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Legislative Session Updates

**North Dakota:** The Team Grand Forks Agenda is still remarkably on track.

The $30 million for the state’s second half of its 50% match is looking good. $1 million for base retention, $2 million for UAS Test Site and $3 million for Grand Sky came out of the ND Senate in the Commerce budget. Funds for completion of the airport aprons was never included in any budget. Virtually no capital expenditures were in this budget.

**Minnesota:** Real ID is almost certain to pass bringing MN into compliance so MN Id’s can be used as official ID in airports, etc. A Bill that would make MN law match Federal law regarding Section 179 tax code is moving forward.

Finally, the MN legislature is like to pass a state preemption law where state employment law on such things as minimum wage and sick leave, however, the Governor will likely veto this measure. This is important to businesses so one consistent set of rule applies in MN. It would be incredibly difficult to comply with each city’s own rules. Consider a delivery person traveling in 25 different metro cites and needing to track exactly what part of their day is spent in each city for tax purposes. It would be very difficult.

**Government Forum set for March**

The Chamber’s Government Affairs Committee will host a forum which will be moderated by Dane Ferguson, Ferguson Books and More! and Garth Rydland, CEO of Valley Memorial Homes and Valley 4000.

**March 18th – 9:30 – 11am**

**in the GF City Council Chambers**

The forums are open to the public to attend.
As vice president of the U.S. Chamber’s Congressional and Public Affairs Division, Ron Eidshaug helps oversee a team of 15 full-time Capitol Hill lobbyists.

Eidshaug is a sought-after speaker providing an insider’s perspective of Congress. He appears at engagements with governors, senators, members of Congress, administration officials, and business leaders across the United States, and he speaks to a wide range of international audiences. Eidshaug has a unique ability to translate Washington-speak into language that business leaders can understand.

Eidshaug is also the Chamber’s chief lobbyist on environmental, energy, and regulatory reform issues. He joined the Chamber team in 1999 and has served in a variety of roles.

If your industry is affected by environmental, energy or a tough regulatory environment at the Federal level contact Barry at the Chamber about attending.

email - barry@gochamber.org

Join the Chamber and the City of EGF for a luncheon on April 18th to hear Dr. Steve Gander, the new Mayor of EGF, give his State of the City address. Find out his prospective and plans for East Grand Forks. Sign up coming soon!

**April 18 • 11:30 to 1pm • The Eagles Club in East Grand Forks**

The group of nearly 40 from Grand Forks met with Legislators, the chancellor of higher education, commerce secretary, bank of ND and Governor. UAS, grand Sky, base retention, water projects and the Governors Main street initiative were all topics of discussion. Team Grand Forks is a partnership between business, university and city/county officials.
Ramada Inn invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event!

Because of the business nature of this event, no children under 18 may attend.

Thursday
March 16th
4:45pm - 7pm

FREE ADMISSION

- Complimentary hors d’oeuvres & beverages
- Great Door Prizes
- Progressive cash drawing is at $1300!

Stop in...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities. You might even win $1,300 in our progressive cash drawing! We’ll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that organization is present, they win!!

Because of the business nature of this event, no children under 18 may attend.
Ribbon Cutting

The 701 Co-working Space by Evolve GF

2902 Gateway Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58203
701.746.6466
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Commercial Furnishings • Commercial Flooring & Window Coverings • Architectural Walls • Office Supplies

Steelcase

HANNAHER'S workplace interiors
Formerly Gaffaney’s of Grand Forks
February Ambassador Meeting

February Brown Bag

February Business After Hours

February Business After Hours
Business Essentials brings in Dee Skjold

Dee Skjold recently joined Business Essentials as an account representative, bringing 18 years of experience in the business sales industry. “I am dedicated to providing the highest quality of service at all times and take pride in my customer’s satisfaction,” says Skjold. This is evidenced in the loyalty shown by her customers. Skjold has brought her positive energy to the Chamber Ambassadors Committee for almost nine years; welcoming members and celebrating milestones with area businesses.

Skjold currently resides in Grand Forks with her husband, Mark. They have two daughters and one grandson. In her free time, she enjoys remodeling and planning graduation and birthday parties for friends and family.

Janice Hamscher Named Altru’s Chief Nursing Officer

Grand Forks, N.D. – Altru Health System is proud to announce Janice Hamscher, MSN, MBA, BSN, RN, has been named Chief Nursing Officer. In this role, Janice will serve as a member of Altru’s Executive Leadership team, building and supporting effective collegial relationships and ensuring optimal operating effectiveness and strategic positioning.

She will be responsible for defining the highest possible nursing standards of practice throughout the organization and ensuring quality patient care is delivered in a safe and effective manner.

Janice brings significant nursing leadership experience, having served as Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer of Penn Highlands DuBois in DuBois, Pennsylvania, as well as Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer of Saint Vincent Health System in Eerie, Pennsylvania. She received her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania, Master of Business Administration from Southern New Hampshire University, and Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Kutztown University.

Altru Announces Manager of Learning and Organizational Development

Altru Health System is proud to announce that Sara Dvorak has accepted the position of Manager of Learning and Organizational Development. In this role, Sara will oversee the daily operations of the department, providing system leadership in the areas of learning and professional development. She will partner with clinical and practice management leadership to coach, consult and provide best practices, creating an environment of continuous learning, quality care, and patient safety.

Sara earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from North Dakota State University. She began her career at Altru in 2004 as a medical-surgical nurse, and later a patient care coordinator. In 2012, she moved into her most recent role as Clinic Learning Coordinator and Manager of Clinical Talent Development in the Learning and Organizational Development department. When away from work, Sara enjoys spending time with her husband and their two boys and playing piano.

New staff? Business accomplishments?
SHARE YOUR NEWS IN Business Briefs........FREE!
Drop Gina an email: ginaf@gochamber.org
Welcome New Members

Alzheimer’s Association MN – ND
Erin Hagen
311 S. 4th St. STE 202, Grand Forks, ND 58201
(P) 701-775-8544 (F) 701-775-8612
ehagen@alz.org
www.alz.org/mnnd
The Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter is one of over 70 Alzheimer’s Association chapters serving communities across the United States. The Alzheimer’s Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s care, support and research.

Al Palmer
Grand Forks, ND 58201
(P) 701-317-2284
apalmer310@outlook.com

Tri-Valley Transportation
Cindy Gjerswold
1345 Fairfax Ave. Crookston, MN 56716
(P) 1-800-201-3432 (P) 218-381-0700
Cindy.Gjerswold@tvoc.org
www.tvoc.org
Tri-Valley Transportation Programs is a division of Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. Tri-Valley is a non-profit community action agency serving communities and citizens in Minnesota and North Dakota since 1965.

The Hub Pub
Joe Schneider
205 N 3rd St. Grand Forks, ND 58203
(P) 701-746-7443
hubpubcustomerservice@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/thehubpubgf/
The Hub Pub is under new ownership, is newly remodeled inside and out and has a great lunch and dinner menu. Come see what’s new in The Hub’s original, historic downtown location.

Century 21, Red River Realty
Alexa Lovelien
1725 32nd Ave So. Grand Forks, ND 58201
(P) 218-791-3305 (P) 701-746-0303
(F) 701-746-0306
alexa.lovelien@gmail.com
http://alexalovelien.rrvcc21.com/
I’m an educated professional with several years of experience in this market. When it comes to the real estate market, I’m confident that I can save you not only tens of thousands of dollars, but a great deal of time and emotional energy as well.

Invest Wise, LLC
Clarence L. Carroll III & Raymond German
2650 32nd Ave. S. STE O
Grand Forks, ND 58201
(P) 701-738-0062 (F) 701-738-0064
clarence@investwisellc.com
ray@investwisellc.com
Invest Wise is a Registered Investment Advisor (RIA). We offer investment coaching along with ongoing investor education to help our clients achieve peace of mind while creating wealth and reclaiming their American dream.

Meridian Behavioral Health
Amanda Gefroh
1111 Gateway Drive NE
East Grand Forks, MN 56721
(P) 218-399-4034 (P) 218-399-4002
amanda.gefroh@meridianprograms.com
www.meridianprograms.com
Meridian Behavioral Health provides a continuum of behavioral health services including acute inpatient stabilization, medication-assisted treatment, and chemical dependency residential and outpatient programs integrated with mental health support.

Red River Behavioral Health System
Angela Young
1451 44th Ave. S. Unit A
Grand Forks, ND 58201
(P) 701-772-2500
angela.young@meridianprograms.com
www.redriverbhs.com
Red River Behavioral Health System offers acute inpatient stabilization for children, adolescents and adults experiencing a mental health and/or substance use related crisis. RRBHS is a Meridian Behavioral Health company.

Douglas Place
Amanda Gefroh
1111 Gateway Drive NE
East Grand Forks, MN 56721
amanda.gefroh@meridianprograms.com
www.meridianprograms.com/programs/residential
Douglas Place is a Meridian Behavioral Health residential chemical dependency program treating adult men and women experiencing substance abuse, including mental health concerns.
February 1 - February 28 Membership Renewals

The following businesses know the value of their Chamber Membership and have renewed their membership in The Chamber-GF/EGF. **GIVE THEM A VISIT!**

- AgriData, Inc
- Ameriprise Financial
- Asche Insurance Agency
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND
- Braaten Cabinets
- Brown Corporations
- Carrington Court Townhome Apts.
- Chiro Rx Ltd
- City of East Grand Forks
- City of Grand Forks
- Community Violence Intervention Center
- Curtis Fischer Tax Service LLC
- Daydreams Specialties
- East Grand Forks Economic Development Authority
- East Grand Forks Economic Development Authority
- Edward Jones - Ken Johnson
- Enbridge
- Fairfield Inn
- Fert-L-Lawn
- Forx Builders Association
- G.W. & Sons Construction, Inc.
- Games Galore Party Rental
- GF Abstract & Title Company
- GF County Agencies
- Grand Forks Diesel Injection Service Inc.
- Grand Forks Herald
- Greater Grand Forks Community Theatre
- Greg's Lawn Care
- Happy Joe's Pizza & Ice Cream Parlor
- Heritage Highland I
- Heritage Highland II
- Holiday Inn Express and Suites
- Hospice of the Red River Valley
- Johnston Law Office
- Leisureland RV
- Lithia Chrysler Jeep Dodge of Grand Forks
- Lithia Ford Lincoln Mercury of Grand Forks
- Lithia Toyota of Grand Forks
- McDonald’s South Washington
- Midwest Chiropractic
- Morgan Printing, Inc.
- McDonald's Gateway Drive
- Newman Outdoor Advertising
- North Dakota Vision Services/School For the Blind
- Northwood Park Townhomes
- Options: Interstate Resource Center For Independent Living
- Petcetera Animal Clinic
- Pete and Amanda's Barbershop
- Prairie Business Magazine
- PS GARAGE DOORS
- Scheels All Sports
- Senator Tom Campbell
- Simmons Multimedia
- Simonson Lumber and Design Center
- SimplexGrinnell LP
- SmartSearch
- South Hampton Townhome Apts.
- Steeple Apartments, LLC
- Stennes Granite Company
- The Exponent
- The UPS Store
- Times Square Townhomes, I, Inc.
- Total Relaxation
- UND Athletics Department
- Wall’s Medicine Center
- Waterfront Kitchen & Bath
- White Drug Pharmacy
- Widseth Smith Nolting
- Widseth Smith Nolting - EGF
You’re Invited to Attend

CHAMBER SHARK TANK
TUESDAY, APRIL 11TH
6:30 TO 8:00 P.M.
EMCEE’D BY BRUCE GJOVIG
THE 701 BUILDING
33 S 3RD ST STE D, GRAND FORKS
PIZZA & CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE

Go into the Shark Tank and Win
If you have a new business concept - “Go Into the Tank”. Participants will have 1 minute to make their pitch on what their biggest business challenge or opportunity is. The sharks will ask a few questions and offer their advice.

Three cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.
$500 1st place
$250 for 2nd and 3rd place.

Interested in pitching your concept to the sharks?
barry@gochamber.org

Attend the Shark Tank and Learn
You are invited to attend, watch and learn from the presentations and the interaction with the Sharks. Have fun and learn about some great business concepts.

The event is FREE to attend, but RSVP’s are required as space is limited.

Interested in attending the Shark Tank event?
Contact us at:
info@gochamber.org

Sponsored by:

Meet The Sharks
Our Sharks have diverse backgrounds along with tremendous business and entrepreneurial experience...and they don’t bite!

Hal Gershman
Owner of Happy Harry’s Bottle Shops
Phil Gisi
President and CEO Edgewood Management Group LLC
Matt Winjum
Co-owner, Rhombus Pizza

Alerus Center for Innovation
Edgewood
The Chamber's annual Spring Membership Drive will kick off in April! We are currently accepting prizes which will be awarded to our 60 volunteers who work ambitiously to bring in new chamber members. This year's theme is "Embrace Change, Drive Growth". Prize ideas include but are not limited to: Gift Cards/Certificates * Concert Tickets * Debit Cards * Tickets to Sporting Events * Airfare * Electronics * Hotel Stay * Golf Package * Gym Membership * UND Gear * Car Racing Items
The Prize List will be in "The Voice" E-Newsletter & Member 2 Member each week until the end of the Drive. The newsletter and M2M are emailed to 3,000 contacts and shared on our Facebook and Twitter pages. These promotions reach thousands of people!

If you would like to contribute a prize, please call 772-7271 or Email Emberly

Thank you for joining us to Drive Growth in our community!