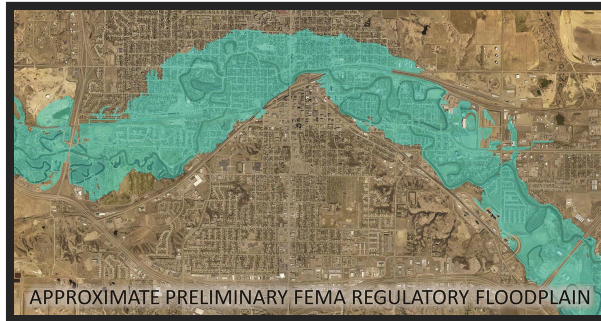




Minot to appeal latest, proposed FEMA flood map

The City of Minot will appeal the latest floodplain map, challenging the Federal Emergency Management Agency's map that includes a base flood level of 10,000 cubic feet per second.



The City Council voted Feb. 18 to move forward with the appeal, which could delay the implementation of FEMA's flood maps by as long as two years. The current maps are scheduled to go into effect in early 2021.

City Engineer Lance Meyer told the Council there's no guarantee the City's appeal will be successful. He estimated the cost of the appeal to be as much as \$250,000, but the potential savings for on insurance premiums would be far more than that. Area residents in the flood plain could save thousands of dollars in insurance premiums over several years until the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection project is completed.

FEMA notes that Minot has about 1,929 active flood insurance policies, with a total premium of just over \$1 million. In two years, the total premiums could increase to approximately \$1.6 million, with the potential for that to grow to \$1.8 million if the number of premiums rises. If map implementation is delayed, the total premium in 2023 would be roughly \$1.08 million, saving residents significant money. [Click here](#) for more on this story.

MAFB 2019 economic impact comes in at nearly \$560 million

The 2019 Minot Air Force Base Economic Impact report has been released and shows the steady impact MAFB has made to our area. During the February Military Affairs Committee meeting, the 5th Bomb Wing Comptroller budget office detailed the 2019 economic impact report. It shows that there are 12,041 personnel living on base, and the total economic impact is \$559,390,411.



While Minot Air Force Base provides an economic boon to our area and the state, it's the people that make it outstanding. 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 support the community by volunteering whenever needed, by bringing diversity to the community, and the economic impact keeps the community's economy strong. Of course, only the "Best Come North!"

MADC and Chamber boards continue discussion on merging agencies

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce and the MADC Board of Directors have each agreed to move ahead with looking into the possibility of merging. In January, the groups heard from Bismarck/Mandan Chamber EDC Director Brian Ritter on what was involved for their two organizations to combine. After the presentation, the two boards agreed to pursue the idea to weigh the pros and cons for the Minot entities.

A committee will be organized to represent MADC and the Minot Chamber in moving forward. The process will entail looking at assets, bylaws, boards, staff and more. Any member with questions regarding this process is encouraged to call the Chamber/MADC and visit with Chamber President and acting MADC President John MacMartin about their questions and or concerns. In addition, you can also reach out to the volunteer board members of each organization.

Barksdale Award is in Minot for next two years

The City of Minot is celebrating the fact that the Barksdale Trophy is in Minot. The award is given for outstanding community support to an Air Force Global Strike Command base. Minot is one of only two communities to receive the honor since it was created in 2017. Community selection is based on programs, community investment in infrastructure, and community support in securing state and federal funds for infrastructure or programs to benefit military members and their families.

Mayor Shaun Sipma highlighted the award and thanked members of Task Force 21 for their hard work in the application process for the trophy during the State of the City Address. A special thanks goes out to Brekka Kramer of Odney and Tom Rafferty of Verendrye Electric Cooperative and Chair of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication as it took many hours to fill out the application.



The Barksdale Trophy is currently at the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce if you would like to stop and see it at 1020 20th Ave SW.

MADC Annual Meeting: 2020 Vision Going Forward

The Minot Area Development Corporation's (MADC) annual meeting took place on the evening of Feb. 25 at the Sleep Inn & Suites in Minot. Keynote speaker James Leiman, Director of the Economic Development and Finance Division for the North Dakota Department of



Commerce, covered key components of North Dakota's economic development, including the state's recent activities in the ag, energy, and UAS sectors, as well as how Minot is poised for economic growth.

MADC's annual meeting also welcomed 2020 Chairman Randy Hauck, General Manager at Verendrye Electric Cooperative. Chairman Hauck shared insights on MADC's involvement in the intermodal port, updates on the Industrial Park of Minot, and the exploration of a merger between MADC and the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Cooperatives celebrate new \$20 million transmission line

Verendrye Electric Cooperative and Central Power Electric Cooperative celebrated the completion of a \$20 million transmission line improving electrical reliability and capacity for Minot, the Minot Air Force Base and rural areas.

Central Power, Verendrye's transmission cooperative, completed a

115,000-volt transmission line that is 26.8 miles long. It starts southwest of Minot at a bulk delivery substation, heads north and then connects to a substation east of Ruthville. Verendrye Electric uses the line to serve the area. Click [here](#) to read the full press release, including U.S. Senator John Hoeven's remarks and the tremendous impact this project will have on the region.



FAA grant will fund taxiway, apron work at airport

The Minot International Airport has been awarded a grant of more than \$2 million from the Federal Aviation Administration to help with the final phase of taxiway and apron construction projects.

The project includes the reconstruction and expansion of the cargo apron and a portion of the taxiway that provides access to that area east of the passenger terminal. The apron was originally built in 1953 and received an asphalt overlay in 1987.

Airport Director Rick Feltner said the taxiway and apron need to be replaced, as their condition has deteriorated. The latest pavement condition index rated the area at 26 out of 100. The area is adjacent to the recently constructed Fed Ex facility, and needs to be expanded to accommodate increases in cargo processing and the size of cargo aircraft. Click [here](#) to read more about the project's total expected cost of \$3.36 million.

Minot State offers new cybersecurity and operations degree options

As cybersecurity risks continue to increase, Minot State University's new major and minor in cybersecurity and operations will train students to combat those hazards.

"Our cybersecurity major and minor is intended to equip a student with the knowledge and skills to defend computer operating systems, networks, and data from cyberattacks," Scott Kast, Minot State math and computer science chair and professor, said. "These skills will be taught using both theoretical and hands-on approaches."



Global connectivity and usage of cloud services to store sensitive

and personal data continues to increase cybersecurity risks. The widespread poor configuration of cloud services paired with increasingly sophisticated cybercriminals means the risk that an organization suffers from a successful cyberattack or data breach is on the rise.

The cybersecurity and operations degrees intend to help combat those issues.

“The faculty at Minot State have the expertise required to educate and train students to be successful in cybersecurity,” Kast said. “The faculty also gives students support outside of class to keep students on a successful path; you are not just a number when taking this degree at MSU.”

Earning this degree will open a myriad of job opportunities for graduates including positions as security architects, penetration testers (or ethical hackers), security engineers, security auditors (or forensic experts), and more. The average starting salary for cybersecurity positions is \$75,000.

Lenertz promoted to Trinity Health HR Vice President

Renae Lenertz, Trinity Health’s Director of Human Resources for the past 21 years, has been promoted to the position of Chief Human Resources Officer/VP of Human Resources. As CHRO/VP, she’ll play an expanded role in developing HR strategies that align with Trinity Health’s mission and will provide leadership for the organization’s greatest asset, it’s 2,900



associates. “The position of CHRO/VP of Human Resources is central to our strategy to recruit exceptional talent while maintaining our position as a great place to work,” said Trinity Health President and CEO John M. Kutch. “I’m confident in Renae’s ability to address our future HR needs on an organization-wide basis.” A North Dakota native and longtime Minot resident, Renae is married to Dean and together they have one daughter.

Minot Parks moves to online registration

The Minot Park District will be moving to online registration for summer programming in the spring of 2020.



“We know everyone is busy and they don’t always have time for an extra stop in the office in order to register for programming,”

says Ron Merritt, executive director of the Minot Park District. "We have been working on introducing our new online registration system to make it easier for our users to take part in our programming and special events."

The Minot Park District is asking you to set up your online profile now to be ready for registration this spring. Once a household is created, you can register for programming, rent park shelters, and purchase facility passes all online.

"We are asking our users to set up their households in advance of registration, so they are ready to go when registration opens up for our spring and summer programming," says Merritt.

Please follow the link below to set up your household.

<https://webtrac.minotnd.org/wbwsc/webtrac.wsc/household.html?option=add>

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