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Governor Confirmed speaker for Annual Meeting & Dinner

Coming soon... The Chamber of Commerce 2018 Community Profile Membership Directory
Chamber Celebrates Sales Tax Victory, Monitors Spending.

The Chamber/EDC lead campaign for a half cent sales tax increase for water and road infrastructure passed by a nearly 3-1 margin last month. Campaign co-chairs, Matt Walkowiak and Rachael Gornowicz both commented on how "the voters understood the proceeds of this tax can only be used for road and water infrastructure this time. That was the key difference."

The Chamber will monitor the city budget closely to ensure an annual $2 million is used to pay for part of the $75 million left to pay on the water treatment plant that is currently being constructed. The Chamber is also discussing appointing a transportation committee to monitor local investments in roads and look at how additional state and federal money can be secured.

You Won’t Want to Miss This Year’s Annual Meeting & Dinner

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Governor Doug Burgum will be the speaker at the Chamber’s Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND.

Doug Burgum took office as the 33rd governor of North Dakota on December 15, 2016. Doug brings a business leader’s approach to diversifying the economy, creating 21st century jobs, and revitalizing our main streets.

Burgum’s small-town upbringing and agricultural roots laid the foundation for his shared values of respect for the past, gratitude for the present and inspiration for the future.

Watch for registration information coming soon.

Call The Chamber GF/EGF for more details at 772-7271!
The 2017 Chamber Leadership Class graduated December 6, 2017. After 3 months of classes they have learned a lot about themselves, our community and improved their leadership skills. They also have made new friends and contacts. Congratulations on completing the program.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2017 Chamber Leadership Class Graduates

Christopher Adams, Adams Family Farm
Carl Adolphson, Sacred Heart School - MMEL
Lisa Anderson, Community Contractors
Byron Ball, GFAFB
M. Jacob Barney, AE2S
Bruce Barwin, True North Equipment
Amanda Blay, Retrax
Theresa Boltz, Bremer Bank
Preston Braathen, United Valley Bank
Brooke Conlin, UND Alumni Association & Foundation
Doris Cooper, Grand Forks Region EDC
Lindsay Cox, Alerus
Jonathan DeCoteau, Express Employment Professionals
Ruann Deschene, Community Contractors
Shane Duchscher, City of Grand Forks - Engineering Dept
Molly Engen, Scheels
Monica Fallon, Development Homes, Inc
Doris Cooper, Grand Forks Region EDC
Lynette Geatz, UND Student Affairs
Kate Goldade, GF Public Health Dept - City of GF
Trevor Hulse, Lithia Ford Lincoln Mercury
Cassie LaBine, City of Grand Forks
Beverly Larson, Prairie Harvest Mental Health
Chris Larson, Vaaler Insurance
Mary Lorenz, Grand Forks Public Library
Jeremy Moe, Grand Forks Police Department
Garritt Benjamin, Hugo's Family Marketplace
Heather Novak, Northlands Rescue Mission - MMEL
Steven Olverez, Retrax
Pam Shea, UND School of Law
Colin Simmons, Hugo's Family Marketplace
Alex Spitsberg, Nodak Electric
Lonnie Thompson, True North Equipment
Chad Turner, Alerus
Andy Vaaler, Vaaler Insurance
Miranda Waage, Hugo's Family Marketplace
Scott Waage, Hugo's Family Marketplace
Katie Walters, City of Grand Forks
Kevin Wilson, True North Equipment
Brady Wrightsman, Vaaler Insurance
Col Ben Spencer Talks About GFAFB Relevance

GFAFB Commander spoke about how important the Global Hawk Mission is to GFAFB during the Chamber’s annual State of the Base breakfast attended by more than 200 people.

According to Col Spencer, the base has transitioned over the past year back to an Air Combat Command Base which lines up with the Global Hawk Mission which is an Air Combat Command Mission. Grand Forks Air Forks base is a “Global hawk Base” and “Grand Forks is a Global Hawk Community”!

The Chamber’s Military Affairs Committee provides nearly $40,000 in annual support to the men, women and family members in the military in our community through a variety of programs funded through its Golden Eagle Program.

Agriculture Appreciation Banquet a Huge Success

More than 300 attended the annual ag appreciation held in November. The Ag Banquet and Spring Ag Producer Social are the two events organized by the Chamber’s Agriculture Committee every year aimed at connecting local ag producers with area ag businesses.
Good news! The Chamber of Commerce GF/EGF is pleased to announce that after a comprehensive self-review, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has awarded us with Accredited status. This prestigious honor puts us among the top 3% of chambers nationwide.

According to Chamber President, Barry Wilfahrt “this 5-Star designation is a result of the efforts of the more than 1,000 volunteers involved in various chamber projects and initiatives.”

This past year, the staff, board, and volunteers of The Chamber GF/EGF spent countless hours completing the Accreditation process. Our task: demonstrate competency in 9 core areas ranging from finance to facilities. The result of our hard-work is evidenced by this impressive rating. But in truth, we should all be extraordinarily proud of this milestone achievement. It was a true team effort.

The only national program recognizing chambers for their effective organizational procedures and community involvement, Accreditation allows us to renew, improve, and promote sound business practices, policies, and procedures.

Local chambers are rated Accredited, 3-Stars, 4-Stars, or 5-Stars. State chambers are recognized as either Accredited State Chamber or Accredited State Chamber with Distinction. The final determination is made by the Accrediting Board, a committee of U.S. Chamber board members and chamber executives from across the country.
Chamber Opposes Reduced Hours at Border Crossings.

Custom and Border Protection (CBP) held public meetings in Roseau and Lancaster last month. At the Lancaster meeting Chamber President and CEO, Barry Wilfahrt was on hand to voice The Chamber’s opposition to the reduction in hours from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. According to Wilfahrt, “The Chamber opposes anything that will make it more difficult for Canadians to do business in the states.” Northwest MN and Northeast ND both rely on this free movement across the border to do business. The four counties that border the Canadian border are all part of the greater Grand Forks trade area and anything that adversely affects them has an impact on us too.” That is why the Chamber has a significant interest in this.

Wilfahrt also noted at this point CBP has not talked about its plans for ND crossings, but given the relative traffic at those crossings compared to Roseau and Lancaster, deep cuts in hours could be on the horizon at those crossings too.

The Chamber supports efficient use of government resources, but also recognizes the need for convenience for our Canadian friends and customers.

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Quality of Life, Health & Longevity
Because of the business nature of this event, no children under 18 may attend.

Stop in...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities. You might even win $600 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.

Hosted by: HB Sound & Light

Northland Community & Technical College and Blue Moose Bar and Grill invite all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event located in the NCTC Student Commons.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS HOSTS!
We are the welcoming arm of The Chamber.

We welcome new chamber members and businesses with ribbon cutting ceremonies. We assist with registration and greeting at Chamber functions, and we participate in The Chamber’s annual Membership Drive.

Ambassadors Meeting at Sam’s Club

There are great savings and nice selections at the Home Place Thrift Store

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Cruger joins EDC staff

Becca Cruger has joined the Grand Forks Region EDC as its strategic initiatives coordinator. Cruger will coordinate workforce recruitment and retention programs including the “Greater Grand Forks: Way Cooler Than You Think!” campaign and Northern Valley Career Expo, and community engagement activities the EDC undertakes in areas including entrepreneurship.

“I’m incredibly excited to be joining such a talented team and respected organization. I’m looking forward to making meaningful contributions to the place I am honored to call my home,” said Cruger.

EDC President & CEO Keith Lund said, “The EDC is engaged in a variety of initiatives that support our region’s growth. Becca is an enthusiastic spokesperson for the region and will help our organization build on strengths to promote and attract industry and people to the area.”

Prior to joining the EDC, Cruger was the assistant director at the Pancratz Career Development Center at the UND College of Business. She is incoming board president at the UND College of Business.

Shover joins EDC staff

Shover has more than 10 years of military, commercial, and entrepreneurial experience in the industry as a trainer, logistics manager, and business owner.

He served as a tactical air control party (TACP) joint terminal attack controller (JTAC) with the U.S. Air Force for 4 years. Following his military service, he entered the private sector where he worked for companies supporting the training and development of manned and unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance student aircrews. Shover also conducted unmanned systems support for companies operating UAS platforms.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work as part of the EDC team to promote the tremendous attributes here and draw businesses and workforce to the area,” Shover said.

EDC President & CEO Keith Lund said, “Wes has a unique background and a perspective on the industry. His experience will provide him an immediate ability to work with our existing industry and stakeholders, as well as identify and recruit new companies to continue building on the region’s foundation in UAS and autonomous systems.”

Since 2009, the EDC has employed a dedicated unmanned systems business developer to work with regional and state partners to attract businesses and shape the development of the ecosystem to attract industry and people to the area.

This epigenetics project is one of many projects ongoing at the UND SMHS that fall under the category of clinical and translational research: research that “translates” discoveries made at the laboratory bench for clinical implementation to directly benefit patients. The SMHS has made clinical and translational research a priority in recent years, a fact that bodes well for the citizens of North Dakota who will benefit from the increasingly rapid application of discoveries made in the laboratory to the treatment of their ailments.
Brandon Boespflug Joins AE2S Construction

AE2S Construction has hired Brandon Boespflug as the company’s Safety Manager for AE2S Construction and its affiliated companies located in Grand Forks, ND. He will be responsible for safety program compliance, as well as safety certification, training, and testing. Before joining AE2S Construction, Boespflug was Manager of Life Safety and Environment of Care at Altru Health Systems in Grand Forks, where he championed department performance and behavioral standards of excellence, improved quality of service, and managed life safety and environment compliance. Boespflug was also the Fire Marshal for the City of Grand Forks, where he supervised, planned and coordinated fire prevention, public fire education, and fire investigation activities and operations; examined construction and remodeling plans; and inspected buildings for actual and potential fire hazards and hazardous structural conditions.

Ertman Promoted to Controller of AE2S Construction

AE2S Construction has promoted Lisa Ertman to the position of Controller. She will be responsible for general ledger maintenance and reconciliation, preparation of financial statements, forecasting, budgeting, and other related duties. Ertman has more than 23 years of accounting experience. She has implemented various Enterprise Accounting and Management Systems and provided user support, managed all facets of accounting processes, managed payroll and related federal and state payroll reporting in several states, and completed controller-for-hire work in multiple industries.

Choice Financial Hires Jack Morris

Jack Morris recently joined Choice Financial as a Frontline Specialist. Morris is attending the University of North Dakota pursuing a major in Economics.

Choice Financial Hires Mason Benefield

Mason Benefield recently joined Choice Financial as a Frontline Specialist. Benefield is currently a freshman at the University of North Dakota but has not currently decided on a major.

Pietruszewski Promoted to Chief Financial Officer of Advanced Elements

Advanced Elements, the holding company of AE2S (Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.), AE2S Construction, AE2S Nexus, AE2S Operations, and additional entities, has promoted Craig Pietruszewski to Chief Financial Officer (CFO). He will be responsible for providing overall financial vision and leadership for Advanced Elements and its affiliated companies, including cash management and treasury functions, consolidated financial reporting, tax planning, and other firm-wide financial initiatives. Pietruszewski has spent more than 32 years providing corporate accounting, public accounting, financial reporting and management, and operational and administrative oversight services for engineering, construction, industrial contracting, manufacturing, and insurance businesses.

Choice Financial Hires Mason Benefield

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Byrne Promoted to Finance Director of Advanced Elements

Advanced Elements, the holding company of AE2S (Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.), AE2S Construction, AE2S Nexus, AE2S Operations, and additional entities, has promoted Mitch Byrne to the newly created position of Finance Director. Byrne is responsible for cash management and treasury functions; and oversees and manages consolidated reporting of the holding company and its wholly owned subsidiaries, tax strategy for the firm, and other firm-wide financial initiatives. Byrne joined AE2S in 1997. He brings 33 years of experience providing corporate accounting; public accounting; financial reporting and management; operational, tax and administrative oversight; and business startup and support services for engineering, construction, real estate, and plane leasing.

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Dr. Ramneek Nakai Joins Altru Health System

Grand Forks, N.D. – Ramneek Nakai, DO, joins the allergy and immunology team at Altru Health System. She treats conditions related to the immune system and how those conditions react to various triggers such as asthma, eczema, food and drug allergies, and immune deficiencies.

“I believe it is important for patients to take ownership of their health, and as a physician, I am here to help guide them on that journey,” states Dr. Nakai. “I want my patients to be well-informed and aware of all their options so we can work together to come up with the best plan of action.”

Dr. Nakai earned her medical degree from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury, New York. She completed her internal medicine residency at Rutgers University-New Jersey Medical School in Newark, New Jersey. Dr. Nakai also attended Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University in New York, NY, where she earned her Master of Public Administration with specialization in Health Services Management and International Health.

Outside of work, Dr. Nakai enjoys exploring new places such as national parks or an exotic international locale. She recently started scuba diving and loves to read.

First International Bank & Trust Welcomes Sonja Murray, Mortgage Loan Officer

Grand Forks, ND – First International Bank & Trust (FIB&T) is proud to welcome Sonja Murray as a Mortgage Loan Officer. Sonja comes to FIB&T with experience in the mortgage field. Her primary responsibilities at FIB&T will be to provide mortgage needs to the Grand Forks community. Sonja will be located at our Grand Forks (2617 S Columbia Rd) branch. Please join us in welcoming Sonja to the family.

Anchor Marketing Earns 2017 American Graphic Design Award

Grand Forks, North Dakota – Anchor Marketing has won a 2017 American Graphic Design Award from Graphic Design USA magazine, a national publication for graphic design professionals. Out of thousands of entries, Anchor was awarded for its “Putting Ag First” newspaper ad design for First United Bank, a regional community bank with locations throughout northeastern North Dakota.

“We’ve been working with banks for a long time,” says Hal Halliday, Anchor Marketing’s president, “and this award shows off our expertise in this industry – whether that be more traditional print ads like this one or digital strategies like websites and search engine marketing.”

Anchor Marketing is a brand-building agency located in Grand Forks, North Dakota, where it was founded in 1997. To learn more about Anchor Marketing or {code} Roadies, its web development subsidiary, visit anchorwebsite.com.

Kelly Maag Receives Altru’s Nursing Excellence Award

Grand Forks, N.D. – Kelly Maag, RN, with Altru’s Emergency Department has been chosen to receive the Nursing Excellence Award by the Professional Nurse Committee at Altru Health System. Criteria for selection are based on respect and care for individuals, honesty and dependability, commitment to serve and dedication to improvement in quality of patient care. Maag was recognized for her outstanding achievement as a true professional. She is a lead RN mentor and skill validator. Many peers noted the compassionate care she gives to her patients and their family members, going above and beyond every day and every shift, as her strongest attribute. Kelly is a valuable resource for employees and physicians and has been an employee of Altru Health System since 2008. The Nursing Excellence Award was established in 1986 to recognize registered nurses and licensed practical nurses who exemplify outstanding achievement as true professionals and show dedication to enhancing the nursing profession.
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First International Bank & Trust is new to Grand Forks but not new in the banking industry. Since 1910 we’ve expanded our services from traditional banking to include, online banking, mortgages, loans, insurance and wealth management services for personal and business needs. We will be moving to our new location soon!

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November 1 - November 30 Membership Renewals
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1st Liberty Federal Credit Union
A & L Siding & Home Improvement Center
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Affinity Builders LLC
AgriData, Inc.
Altru Health Foundation
American Cancer Society-Relay For Life
American Crystal Sugar
AmericInn Lodge & Suites
Area Community Credit Union
Ashley Furniture HomeStore
Auto Finance Super Center
Bakken Backers
Bank Forward
Bank of North Dakota
Becker Marketing Consultants
Betaseed
Boardwalk Bar & Grill
Bremer Bank
Budget RV
C & H Insurance
C & R Cleaners & Laundry
C'Mon Inn
Cancer Center of North Dakota
Capital Resource Management
Caulfield Studio
Cenex - Gateway Drive
Center for Relaxation & Renewal
Century Electric, Inc.
Charles Bridgeford, D.D.S.
Coldwell Banker- Laurie Tweten
Community Contractors, Inc.
Community Violence Intervention Center
Country Inn & Suites
Countrywide Moving and Storage
Crary Real Estate-Linda Pierce
Crary Real Estate-Shawn Horn
Culinex
Curt Kreun
D & M Auto Body
D.J. Burris Quality Carpet Cleaning
Dahlstrom Motors
Dak-Minn Blood Bank
Dakota Carrier Network
Dakota Made In The Shade Blinds And More
Dakota Mailing & Shipping Equipment, Inc.
Dakota Supply Group
Don Fisk
Eagle Electric, Inc.
East Grand Forks Dental Care
East Grand Storage
Economy Plumbing, Inc.
EdgeData LLC.
EGF Blue Line Club
Enbridge
Face and Jaw Surgery Center
Fairfield Inn & Suites East Grand Forks
First State Bank
Florian & Sons Excavating
Forks Lath & Plaster, Inc.
Freedom Church
Galstad, Jensen, and McCann, PA
Games Galore Party Rental
Gate City Bank
Gate City Bank - 24th Ave S
Gate City Bank - DeMers Ave
GF Abstract & Title Company
GF Custom Woodwork, Inc.
Global Friends Coalition
Golden Rule Auto Repair
Gowan Construction, Inc.
Grand Forks American Legion Post # 6
Grand Forks Builders and Traders Exchange
Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District
Grand Forks Exchange Club
Grand Forks Senior Center
Grand Forks Subaru Kia
Grand Valley Animal Hospital
Greenberg Realty - Lynn Kvidt
Greenberg Realty - Roberta Benson
Hanson-Maves Company - Bekins
Holiday Inn Express and Suites
Holy Family Church
Home Care Companions
Home Place Thrift Store
Impact Dakota
Indigo Signworks
Industrial Contract Services, Inc.
Insure Forward
Integrity Shipping & More
J & G Landscaping
Johnston Law Office
JTC, Inc
KLJ
Lake Region State College
Lifetime Vision Center
LTD Properties Inc
Lumber Mart
MAK Construction LLC
Manke Family Dentistry
Merry Maids
Michael S. Johnson DDS
Mikkelson Consolidated, L.L.P
Morelli’s Distributing Inc.
Morton Buildings, Inc
ND Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
ND Mill & Elevator
North Dakota Ballet Company
North Dakota CPA Society
North Dakota Eye Clinic
North Dakota Vision Services/School For the Blind
Northlands Rescue Mission
Northridge (Hospitality & Construction)
Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
Olson, Juntunen & Sandberg, Ltd.
Oxford Realty
Pampered Chef-Tonya Murphy
PATH
Pete and Amanda’s Barbershop
Playmakers All American Lounge

Continued on next page
Plaza Motel
Prairie Harvest Mental Health
Praxis Strategy Group
Pringle & Herigstad P.C.
Priority Title, LLC.
PUCKS Commercial Cleaning
Ramada Inn
RE/MAX Grand
Red River Farm Network
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State Farm Insurance - Randy Fenley
Stay & Play Pet Resort
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Success Unlimited
Swanson & Warcup, Ltd.
Tavern United
Tecta America Dakota/Greenberg Roofing
Terhark Family Insurance - Farmers Insurance Group
The Bun Lounge
The Ember
The Golf Center
The UPS Store
Third Street Clinic
Townhouse Hotel
Turtle River State Park
Unique Auto Body & Sales, Inc.
United States Postal Service - Grand Forks, ND
United Valley Bank
Up North Pizza Pub
Vaaler Insurance, Inc.
Valley Community Health Centers
Valley Memorial Homes
Valley Oral & Facial Surgery
Valley Vision Clinic
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1874 and Auxiliary
Vibrant Painting & Contracting, LLC
Vigen Construction Inc
Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing
Vistage Worldwide
Wag-N-Train
WELCOME HEALTH
White Drug Pharmacy

November 1 - November 30 Membership Renewals

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SILENT AUCTION NOTICE

Tis The Season!

Tis the season of giving and silent auctions! The Chamber has one of its own on January 18th. If you are a current Chamber member please consider donating an item or gift basket to one of the Chamber’s largest fund raisers to be held during the Annual Meeting and Dinner.

Your business will be in front of over 400 people at the event and recognized in the auction program, on the item’s bid sheet and in future auction promotions, including Facebook & Member 2 Member!

Items may be brought to the Chamber office at 202 N. 3rd St. or contact Emberly to arrange for pick-up of your auction donation prior to December 29th. emberlyL@gochamber.org or 701-772-7271

Thank you! We hope to see you at the Auction!
DECEMBER

Brown Bag Seminar

Leadership Blind Spots

• Discover potential blind spots for how employees across cultures prioritize the importance of various leadership characteristics

• Explore the key characteristics that people value in a leader

• Examine the benefits in building a trusting relationship between leaders and employees

Presented by:
Katie Munion, Performance Strategist,
Dale Carnegie of ND and MN

Wed., Dec. 20, 2017
11:30am – 1:00pm
The Chamber, 202 N 3rd St

$20/Person – Chamber Member
(Includes Lunch)
$30/Person – Non-Member
(Includes Lunch)

Registrations are available online only.

To register and add the event automatically to your calendar click the register button below.

REGISTER NOW

Reservations not cancelled 3 days prior to event will be billed.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR 2017 BROWN BAG SESSIONS!

Please watch for new and exciting seminars for the upcoming 2018 year in this Chamber Newsletter and advertisements in the weekly Chamber Member2Member e-mail publication.

NOVEMBER BROWN BAG SEMINAR
Conducting an Effective Interview
Presented by: Tami Martin, Black Gold Farms
EDUCATES

E-Newsletter Advertising

FREE COLOR

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