

<http://www.minotusa.com/smartmail/MinotMayortestifiesonHouseBill1366MinotNewsletterFebruary2017/>



Minot Mayor testifies on House Bill 1366

The oil and gas development in western North Dakota has brought a lot of new companies, and a lot of new people, who now call Minot "home." That's how City of Minot Mayor Chuck Barney began his statement in support of House Bill 1366. Mayor Barney went on to explain more about the oil impact in the community, including that the City of Minot supplies water to much of northwestern North Dakota, including several oil-producing counties. That stress on the system contributes to higher-than-average utility rates, which have doubled in a decade. That rise gives Minot the highest rate of comparable cities in the state. To read more [click here](#).



Air Force impact in Minot measured at \$591 million

In early February, the Minot Air Force Base 5th Bomb Wing Comptroller budget office released the 2016 economic impact report. It shows that there are 12,129 personnel and dependents living on the base and the total economic impact in the Minot area is \$591.5 million. This is a \$30 million increase from the 2015 report.



Minot is home to the 5th Bomb Wing and 91st Missile Wing, and the community is proud of that! Minot Air Force Base brings so much to the City of Minot, the people there are outstanding at volunteering around town whenever they are needed, they bring diversity to our community, and the

economic impact keeps our economy strong.

SkySkopes launches UAS academy

SkySkopes, a national leader in unmanned aircraft system flight operations, has launched a training academy at the University of North Dakota Center for Innovation.

SkySkopes Academy is geared toward anyone with a desire to learn more about unmanned aircraft and the overall industry. The program offers flight training, data collection and analysis, sensor and business aspects of the unmanned industry, and a focus on engineering. [Click here](#) for the full press release.



SkySkopes, recruited by the Minot Area Development Corporation, recently expanded to Minot and has also been in conversations with Minot Public Schools and Minot State University to discuss potential opportunities in the Minot area. SkySkopes Academy will serve as a complementary program to existing aviation training and aims to help the pilot shortage in the UAS industry.

MADC attends annual pulse growers' convention and KMOT Ag Expo

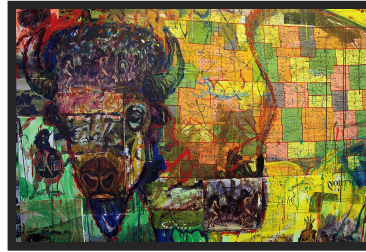
The Northern Pulse Growers Association (NPGA) held its 2017 convention in Minot at the end of January. This annual event built off the momentum from record-breaking attendance at Montana Pulse Day, held in December. MADC attended the event to help promote the Minot area, in search of value-added ag businesses looking to expand in the region. The 2017 Annual Convention featured many industry experts and shared forecasts for the upcoming year, including a 35% increase in pulse production, which is exciting news for ND farmers. [Click here](#) to read more about the NPGA Annual Convention. MADC also attended the KMOT Ag Expo. This year marked the 46th year of the largest indoor ag show in the upper Midwest.



Walter Piehl artwork honors Gov. Burgum's inauguration

North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum and First Lady Kathryn Helgass Burgum commissioned Walter Piehl, North Dakota

visual artist and Minot State University art professor, to commemorate his inauguration with a painting. Piehl created a mixed media artwork recognizing the state and its history.



An old North Dakota map from MSU's Division of Social Science was combined with reproductions of George Catlin and Karl Bodmer paintings to create a collage background. With his expressionistic painting style, Piehl painted an American bison over the top of the collage background. The couple had a giclee (ink jet) print made in a limited edition of the painting. The prints were given to Burgum's friends at inaugural events. Piehl received artist proofs of the print, one of which was given to MSU President Steven Shirley.

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