK CENTER ANNOUNCES NAME CHANGE**

After 100 years serving the families and businesses of North Dakota with a full range of banking, trust, investment and insurance services, American Bank Center is changing its name to Bravera Bank. The new name, along with a new logo, tagline and visual identity, will launch this Fall. The change in brand does not reflect a change in ownership, as Bravera Bank is still employee- and director-owned.

In recent years, American Bank Center has grown, expanding its network of branches across North Dakota and Montana. Its growth represents a continued investment in the region's strong future, competitively positioning the bank to serve customers with more resources, a greater geographic reach and a broader promise to new people moving into the area. The new name unifies the current network and creates a consistent banking experience all under one brand: Bravera Bank.

"We are so proud to unite our banks under a new name and brand experience that reflects our bank's strong future," says Cill Skabo, American's Chief Marketing Officer. "Bravera is a distinct and unforgettable name that captures our spirit and helps us stand out and connect with our customers and communities."

The word Bravera combines "Bravery" and "Truth" for a new name with strong ties to the pioneer spirit and honest values that define the northern plains. The new name will be accompanied by a new logo, look and feel that will touch every part of the bank's experience, from signage in the branches and the bank's website to brand communications and advertising.

"The move to the Bravera Bank name is exciting and delivers on our mission of embodying a financial institution that supports the growth of the region's future. From Bismarck to Billings, Dickinson to Devils Lake, we see tremendous opportunity in helping our customers forge success, under a single, powerful brand name," says David Ehlis, American Bancor President and CEO.

### **EDWARD JONES TOM MILLER OFFERS WEBINAR DECEMBER 7**

How a person handles their 401(k), pension or other employer retirement plan when leaving a job is one of the most important financial decisions that can be made. Tom Miller of Edward Jones will present Leave It, Move It, Roll It, Take It: Know Your Employer Retirement Plan Options. You can learn about:

- The most common distribution options
- How to avoid having the IRS withhold 20% of your retirement distribution
- How taxes, penalties and investment options factor into your decision

The talk will take place December 7, at 7 p.m. in the Adult Learning Center located at 1609 4th Ave NW. Call 701-839-6339 or email [t.miller@edwardjones.com](mailto:t.miller@edwardjones.com) to RSVP and receive webinar details.

### **SHANE D. ZABACK ACHIEVES MEMBERSHIP IN RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL SERVICES 2021 EXECUTIVE II COUNCIL**

Shane D. Zaback, Branch Manager, located at 1408 20th Ave SW Ste 2, Minot, ND 58701, was recently named a member of the 2021 Executive II Council. This marks the fourth consecutive year that Zaback has qualified for this important recognition.

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. His process helps clients adapt their strategy in a way that can best reach their goals and respond to changes in the market or in their life.

## MEMBER NEWS

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### DAVE MASON TAKES ON NEW ROLE AT FIBT; NAMED DIRECTOR OF MORTGAGE

First International Bank & Trust (FIBT) is proud to announce Dave Mason as our new Director of Mortgage. Dave will oversee our growing Mortgage Division, ensuring strategic and developmental goals are achieved. In this role, he will supervise all facets of mortgage lending, including secondary market transactions, in-house mortgage loans and our consumer-direct department.

Dave has nearly two decades of experience in community banking, including six-and-a-half years as FIBT's Bismarck President. Under his leadership, our Bismarck location quickly became a staple in the community and one of the bank's best-performing locations. His past mortgage experience and community banking expertise will allow the company to put our clients' dream home within reach.

"I am thrilled to be part of the FIBT Mortgage team," says Dave. "My entire career has been in community banking, and I look forward to advancing FIBT's goal to provide best-in-class service to current and future customers across the bank's footprint."

"We are very excited to welcome Dave as Director of Mortgage," says Peter Stenehjem, President. "Coming off of our Mortgage division's strongest year ever, Dave is the perfect person to continue the legacy of putting our customers first and helping them achieve their dreams."

Please join us in welcoming Dave to his new role.

FIBT anticipates announcing Dave's successor for Bismarck Branch President in the near future.



### MINOT PUBLIC LIBRARY HONORED FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

For the second consecutive year, the Minot Public Library has been recognized as a Future-Focused Library by the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council's Standards for Public Libraries.

"It means a lot to be recognized as a library looking to the future," Library Director Janet Anderson said. "The staff at the Minot Public Library work incredibly hard to provide quality services to the community. This recognition is thanks to every MPL employee who continues to go above and beyond."

Anderson said that it was especially meaningful to receive this recognition for 2020 due to the many challenges the library faced during the pandemic.

The Minot Public Library is one of only two of the 83 public libraries to be recognized as a Future-Focused Library. The Standards for Public Libraries is a three-level system: Developing, Excelling and Future-Focused. To be recognized as a Future-Focused Library, MPL must meet all the standards in each level, which include offering interlibrary loan services to patrons, conducting programs for all ages, providing community out-reach and adopting policies.

"There are a ton of boxes to be checked in order to reach this level," Anderson explained. "While many of the standards are administrative, I am most proud of the library's ability to provide quality programs, unique items for check-out and attend community events throughout Minot."

The Standards for Public Libraries was created by the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council, a task force appointed by the Governor of North Dakota and the library community.



# NORTH DAKOTA MILITARY AND VETERAN **VIRTUAL JOB FAIR**



NORTH  
**Dakota** | Job Service  
Be Legendary.™



**DEC. 8, 2021**  
**10am - 5 pm\***  
**CST**

**Register for a booth at:**  
<https://bit.ly/3HaaczJ>



\*Please note: the Job Fair is scheduled to end at 3 pm, with the hours of 3 to 5 pm reserved for you to virtually interview individual candidates if you wish.

**This event is for current Military members, Veterans and their families**

Hiring a veteran is a smart choice! Veterans have leadership readiness, a mission-focused approach to work, a strong work ethic and are adaptable and immediate contributors. This is the perfect place to recruit your next great employee.

Job Service North Dakota is an equal opportunity employer/program provider.  
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



## MEMBER NEWS

### MARCO DONATES \$15,000 TO 15 SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE TO HELP STOCK THEIR FOOD PANTRY AND ALLEVIATE CHILD HUNGER

Marco Technologies is taking a step toward helping to curb childhood hunger by donating to 15 school food pantries. Marco announced today the results of its recent Give Back 2 School project.

Based on nominations and votes cast by Marco's social media followers and employees, Marco selected 15 schools across eight states and gave each one \$1,000 for their school food pantry. School food pantry programs help alleviate child hunger by distributing food to children to eat at home after school, on the weekends and during school breaks.

Lori Wollmuth, community relations manager at Feeding Our Communities Partners in Mankato, Minnesota, appreciated Marco's donation to help feed students. "Your compassionate support will give area children access to nutritious food packs on weekends and bring peace of mind and security in knowing where the next meal will come from. For many local children, your loving generosity is life-changing," Wollmuth said.

As many as 13 million students go to school hungry each day, according to No Kid Hungry, a nonprofit organization with a primary focus to end childhood hunger. While many students qualify for free and reduced-priced breakfast and lunch programs at their schools, these students go home after school or for the weekend to find scarce food options and even empty cupboards.

"The research is clear that being hungry has an enormous impact on a student's ability to learn," said Dawn Zimmerman, Marco's Chief Marketing Officer. "When kids are hungry, they can have trouble concentrating, fall behind academically, and are more likely to suffer from depression and anxiety."

Marco initiated its Give Back 2 School campaign to further support the communities it serves and help reduce child hunger. Marco asked its social media followers and employees to nominate a school that could benefit from a \$1,000 donation toward

a food pantry. Marco received 38 nominations and selected 15.

"We appreciate everyone who took time to nominate a school and vote. We are pleased to support 15 schools and the students they serve in our communities," Zimmerman said. "Marco has been a long-time partner with schools across the country, and we recognize the key impact schools have in helping students academically and nutritionally by feeding their mind and nourishing their bodies."

Giving back to the community is a core value at Marco. The company commits dollars every year to support charitable causes across the communities it serves. This is part of Marco's Gold Standard culture and commitment to do good as a business.

"We are committed to giving back to communities we serve—in every way we can," Zimmerman said. The Give Back 2 School project will provide much-needed nutritional support for students at schools across eight states.

### TAUBE MUSEUM OF ART CREATION PETER PANALES - LANGER GALLERY EXHIBITION

The Taube Museum of Art will be exhibiting delightful paintings by local artist Peter Panales. Panales' exhibition Creation will be on display at the Taube Museum of Art through December 23.

Panales, a recent high school graduate, is making a name for himself while currently pursuing an art degree at Minot State University. His work in Creation is a mix of oil and acrylic paintings. Panales' painting style features surrealist and whimsical merits while using bright colored paint to portray rich textures.

There will be a joint reception for this exhibition and the Festival of the Arts on December 9 from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Taube Museum of Art. Panales will be available at the reception to discuss his work. This event is free and open to the public with wine and hors d'oeuvres being provided.

In the Linha - Hoeven Gallery, the Taube will be hosting the Festival of the Arts Sale, featuring local artists and crafters,

perfect for your holiday shopping needs! This show will also run from November 17 until December 23. Artwork in numerous mediums and sizes, including jewelry, paintings, cards, ornaments, and more will be available for purchase. In addition to the sale, one artist from the exhibition will be selected for a solo exhibit in the Langer Gallery in 2022!

Museum and Gift Shop hours: Tues – Fri 10:30 – 5:30 pm and Sat 11-4 pm, or by special appointment. There is no charge for admission, but contributions are accepted to help the Taube Museum fulfill their mission of enriching lives through the visual arts.

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

For more information call 838-4445: Rachel Alfaro, Executive Director.

## MEMBER NEWS

### A DAY OF MERRYMAKING! HOLIDAY CELEBRATION - "FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS" SALE

The Taube Museum of Art will be hosting a Day of Merry-making. An exciting day of events with plenty of goodies is planned!

Join us for a holiday celebration on Saturday, December 4 from 1-4 pm. The Taube will be hosting a Festival of the Arts Sale, featuring local artists and crafters, perfect for your holiday shopping needs. We will have plenty of goodies at this event for both adults and kids, including mulled wine, a hot chocolate bar, make and take ornaments, popcorn, a silent auction, and a gift card tree raffle with \$500+ worth of cards! The BEST part? We will be featuring a vintage photo booth with artist Ryan Stander. It will be a holiday picture you will never forget.

Buy your ticket BEFORE the event and you will automatically receive one free raffle ticket. Tickets for this event are \$16.00 for Taube members and \$20.00 for Non-members of the Taube and can be purchased at the Taube Museum of Art or online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-day-of-merry-making-tickets-206324059817>. All proceeds from this event will go towards our new Artist in Residency program. We are working diligently to create a space in our facility for working artists that will connect our community more directly with the arts. In this space, you will get to visit with the artist, see them work, and enjoy classes, demos and workshops in a more personal setting.

We hope to welcome in our first working artist, Ryan Stander, in December. However, there is still much to do before then! Our own staff has volunteered much of their time preparing the space to the best of our ability, but there are still tasks that we cannot do on our own. We are looking to raise funds for some much-needed electrical work, securing the staircase railing to ensure a safe pathway for guests, a sink installation and to finish the floors and walls. Our goal is to fundraise \$10,000 to help us take care of these needs. These few items are vital to creating a workable space for all our future artists.

Those who donate \$250+ will be recognized on a plaque that will hang in the new studio space. In addition, if you are able to make a \$500 contribution, you will get a tintype photo session with artist Ryan Stander. This includes 2 formal 5x7 portraits or couple shots. We hope that you can help bring our vision into fruition!

Museum and Gift Shop business hours: Tues. - Fri., 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., and Sat., 11:00 am - 4:00 p.m., or by special appointment. Contributions are accepted to help the Taube Museum fulfill their mission of enriching lives through the visual arts.

This event is brought to you by the Taube Museum of Art. Please call Rachel Alfaro, Executive Director at 838-4445 for further information.

### FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK AND TRUST DONATES \$1,500 TO MAGIC CITY BLESSING BANK

First International Bank & Trust (FIB&T) is pleased to announce a \$1,500 donation was recently awarded to the Magic City Blessing Bank (MCBB).

First International Bank & Trust Minot employees donated \$20 per employee to wear jeans for a week. With the bank match, a total of \$1,500 was raised. The Magic City Blessing Bank began distributing personal care items to our community in October 2019. Since its inception, over 25,000 personal care items have been distributed, and the organization has supported over 2,500 individuals from children to the elderly and everyone in between.

Pictured in the photo from left to right are: John Drady, First International Bank & Trust; Chuck Kranz (Magic City Blessing Bank Coordinator); Denise Larson, First International Bank & Trust.



## MEMBER NEWS

### LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS GRADUATE FROM SBA EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

**Seven-month program provides framework for businesses on the brink of growth to produce high-impact results.**

Fourteen small business owners were honored Thursday, November 18, 2021, by the North Dakota District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration. During a special virtual graduation ceremony, business leaders who have completed the 2021 SBA Emerging Leaders Program were recognized.

This is the sixth year the SBA North Dakota District Office has provided the Emerging Leaders program, a seven-month executive education series designed to help participants emerge as growing, self-sustaining businesses that create jobs in their communities. The program includes approximately 50 hours of classroom time, connects small business owners with a network of industry experts and peers, and supports the creation of a three-year strategic growth action plan.

“The Emerging Leaders program teaches these small business leaders how to improve their business competencies,” said SBA North Dakota District Director Alan Haut. “Through 13 sessions over 7 months, the participants learn how to better understand their financial statements, create more productive marketing strategies and develop long-term strategic plans to grow their operations. The results are more successful businesses, creating more jobs and continuing to fuel our local economy.”

Christine Staley, Magic City Hoagies, LLC, Minot is one of the 2021 SBA Emerging Leaders graduates.

For more information about the Emerging Leaders initiative – including how to apply for the 2022 class – visit [www.sba.gov/emergingleaders](http://www.sba.gov/emergingleaders).



**Christine Staley**  
Magic City Hoagies, LLC

The SBA Emerging Leaders Program could not have come at a better time! The rigorous yet streamlined program helped me pave my future roadmap. The financial module alone is worth the entire program! I can now look at my numbers and make decisions based off real data and metrics.

I also want to thank the other participants who also took this program. We helped each other in class and during our CEO mentoring groups, with candid discussions.

This program makes you ask the hard questions and get realistic answers! You really question the health of your business and learn how to navigate the next 3 years with a solid growth plan!

Thank you, SBA Emerging Leaders Streetwise MBA Program!

### CHASE SAPPHIRE AWARDS \$1 MILLION IN GRANTS TO LOCAL RESTAURANTS AS PART OF THE SAPPHIRE SUPPORTS RESTAURANTS CONTEST

**Twenty restaurants from across the United States have been selected to receive a \$50,000 grant after a nationwide, community-driven contest.**

Chase Sapphire®, in collaboration with restaurant discovery platform The Infatuation, announced the 20 small business restaurants that will be receiving a \$50,000 grant as part of the “Sapphire Supports Restaurants Contest.”

On July 19, Chase Sapphire launched the initiative inviting people across the country to share personal stories of their favorite local eateries and nominate them for a chance to win part of the million dollars, to help provide local small-business owners with economic relief following the hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“When you hear what these restaurants and the people behind them mean to their neighbors and customers, you realize they are more than small businesses—they are part of the heartbeat of the community,” said Marleta Ross, General Manager of Chase Sapphire. “We are excited to help these restaurants on their journey to rebuilding and seeing their continued success.”

Nearly 2,500 nominations were submitted from diners across the country sharing what their favorite local restaurant means to them. Submissions were reviewed by a panel of culinary industry insiders who considered a variety of factors including the restaurant’s impact on their local community, innovation or creativity during the pandemic and the nominator’s passion for the restaurant.

The 20 selected winners of the Sapphire Supports Restaurant contest included Magic City Hoagies of Minot, North Dakota.

To learn more about the Sapphire Supports Restaurants Contest and the stories behind the winning restaurants, please visit <https://www.sapphiresupportsrestaurants.com/>. For more ways to find and support the restaurants in your city, visit The Infatuation [www.theinfatuation.com](http://www.theinfatuation.com).



## MEMBER NEWS

### GREEN RECOGNIZED AS COMMUNITY ATHLETE

On November 1, United Community Bank and Scheels teamed up to make a surprise visit to Philip Green, Minot State University football player and award him as a Community Athlete Spotlight recipient.

Nominated by his football coach, Mike Aldrich, Green is well known for going above and beyond for the Minot community and his teammates.

Philip's list of community involvement is lengthy and covers everything from the MSU United Way to assisting with the Dream Catchers team. The program that stood out the most, however, was the Mental Game Podcast, which Green started up with another teammate in February to help spread mental health awareness amongst athletes.

The efforts Philip has put into both the Minot community and spreading the message of mental health awareness, recently awarded him as a member of the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team. Only 22 student athletes from around the country are selected to this team, and only 4 from the NCAA division II level.

"While not from the area, Philip has made Minot his home-away-from-home for the last four years. So, for him to choose to give back as much as he does, whether it's with the youth in the community or within our university, makes him an incredible representative of the MSU football team," says Mike Aldrich, MSU football coach.

The surprise presentation took place at Prairie Sky Breads prior to the recording of the Mental Game Podcast. Green was recognized and presented with \$500 in gift cards to Scheels (\$250 to each Green and the Minot State University Football Team) and \$1000 to the Minot State University Football Team from United Community Bank. Green will also receive a professional photo shoot and be displayed within the Minot Scheels and United Community Bank locations.

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



### TRINITY HEALTH FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS WELCOMES BOPPRE AND SEM

Trinity Health and Trinity Health Foundation recently appointed two new members to the Foundation's Board of Directors. Brian Boppre and Claude Sem were both appointed to fill 3-year terms on the board.

Brian Boppre is a licensed attorney and the founder/owner of the Boppre Law Firm in Minot, North Dakota. Claude Sem is a retired banking executive from the Minot area, most recently serving as the CEO of Farm Credit Services of North Dakota. Both new members have a wealth of experience serving on numerous community and regional boards throughout their careers. The knowledge they bring from within the finance and estate planning industries will be a critical asset to the board.

"I am thrilled that Brian and Claude have joined the board of directors of the Trinity Health Foundation. The next few years will be transformative for the foundation as we support the efforts to open the new Trinity Health campus. The expertise that these men bring to our organization will be instrumental in our success as they help to guide the organization into the next 100 years," said Dusty Zimmerman, Director of Trinity Health Foundation.

Trinity Health Foundation was established in 1922 to assist in the establishment of the Trinity Hospital. Over the last 100 years, the foundation has been supported through the financial stewardship of individuals, families, foundations, corporations, civic clubs, and other organizations, with the purpose of significantly impacting healthcare and the quality of life in the region. Through generous donations, we are able to fulfill our mission of creating a system of care that provides the most significant impact on health and wellness throughout northwest North Dakota.

## MEMBER NEWS

### LOCAL CLOTHING STORE GENESIS OPENS STORE IN DAKOTA SQUARE MALL

Locally-owned-and-operated clothing store Genesis has opened a store in Dakota Square Mall in Minot. Genesis, located next to Journey's in the mall, opened their doors to the public in November.

When visiting Genesis, one is greeted by a friendly sales staff, as well as an inventory of competitively priced on-trend brands and styles. Originally opened in 2014 as "Starboard" in Williston, a name change to "Genesis" was completed in 2019. Genesis carries apparel, footwear, eyewear, and accessories, for men, women, and children. Popular lifestyle brands include: Vans, Roxy, Billabong, Hurley, Birkenstock, Oakley, North Face, Fox Racing, UGG and many more.

Lenny and Miranda are MSU alumni and are excited to bring the friendly service that the Minot community values. Family values like dependability and generosity bleed into their business model. The company has a history of giving back a portion of their profits to organizations around the Williston community, and they look forward to doing the same in Minot, especially because Lenny is also an Air Force veteran.

"It feels like coming home," shared Lenny. "Miranda and I spent a considerable amount of time in Minot and we hope we come back and offer name brand products and good customer service from a small, locally-owned company in the Magic City market."

Genesis is always looking for great people and they are currently looking for seasonal help through the holidays. Applicants can stop by the store or fill out an application on their website at [ShopGenesisND.com](http://ShopGenesisND.com). To keep up with the latest news from Genesis, be sure to follow the store at [Facebook.com/ShopGenesisND](https://Facebook.com/ShopGenesisND) and [Instagram.com/shopgenesisnd](https://Instagram.com/shopgenesisnd).

Genesis is a family-owned clothing store with the mission to provide a specialty retail experience by offering the best selections available to our customers with the best customer service. Genesis has thrived on providing their customers with a comfortable, safe and clean environment. Genesis greatly values giving back to the community that keeps them growing.

### TOWN & COUNTRY CREDIT UNION LAUNCHES MILITARY APPRECIATION LOAN DISCOUNT

To show their appreciation to the military servicemen and women who have served our country, Town & Country Credit Union launched their Military Appreciation Loan Discount on November 1.

Veterans and active military are eligible for 1% off their qualified loan rate\* and no loan document fees when they close on their loan with Town & Country Credit Union between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, 2021.

"We are grateful for the sacrifices our military servicemen and women make for our country," said Jeremiah Kossen, Town & Country Credit Union President/CEO. "This is one way that we can show our appreciation and give back to those who give so much back to all of us through their service."

Qualifying loans include:

- Auto Loans (new and used, purchases or refinance)
- Recreational Vehicle Loans (ice houses, snowmobiles, ATVs, etc.)
- Personal Unsecured Loans

Interested veteran and active military can apply online or find a local lender at [www.townandcountry.org](http://www.townandcountry.org). Applicants must mention this discount or add MILITARY in the promo code field on the online application to take advantage of this limited time offer.

Town & Country Credit Union has been positively impacting the communities they serve for over 80 years. With 11 convenient locations in Minot, Fargo, West Fargo, Kenmare and Stanley, North Dakota, over 150 employees and a focus on continual growth, they provide meaningful value to their more than 23,000 members every day. Membership in the credit union is open to anyone living within 75 miles of Minot and 50 miles of Fargo or Kenmare. More information can be found at [www.townandcountry.org](http://www.townandcountry.org).

\*Minimum rate of 1% APR. APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Stated rate of 1% applies to a 36-month term with monthly payments of \$28.21 per \$1,000 borrowed. Rate and approval based on credit history and underwriting factors. Offer for auto, recreational, and personal unsecured loans. Not valid on TCCU refinancees. Terms, conditions and restrictions may apply and are subject to change.

## MEMBER NEWS

### AIR FORCE VETERAN MCRAE IS MINOT STATE'S NEW ACADEMIC COACH

Minot State University has many connections to the U.S. military, specifically the Air Force.

Rob McRae, a new addition to the Military Resource Center and the POWER Center, is a recent veteran and started working at Minot State in June.

"I served in the United States Air Force for eight years. For five years, I was a Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory (PMEL) technician stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada. For the last three years of my career, I was a Missile Alert Facility Manager stationed at Minot Air Force Base," McRae said. "I work with students directly as a POWER Center academic coach. I mentor and advise POWER Center students, as well as make sure they are receiving assistance and information on things like financial literacy and tutoring."



Rob McRae

Although McRae's main job is as an academic coach in the POWER Center, he also assists students in the Minot State Military Resource Center on campus. The center is for individuals currently serving, veterans, spouses or dependents.

"One of the ways that my role is connected with veterans is my location on campus. My office is located in the Military Resource Center, not in the POWER Center itself. This allows students to still receive some of the services available at the POWER Center without them having to choose between the spaces available to them," he said. "Students may already need to stop by the Military Resource Center, and they can see me as well, if needed. As someone that earned my degree while on active duty and would have qualified for the POWER Program, I really enjoy the opportunity I have to belong to and serve the same community."

McRae chooses to honor those that served and are still serving today.

"For me, Veteran's Day is a time for reflection. I don't spend a lot of time dwelling on the sacrifices that I have made, but I always try to think about those women and men that are still serving. In a military town, it's easy to lose sight of what some had to give up for our country, but it's just as easy to see veterans or active military around town and to thank them for doing what so few of us are willing to do," McRae said.

For Veteran's Day this year, Minot State hosted the community service providers resource fair on Nov. 8-10 in the Student Center along with a commemorative event held on Nov. 10 in the Military Resource Center in Modal Hall.



Dustin Hayes

### ACKERMAN-ESTVOLD WELCOMES DUSTIN HAYES, EI, AS CIVIL ENGINEER

Dustin Hayes, EI, has joined the Ackerman-Estvold Boise, ID office as a Civil Engineer. Hayes graduated from California State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Dustin is a licensed drone pilot and will focus on municipal and land development and will serve clients throughout the region in our Idaho location.

Ackerman-Estvold is a professional engineering and architectural firm headquartered in Minot, ND, with additional offices location in Williston & Fargo ND, and Boise, ID. The firm provides planning, design, and construction services for public and private clients throughout North Dakota and surrounding states. For more information about Ackerman-Estvold, or the services we provide, visit us at [www.ackerman-estvold.com](http://www.ackerman-estvold.com).



## MEMBER NEWS

### J'PATRICK FAHN, DO, RECEIVES BENEDICTINE SPIRIT AWARD

CHI St. Alexius Health awarded Dr. J'Patrick Fahn the 2020 Benedictine Spirit Award. The award is presented annually to a physician who provides distinguished service to patients and upholds the mission and values outlined by the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery.

Dr. Fahn currently serves as interim chief medical officer for CHI St. Alexius Health Bismarck, chair of the Family Practice Department, Performance Effectiveness Committee, Critical Care Committee, Bylaws Committee and co-chair of the MPAC. He serves on four CommonSpirit Health national acute care service lines which include hospital medicine, emergency medicine, blood therapeutics and critical care. These committees collaborate and advise on policies and therapeutics throughout all of CommonSpirit Health. Additional committee memberships include Medical Executive Committee, Utilization Management, Length of Stay Committee and Cancer Committee.

He is the Physician Champion for Sepsis, Blood Therapeutics, and Safety, and served as director of hospital medicine and critical care prior to his interim CMO role.

Dr. Fahn has been instrumental in the advancement of COVID-19 treatments across the state, including the creation of CHI St. Alexius Health outpatient COVID monitoring program, convalescent plasma studies through Mayo Clinic, development of treatment algorithms, and monoclonal antibody related activities.

Dr. Fahn earned his medical degree from Des Moines University Osteopathic Medical Center, Des Moines, Iowa and completed his residency in family medicine at the UND Family Practice Center, Bismarck, ND. He is Board Certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians.



Dr. J'Patrick Fahn

### FEMA WILL RE-EVALUATE ITS FINDINGS AFTER MINOT'S FLOOD PLAIN MAP APPEAL

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has agreed to re-evaluate its previous findings related to new flood plain maps after a successful appeal by the City of Minot.

Because of the appeal, FEMA and North Dakota Department of Water Resources officials indicated revised preliminary floodplain maps will likely be issued in the summer of 2023. The City of Minot will have the opportunity to comment, and potentially issue another appeal, on the revised maps at some point in the fall of 2023. FEMA officials indicated the earliest the new maps would become effective is the fall of 2024. Flood insurance rate increases due to map changes will not occur until the new maps are effective.

"We are very satisfied that FEMA is reconsidering their previous work and will be considering the accurate operational rules of all of the reservoirs on the system above Minot," Minot Mayor Shaun Sipma said. "Our valley residents have been through enough economic turmoil in the last decade, so it's encouraging that FEMA is listening to our concerns that their results would have placed an undue economic burden on the residents of Minot."

In October 2020, the City of Minot submitted an appeal identifying deficiencies with FEMA's previous work. Of particular concern to the city were the assumptions used within FEMA's analysis related to the operation of flood control reservoirs on the Mouse River system. Minot officials met with representatives from FEMA and the DWR last week to hear results of the appeal regarding FEMA's proposed Flood Insurance Study for Ward County.

"We had serious concerns that FEMA's analysis did not consider the full storage that was purchased by the United States in Rafferty and Grant Devine reservoirs," City Engineer Lance Meyer said. "Additionally, their assumptions arbitrarily limited the amount of flood storage available in Lake Darling. As a result, we believe their results are overestimating the flood discharge that is used to determine the regulatory floodplain and flood insurance rates which will be paid by Minot property owners in the valley."

# MEMBER NEWS

## AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

MINOT, ND, November 23, 2021—The Minot Symphony Orchestra and Western Plains Opera will present Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, on Saturday, December 11th at 7:30 pm at Ann Nicole Nelson Hall—MSU.

Menotti was inspired by Netherland artist, Hieronymus Bosch's 1475 oil painting, *The Adoration of the Magi*, when it brought back Menotti's own Italian childhood memories where gifts are brought to eager children not by Santa Claus, but by the three kings. Menotti wrote the opera to unfold through the eyes of a child. In this short one act story, the poor crippled child, Amahl and his mother open their home to three traveling wisemen on their journey to present the Christ Child with their gifts and Amahl receives a very special gift of his own.

The Minot Symphony Orchestra is a unique blend of student, community, and professional musicians from the Minot area. The music director is Maestro Efraín Amaya, Associate Professor of Music at Minot State University, who will be joined by colleague Cheryl Nilsen, Professor of Mathematics Education, as stage director. This production will include students, faculty, and alumni of Minot State University, as well as members of the Minot High School Choir, directed by Lindsay Kerzmann, and students of the Rinat Mouzafarov Dance and Ballet Theater.

The role of Amahl will be played by Minot native Megan Klebe. Klebe is a senior at Minot State University studying music education with a dual focus in voice and trumpet. Her debut with Western Plains Opera was as the Dew Fairy in *Hansel in Gretel* in 2019.

"I am truly honored and humbled to have the chance to bring the young Amahl to life for the Minot public. I hope to get across to you Amahl's endless curiosity and wonderment along with his fierce loyalty and love for his mother with my performance. I hope you fall in love with this opera as much as I have!" exclaimed Klebe.

In her Minot debut, Amahl's mother will be sung by soprano Raquel Winnica Young. Hailed by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* as a "beautifully voiced singer-actor," and by the *American Record Guide* as a mezzo-soprano of "gorgeous expressive singing," Raquel Winnica Young was a finalist of the Vocal Art Song Discovery Series DC, two-time winner of the Pittsburgh Concert Society Major Artist Competition and a finalist for The American Prize in Art Song and Oratorio. As a pedagogue, Ms. Winnica Young is Adjunct Faculty at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she teaches Applied Voice and Vocal Repertoire and Literature. She resides in Pittsburgh with her husband Lenny Young and their dog Luna.

Baritone Philip Zawisza returns to the Magic City in the role of King Melchior. Zawisza joined the MSO for Amaya's operatic excerpts of "Lilian and Leo" and "Ghismunda and Guiscardo," as well as Carl Orff's



Megan Klebe



Philip Zawisza



Raquel Young

"*Carmina Burana*." Minot audiences will also remember Philip's performance in the title role of Figaro in Rossini's "*Barber of Seville*" with the Western Plains Opera in 2018.

King Kaspar will be played by Ken Bowles, tenor, Professor Emeritus, who was Director of Choral Activities and voice teacher at MSU from 1993–2016, Chair of the Division of Music for the last 8 years of his academic career and General Director of Western Plains Opera from 1995–2015. A frequent contributor as performer and conductor in Western Plains Opera productions over the years, Bowles returns to the role of Kaspar which he first performed with the MSO and WPO over 25 years ago.

Eric Furuseth, Coordinator, Humanities Program, Associate Professor of English at MSU, has been performing with Western Plains Opera since 1985 with several leading roles and innumerable supporting roles will play the role of King Balthazar. Furuseth is very active with the Minot Chamber Chorale, performing as "Lord of the Manor" for the Renaissance Feast for well over 20 years. Furuseth has also performed in many musical presentations with MSU Summer Theater, The Mouse River Players, The Heritage Singers, as well as several solo performances.

The role as page to the kings will be sung by MSU alum, Erik M. Anderson, baritone. Anderson has been in six Western Plains Opera productions, including roles as Marullo in *Rigoletto* and Morpheus in *Orpheus in the Underworld*. He has also been a featured soloist with Minot Chamber Chorale and MSU Concert Choir.

Tickets start at \$25 for adults with senior and student discounts available. Tickets are available at [www.minotsymphony.com](http://www.minotsymphony.com) or through the box office at 701-858-4228. Patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance.

The Minot Symphony Orchestra will follow current COVID-19 guidelines as mandated by Minot State University. Social distancing and masks are not required at this time. This is subject to change as the COVID-19 pandemic changes. For patrons not comfortable attending a live performance, or are not able to travel, performances will also be available via livestream. Advanced tickets are available on the symphony's website.

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

## MEMBER NEWS

### CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK LIGHTS UP MINOT

The Minot Sertoma Club is bringing light once again to Oak Park in Minot through its display of Christmas-themed lights for the community to enjoy—this year with extended hours! The Christmas lights are displayed through Jan. 1. Hours are 5:30-10:00 pm weekdays and 5:30-10:30 pm on weekends. Christmas in the Park is a way for Sertoma to earn money and give back to the community by supporting local businesses with beautifully lighted Christmas displays.

“A drive through Christmas in the Park is sure to brighten your holidays,” said David Gowan, Sertoma President. “We have several new bright and beautiful displays this year that are sure to put a smile on everyone’s face, whether you’re 5 or 105.”

The cost for viewing Christmas in the Park is \$5 per car with a special rate for limos and buses. If you pre-purchase tickets from any Minot Enerbase/Cenex or MarketPlace Foods, you can get 5 tickets for \$20. Tickets also are available at the gate.

Money to support Sertoma activities is raised through a variety of activities such as Christmas in the Park. Money earned goes back into the community through the different activities sponsored by Sertoma.

Sertoma is a community service group with the ultimate purpose of meeting the needs of communities through service. Minot Sertoma, which is short for “service to mankind,” has served the Minot community since 1959. Since then, Sertoma has donated more than \$1 million to the Minot community and surrounding area. Membership consists of more than 60 area businessmen and women who are committed to giving back to their community.

Minot Sertoma serves the Minot community in a variety of ways areas of interest and service include speech and hearing disorders and youth-related activities. Sertoma supports local education through scholarships and supports organized activities such as STEAM T-ball league and Minot Family YMCA and MAYSA Arena, financially supports the ND Center for Persons with Disabilities, North Dakota Hands & Voices, and the Induction Looping at Ann Nicole Nelson Hall and Amphitheater at Minot State University, and provides assistance to those with very specific needs.

### FIRST WESTERN BANK & TRUST REVIVES ‘ESSENTIALS FOR LEARNING’

First Western Bank & Trust (FWBT) is reviving a project that was started by six Minot State University students several years ago. In 2021, the need is as great as it has ever been, and FWBT is partnering with local schools to provide food, personal hygiene items and other school supplies to students who are less fortunate.



Essentials For Learning started as a class project in the Minot State University Roger Looyenga Leadership Program. With the help of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce, students raised over \$10,000 to help Minot Public Schools. They delivered supplies to McKinley Elementary and expanded to other schools shortly thereafter. The response to the initiative was overwhelmingly positive, however, as the MSU students who championed the project graduated, Essentials For Learning fell by the wayside.

This year, First Western Bank & Trust is partnering with the Minot Public School Foundation to bring back Essentials For Learning and provide for our students in need. Several times throughout the school year, FWBT will reach out to their partnering schools and ask what supplies are needed. Those partner schools will provide a list, collected from teachers and advisors, and FWBT will purchase and deliver as many items as they are able. For the first delivery of 2021, FWBT is donating snacks, clothing, headphones, and other miscellaneous items to classrooms at Sunnyside Elementary and Washington Elementary, the first schools to participate in the program. FWBT is hoping to expand Essentials For Learning to other schools in the near future. Both deliveries were made on Monday, November 29 to Sunnyside Elementary and Washington Elementary.

“First Western Bank & Trust is excited to continue this project partnering with local schools and providing our children with items they need so they can get the most out of their education,” said Chairman, President & CEO Brenda Foster. First Western Bank & Trust employs over 330 people across 17 locations in North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota.



## MEMBER NEWS

### DFC COMPANY TAKES PARENT COMPANY ROLE FOR FIVE ENTITIES WITH BRAND REFRESH

FARGO, N.D. – Dakota Fence, Dakota Playground, 3D Specialties and newly added Sign Solutions USA and Park & Play USA are now companies under DFC Company.

DFC Company, the new parent company, stems from Dakota Fence Company (“DFC”), which was the founding company dating back to 1972.

“With the growth we have had over the past couple of years, new companies joining our group of companies, and getting ready to enter our 50th anniversary, we wanted to unify our five companies under our new parent company name—DFC Company—and unveil a new logo.” President, Joe Currier, stated in an announcement to employees Friday, October 22nd. “We wanted to keep the blue color since that is unique to our company and has a lot of brand equity in our region, especially with our blue trucks. As a family business, our team members make up our ‘Blue Family’ and the abstract ‘D’ with the three flat shapes serves as a reminder of our founders, Dave, Dan and Dick Currier.”

Dakota Fence is the areas longest-standing company delivering residential and commercial fencing needs. Dakota Playground offers Landscape Structures playground equipment to the Upper Midwest. 3D Specialties was North Dakota’s first traffic control company. Sign Solutions USA focuses on retail sign manufacturing and distribution, which had a groundbreaking for its new 100,000 square foot facility in West Fargo, ND in June 2021 with projected completion date of Summer 2022. Park and Play USA launched November 1st serving residential, commercial and government entities with site amenities and sports equipment.

About DFC Company: Since the start of Dakota Fence in 1972, DFC Company has grown to five entities serving residential, commercial and government clients across the continental United States. With almost 50 years of experience and community trust, each of DFC Company’s organizations are on the cutting edge of technology and innovation. DFC Company is the parent company to Dakota Fence, Dakota Playground, 3D Specialties, Sign Solutions USA, and Park & Play USA and operates from its headquarters in Fargo and branch offices in Bismarck, Minot and Williston. For more information, visit [dakotafence.com](http://dakotafence.com).



### NORTH STAR COMMUNITY CU WELCOMES NEW CFO

North Star Community Credit Union is pleased to announce Alex Kalliokoski as their new Chief Financial Officer. Alex joins North Star with nine years of experience as manager for a public accounting firm, where his primary focus was the financial institution industry, including audits and compliance consulting. He is originally from Neche, North Dakota, but now makes his home in the town of Burlington.

Alex is a graduate of the University of Jamestown, class of 2012, and says that he is looking forward to becoming more involved in the communities that North Star serves.

“I’m excited to join the North Star team and to be part of a growing organization with a great culture,” he stated. “I look forward to supporting North Star Community Credit Union as a pillar in the lives of our members and the communities we serve.”

Please join us in welcoming Alex Kalliokoski, to North Star Community Credit Union and the credit union family.



Aledx Kalliokoski



# 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

# December 2021 - Chamber EDC Meetings and Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>Ribbon Cutting:</b> 4 p.m. The Ironhorse Kitchen & Bar 21 East Central Ave	2 <b>Military Affairs Committee</b> noon Grand Hotel  <b>Ambassadors Committee</b> 4:30 p.m. Luxe Lounge at Grand Hotel	3 <b>Right Start Committee</b> noon Via Zoom	4
5	6	7	8 <b>Board of Directors</b> 7:30 a.m. - Chamber EDC  <b>Ribbon Cutting</b> 1 p.m. Optimist Soccer Field  <b>Business After Hours Minot Area Council of the Arts</b> 5 – 7 p.m. Carnegie Center	9	10 <b>Infrastructure Committee</b> 7:30 a.m. Homesteaders Restaurant	11
12	13 <b>MAFB Cookie Drive</b> 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Chamber EDC office	14 <b>MAFB Cookie Drive</b> 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Chamber EDC office <b>Eagle Awards Presentation</b> 10 a.m. Chamber EDC office	15	16	17 <b>Junior Achievement Committee</b> noon Via Zoom	18
19	20	21	22 <b>Right Start Presentation</b> 9:50 a.m. MAFB	23 <b>Energy Committee</b> 11:30 a.m. Badlands Restaurant	24 <b>Office Closed Christmas</b>	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 <b>Office Closed New Years Eve</b>	