



BNSF executive to keynote economic development annual meeting in Minot

Minot Area Development Corporation has selected February 8, 2018, as the date for their annual meeting, where Colby Tanner, assistant vice president of Economic Development for BNSF Railway, will keynote the event. The meeting will be at the Sleep Inn & Suites Convention Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is open to the public. Tanner's appearance reinforces the partnership between BNSF and MADC – the most recent recipient of BNSF's highly coveted Site Certification.



"We ended 2017 on a high note; we intend to capitalize on this momentum and carry it forward in the New Year," said MADC President and CEO Stephanie Hoffart. According to Hoffart, the annual meeting marks an occasion to celebrate the achievements of the prior year as well as identify opportunities and challenges ahead. For [more information](#), call Jaime at 701-852-1075 or email jhauge@minotusa.com.

Trinity Health bond sale for new hospital facility a success

A bond sale, which will be instrumental in financing a new hospital and medical park in southwest Minot, ended with unqualified success. Trinity Health presented more than \$350 million in tax-exempt revenue bonds (2017C) to retail and institutional investors in late December. The bonds were



sold within an hour of being made available, with a significant oversubscription well over the amount offered. "This speaks well of investor sentiment towards our creditworthiness," said Patrick Holien, Trinity Health's Chairman of the Board. "The overwhelming interest the market has shown in this offering reflects the critical role Trinity Health plays in our community and the level of confidence the market has in our management team and board." As a result of the significant investor demand for the bonds, Trinity Health was able to secure long-term all-in

true interest cost of 4.446 percent.

Capacity to double at Minot's regional water treatment plant

A \$26 million expansion project that will essentially double the daily capacity at Minot's Water Treatment Plant is set to begin this spring.

The project is part of the Northwest Area Water Supply Project, which will provide clean drinking water to many communities in northwest and north central North Dakota. The \$26 million project is funded by the North Dakota State Water Commission (65%) and the City of Minot (35%). The City's portion of the funding was collected through Minot's one-cent sales tax.



"This expansion of our Water Treatment Plant will extend the facility west into the current parking lot. Essentially, we're adding two more clarifiers to increase our treatment capacity," said Jason Sorenson, Assistant Public Works Director for the City of Minot. "When this project is completed, the old clarifiers will be rehabbed and eventually downsized to be more efficient. Our ultimate goal is to get to the NAWS design capacity of treating 28 million gallons per day."

The original Minot Water Treatment plant was built in 1951, and has undergone several expansions and renovations. In 1951, the plant could treat 6 million gallons of water per day. By 1961, renovations and additions boosted the plant's daily production to 18 million gallons per day. The plant currently treats between 13 million and 14 million gallons of water per day. For more on the Minot Water Treatment Plant expansion and an understanding of the latest on court cases related to NAWS, [click here](#).

MSU President completes fall tour of area high schools

Beginning in early September 2017, Minot State University President Steven Shirley made it a goal to connect with regional high schools. By the middle of December, he [completed his 40th school visit](#), making stops at nearly every school within a two-hour radius of Minot.



"It's been a wonderful opportunity to get out and discuss common issues between K-12 and higher education," Shirley said. "We discussed areas where we can continue to partner and also explored additional possibilities where we might be able to expand our relationships."

Justin Stanley, principal at Harvey High School, was impressed with the scope of the tour and how Minot State looked to local administrators to connect with important issues facing K-12 education.

"I was incredibly impressed with their plan to personally go

into the regional schools and ask the questions that will move education forward," Stanley said. "To date, I have yet to see any other university representatives that hold those particular positions do anything similar. I commend those efforts."

Visits included meetings with various high school superintendents, principals, counselors, teachers, coaches, stops with community leaders and MSU alumni.

Delivery of first Robot Aviation FX20 Drone in US comes to Minot

MADC recently accepted delivery of the first Robot Aviation (headquartered in Norway) SkyRobot FX20 drone to be sold in the United States. MADC secured MAGIC funds to purchase the FX20, sensors, and camera



equipment. With a wingspan of nearly ten feet, the SkyRobot FX20 is a smaller, cost-effective, high-performance drone. The fixed wing drone is effective for both Visual Line of Sight and Beyond Visual Line of Sight. The SkyRobot's fields of application include inspection and monitoring, national security, resource management, and emergency services. SkySkopes, an MADC partner under the MAGIC Sky initiative, will conduct test flights in the Minot area in the first quarter of 2018.

"We're excited to demonstrate this drone's capabilities to our current stakeholders and potential partners in the Minot area," said SkySkopes President and CEO Matt Dunlevy. The FX20 could be a valuable, money-saving asset for agriculture and energy, two of the region's top industries.

Trinity begins air transport service to Williston

Trinity Health launched a regional, fixed-wing emergency transport service out of Williston in December. NorthStar Criticair Fixed Wing Williston is an extension of Trinity's Minot-based NorthStar helicopter and airplane services. The Williston service is



available 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, to provide medical transport for patients from Williston and surrounding communities. "We'll fly to any receiving facility," said Lorrie Antos, Director of Critical Care Services. Each NorthStar Fixed Wing Williston mission is staffed by a dedicated flight crew consisting of a pilot, paramedic, and critical care nurse.

Minot State science students recognized at regional event

Ten Minot State University students, along with Professor Mikhail Bobylev, attended the 12th annual Northwest Region Meeting "Undergraduate Research in the Molecular Sciences" event held at Minnesota State University – Moorhead.



The event featured students presenting the results of their research projects in organic chemistry. MSU students recently completed their projects in Bobylev's lab. As a part of the event, nine students displayed poster presentations, while one made an oral presentation.

MSU student Jordan Torgunrud won the Undergraduate Research in Molecular Sciences Top award for her oral presentation, awarded by the Red River Valley Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS). The award, a \$500 travel award, will help support her trip to the 255th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Louisiana, set for March 2018.

MSU students Megan Rodgers and Shin Young Park won one-year memberships in the American Chemical Society for their poster presentations.

The CP Holiday Train chugs into Minot

The Canadian Pacific (CP) Holiday Train stopped at their Main Street Crossing in Minot in mid-December this year and welcomed unseasonably warm weather compared to previous years, resulting in a fantastic turnout downtown. An estimated 2,500 people came into downtown to watch the 1,000-foot long train, which was covered in thousands of LED Lights. Upon arrival in each location, one of the sidecars opens and performers sing holiday tunes for those who have bundled up to enjoy the show. The Holiday Train is known for the donations made to local nonprofits. This year, the Minot Area Homeless Coalition and the Lords Cupboard were the beneficiaries of the donations. Since their start in 1999, the CP Holiday Train has raised more than \$13 million CAD and \$4 million pounds of food for North American food banks.



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