

# THE **VOICE**

[www.gochamber.org](http://www.gochamber.org)

## Business Update

Chamber News

Business After Hours

Ambassador Meeting

Committee Corner

Business Brief

New Members

Membership Renewals

Brown Bag

## MARKET CAPTURE DATA TOOLS



Click button to access a list of interactive data tools analyzing the local market and visitors. Follow the link under each description to interact with the data.

**CLICK HERE**

*Purpose: To build and strengthen relationships with our business partners in the West Develop a better understanding of what the challenges and opportunities are out West Connect with elected officials to identify and strategize potential East-West partnership.*

## SESSION 3

**AUGUST 25, 2020 • 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

CST - 1.5 hour zoom session

**ND LEGISLATURE:**

*Funding the last decade, legacy fund, 2021 legislative session.*

**RETURN**  
to the **WEST**

THREE PART SERIES



**EERC**

UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH DAKOTA

**CONSTRUCTION  
ENGINEERS**

**RJ ZAVORAL  
& SONS, INC.**

Join us for our Zoom Session



**Meeting ID: 890 2142 9856**

**Password: 793164**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89021429856?pwd=ZHhpV2l1N3hlV0sxZGZyVmJxYmoxdz09>

These sessions can be viewed on Facebook live on The Chamber's Facebook page at:



<https://www.facebook.com/THECHAMBERGFEFG/>

**For more information, contact:**

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**Mike Dunn**, Construction Engineers

[MikeD@ConstructionEngineers.com](mailto:MikeD@ConstructionEngineers.com)

**WATCH  
YOUR  
E-MAIL**

for the most update  
to date information on  
Chamber events & activities.

## Is Grand Forks Business Friendly?

Grand Forks Mayor Brandon Bochenski met with Chamber leadership to talk about how to grow the local economy and also make Grand Forks more business friendly. This was a top priority in the new Mayor's campaign.



Chamber President Barry Wilfahrt, Mayor Bochenski and Chamber Board Vice Chairman, Tommy Kenville, ISight Technology

The Chamber hosted a meeting with some of the fastest growing companies in Grand Forks to ask what the City and community could do to help them continue to grow. There were many great ideas from tax structure to regulations. A second series of meetings was held with contractors and developers and they too had a variety of suggestions.

Looking ahead these suggestions will be put into a survey document that will go out to all chamber members. The results from the meetings and the survey will be delivered to Mayor Bochenski. From there he plans to take a good look at what can be changed to make Grand Forks the most business friendly community in the region.

The Chamber Board would like to thank Brandon for his leadership with this effort. Every Chamber Member will benefit from his proactive approach.

## Return to the West Second Session Focuses on Oil Industry

75 businesses people, legislators and oil industry leaders tuned in for the second of a three part Return to the West Series. ConocoPhillips Chief Economist, Helen Currie talked about the world oil market and how the price of and demand for oil is expected gradually increase over the next year. This will be a slow recovery as the economy, including air travel and other industries gradually recover. Other speakers talked about how this will be critical to help stabilize the North Dakota oil market and state budget.

There was also excellent exchange between the local businesses doing business out west and leaders in the Bakken. Building on these already strong relationship is the point of this meeting series. These meetings are a results of a trip a decade ago when 35 Grand Forks business people traveled west to learn more about what is going on in oil country.

The third and final session is Tuesday, August 25th from 3-4:30 and will focus on Oil's Impact on the state budget and the upcoming Legislative Session. This is so critical for Grand Forks, which has benefited with over \$750,000,000 in investments of state oil money in the community over the past decade.

### Executive Committee

**Chair: Paula Anderson**

Sterling Carpet One

**Chair Elect: Dave Zavoral**

RJ Zavoral & Son's, Inc

**Past Chair: Josh Brown**

Bell Insurance Services, LLC

**Tony Telken**- Lithia Ford Lincoln

**Josh Grinde**, Right Choice Electric Inc

**Tommy Kenville**, ISight RPV Services

**Barry Wilfahrt** - The Chamber GF/EGF

### Board of Directors

**Christopher Adams**, Adams Family Farms

**Jeff Barta**, Achieve Therapy

**Dennis Bona**, NCTC

**Mike Dunn**, Construction Engineers

**Shanna Field**, Wintrust Mortgage

**Rachel Gornowicz**, Countrywide Sanitation

**Peter Haga**

**Tony Hodny**

**Curt Kreun**, District 42 ND Senator

**Brian Leach**, Golf Center

**Meloney Linder**, UND Public Affairs

**Keith Lund**, GF EDC

**Anna Rosburg**, Alerus Center

**Lisa Swanson**, Hugo's Retail Support Center

**Justin Valinski**, Columbia Mall

**Jill Wilson**, Edgewood Healthcare

### Sr Military Advisory to the Board

**Col Cameron Pringle** - GFAFB

### Chamber Staff

**Barry Wilfahrt**

President/CEO

[barry@gochamber.org](mailto:barry@gochamber.org)

**Kimberly Strom**

Vice President of Operations

[kimberlys@gochamber.org](mailto:kimberlys@gochamber.org)

**Emberly Lietz**

Membership Director

[emberlyl@gochamber.org](mailto:emberlyl@gochamber.org)

**Tina Neil**

Communications Director

[tina@gochamber.org](mailto:tina@gochamber.org)



## Chamber Distributes Masks in East Grand Forks, Minnesota

With the mandate to wear masks in all public places in Minnesota the MN Department of Economic Development sent a limited supply of masks to local chamber's. For East Grand Forks businesses, The Chamber received 5,400 masks. The masks were distributed to the 36 East Grand Forks businesses who requested them. Over 40,000 masks were requested by East Grand Forks Businesses however, the state supplied only a fraction of the masks needed to meet the mandate.

Pictured is Chamber Membership Director, Emberly Lietz dropping off masks at Monarch Travel, Peterson Veterinary Clinic and Valley Golf. Emberly spent a day delivering masks and visiting with several East Grand Forks businesses. The Chamber encourages people to wear masks in local businesses to help keep businesses open across our region.



## Altru Outlines Plans for the Future

Interim CEO Dave Molmen and Chief of Staff Steve Weiser joined the Chamber Business Government Alliance (BGEA) meeting in July. Altru has taken significant steps to shore up its budget and put things back on track after being seriously impacted by the COVID outbreak. Staff cuts to internal operating cuts were all detailed as part of the meeting. The good news is by year end Altru will be back on track with month to month profitable operations. This will help ensure the Grand Forks Community and region continues to have a "community hospital" responsive to the changing health care needs of our region.



In August, new UND President Andy Armacost will join the virtual BGEA meeting to

Chamber of Commerce Grand Forks/East Grand Forks

### Mission Statement

We create an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region.



# UPDATE YOUR BUSINESS LISTING IN OUR DIRECTORY!



The Chamber Member Business Name and Main Contact will be listed online, on our mobile app and alphabetically in the print publication of the Chamber Community Profile/Membership Directory.



[CLICK HERE TO REVIEW YOUR CHAMBER LISTING](#)

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE CHANGES](#)

You are a Chamber Member. So are your employees. Now is your opportunity to add those employees to our database.

Please list in the "notes" field if you would like us to delete any employees that are no longer with your business.

Please feel free and log on to your account to make any changes, at any time. Upload your logo for an added flare to the Online Directory.

Each location is linked to google maps. This resource is an easy way to get customers to your business.



# TRIKE WARS



Showdown at

**SCHEELS**

Join your neighbors in a trike race against poverty. We invite you to form teams of four to compete in this relay event.

Prizes will be given to the fastest and best dressed teams!

**August 27, 2020**

**11:30am - 2:00pm**  
Race Start Time 12:00pm

**Macy's Parking Lot**

See map on reverse side

**TO REGISTER VISIT:**  
[givegfegef.org/trikewars](http://givegfegef.org/trikewars)

Lunch provided with opportunity for a free will donation.

**Early Bird Specials**

July 1, 2020-July 27, 2020  
Single Team: \$350  
Double Team: \$500

**Regular Registration Prices**

July 28, 2020-August 27, 2020  
Single Team: \$400  
Double Team: \$600



**KING'S WALK**  
**HALF PRICE**  
**MEMBERSHIPS**  
PURCHASE AT THE PRO SHOP!

WHEN YOU'RE READY TO

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**allegiant**  
[www.allegiantair.com](http://www.allegiantair.com)

**GFK**  
Grand Forks International Airport  
[www.gfkairport.com](http://www.gfkairport.com)



# AUGUST

## Brown Bag Seminar

**THE Chamber**  
GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS

**SCORE**  
FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BUSINESS

### Leading in Challenging Times

How do you achieve results and lead your team in the most difficult times? There are many great webinars on the Family First Response Act and how to navigate the legalities for your employees, and of course that is important, but what about all of the morale and culture challenges that go with a pandemic like we are experiencing? With a workforce that has much higher expectations regarding Communication, how do you communicate, what do you communicate, and how often to insure the transparency that maintains employee engagement? And how do you uncover the glass half full and boost morale? Hear solutions for all of these challenges, as well as how to do more with less staff and keeping Customers first priority! Also hear how to stay more connected if many are working from home. This is an interactive session, please bring any challenges that you have regarding these areas!

**Presented by: Mike Henke**



Mike Henke is a national speaker who has a passion for building strong teams, and has innovative solutions to create a Positive, Winning Workplace Culture! How to create teamwork and keep everyone happy is a moving target, but Mike continues to develop timely answers to insure that you are the “Cool place to work!”. Mike has created over 50 innovative training programs, and his upbeat, interactive style gets great reviews, but also provides tangible solutions to improve your organization!



**Wednesday, August 19, 2020**

**11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

**The Chamber Board Room**

\$20/person ~ Member (Includes Lunch)

\$30/person ~ Non-Member (Includes Lunch)

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**

Limited seats available. Sign up today!  
Registrations for this seminar are available online only. To register click the register button.

If the attendee limit has been reached & you would like to be added to our waiting list please email: [kimberlys@gochamber.org](mailto:kimberlys@gochamber.org)

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



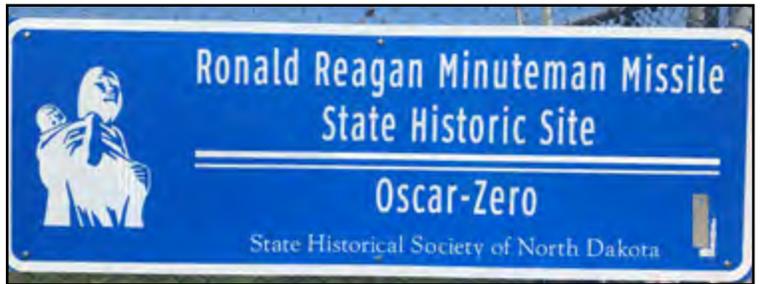
# Military Affairs Committee

**OUR PURPOSE:**  
*Encourage and maintain strong relationships between the people in the Grand Forks Region and it's military installations.*

Members of the Military Affairs Committee toured the Oscar-Zero Missile Alert Facility near Cooperstown.

The Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site actually consists of two sites telling the story of the Cold War years in North Dakota. They are the Oscar-Zero Missile Alert Facility and the November-33 Launch Facility. They are the last remnants of the 321st Missile Wing, a cluster of intercontinental ballistic missile launch sites that were spread over a 6,500-square-mile area around the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

Three committee members on the tour, John Hanson, Dennis Heap and Lou Lombardi were stationed at Oscar-Zero during their time in the Air Force.

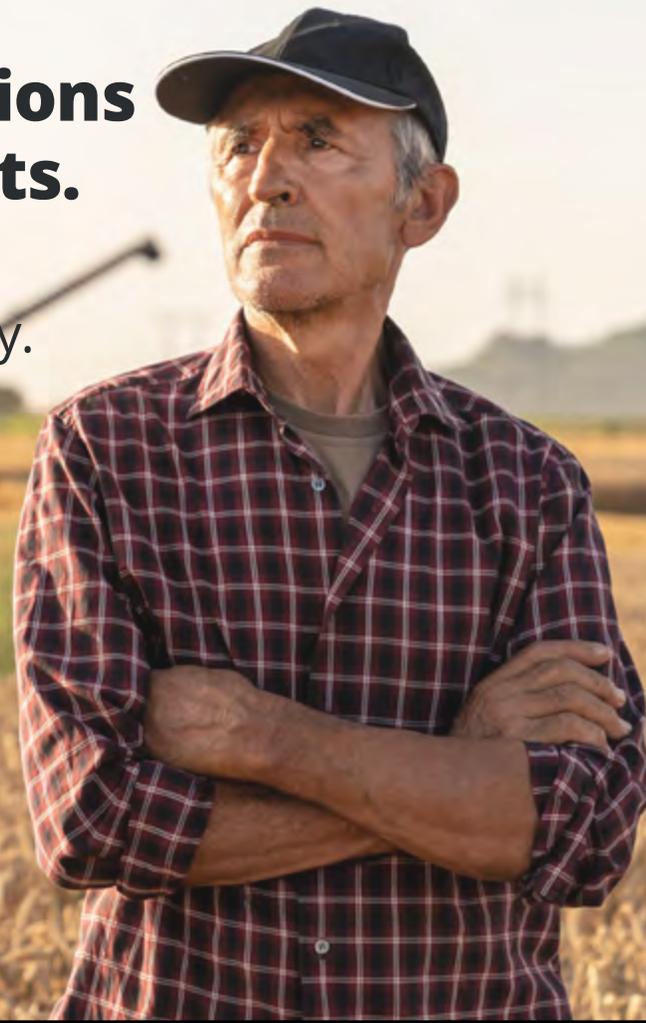


## Now offering virtual sessions for current and new clients.

There's no need to struggle.  
See one of our caring providers today.

*Call to schedule*  
**218-281-3940**

**MNWH**  
Northwestern Mental Health  
Promoting Wellness, Instilling Hope



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

Allied Building Products  
American Federal Bank  
Andy's Harley Davidson  
Beckstead's Auto Repair  
Dairy Queen-Northend  
Dakota Commercial & Development Inc. -  
Jerry Youngberg  
Dakota Dry Bean  
Design Rich Architect, LLC  
Development Homes, Inc.  
Enbridge  
Ferguson Books & More!  
Global Safety Network  
Grand Forks Country Club  
Grand Sky Development Company, LLC  
Ink, Inc.

J.R. Simplot  
Johnstown Bean Company  
L.I.S.T.E.N. Center  
Liberty Business Systems, Inc.  
Lithia Chrysler Jeep Dodge of Grand Forks  
Olive Barrel  
Pace Painting & Drywall  
Paragon Chiropractic & Wellness Center  
Ski & Bike Shop  
SpringHill Suites by Marriott  
Thomsen Homes LLC  
UND Energy & Environmental Research  
Center  
Widseth

**THANK YOU**

# Ambassadors Committee

## Ambassador of the Quarter

**Ali Waind** with Express Employment Professionals was named Ambassador of the Quarter for her volunteerism with the committee.



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.

# AUGUST BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

hosted by:

**Andy's Harley-Davidson**

2756 North Washington  
Grand Forks, ND

THE  
**Chamber**  
Business After Hours  
2020

**Thursday, August 20, 2020**

**4:45pm - 7:00pm**

**FREE  
ADMISSION**

- Complimentary  
Hors d'oeuvres &  
Cash Bar
- Great Door Prizes
- Cash drawing is  
at \$500

Andy's Harley-Davidson Grand Forks invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun **OUTDOOR** Business After Hours event!

*Stop in...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities. You might even win \$500 in our Cash Drawing! We'll draw the name of one Chamber Member Business. If someone from that organization is present, they win!!*

Watch our site for...



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

*\*\*Andy's Harley Davidson requires anyone who enters the store to wear a mask. Outdoor mask wearing is optional.*





## NEW MEMBERS

### **Epic Companies**

McKenzy Olson  
745 31st Ave. E. STE 105  
Fargo, ND 58078  
(P) 701-866-1006

[info@epiccompaniesnd.com](mailto:info@epiccompaniesnd.com)  
[www.epiccompaniesnd.com](http://www.epiccompaniesnd.com)

*EPIC Companies is a local investment, development, and management firm. The firm has casually grown from a single employee to over 25 employees. EPIC Companies manages over 400+ residential units and 250,000+ SF of commercial space in Fargo-Moorhead, Detroit Lakes, Grand Forks, Minot, and Bismarck with more units coming under construction.*

### **Edward Jones - Alyssa Schauer**

*Joined with Volunteer Bryan Brenden*

Alyssa Schauer  
2850 24th Ave South STE 202  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
(P) 701-772-6525  
(C) 701-840-1763  
(F) 1-888-522-9088

[Alyssa.Schauer@Edwardjones.com](mailto:Alyssa.Schauer@Edwardjones.com)  
[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)

*Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Alyssa Schauer, is dedicated to serving the needs of individual investors, working to give them personal service when planning for their financial future.*

### **Lori's Pet Sitting Service**

*Joined with Volunteer Amber Hahn*

Lori Novacek  
1925 S. 29th St. #1  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
(P) 701-330-7989

[Nazide@aol.com](mailto:Nazide@aol.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/lorinovacek14>

*Lori provides pet sitting services in the comfort and security of your own home. Call or text Lori at (701) 330-7989 to book your service.*

### **Ameriprise Financial - Ethan Hodnefield**

Ethan Hodnefield  
3425 S Washington St, STE A  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
(P) 701-746-5429 x3  
(F) 701-746-1701

[ethan.hodnefield@ampf.com](mailto:ethan.hodnefield@ampf.com)

[www.ameripriseadvisors.com/ethan.hodnefield](http://www.ameripriseadvisors.com/ethan.hodnefield)

*Ethan is committed to keeping clients informed and provided with the latest perspectives on the current market and economic conditions, as well as personalized advice.*

### **Connecting Point**

Brian Burkett  
2611 N 42nd St.  
Grand Forks, ND 58203  
(P) 701-885-6991

[BBurkett@connectingpoint.biz](mailto:BBurkett@connectingpoint.biz)  
[www.connectingpoint.biz](http://www.connectingpoint.biz)

*Connecting Point is your full-service IT solution provider. Our highly skilled and accredited technical and consulting teams are here to assist you with all of your business IT needs.*

### **North Dakota Museum of Art**

*Joined with Volunteer Caleb Schoonover*

Laurel Reuter  
261 Centennial Drive Stop 7305  
Grand Forks, ND 58202  
(P) 701-777-4195

[ndmoa@ndmoa.com](mailto:ndmoa@ndmoa.com)  
[www.ndmoa.com](http://www.ndmoa.com)

*The North Dakota Museum of Art, by legislative act, serves as the official art museum of the State of North Dakota. The Museum's purpose is to foster and nurture the aesthetic life and artistic expression of the people living on the Northern Plains.*

### **Grand Forks Best Source**

*Joined with Volunteer Chelse Kippley*

Paul Krenelka  
1726 South Washington St. STE 76  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
(P) 701-740-9337

[Local@gfbestsource.com](mailto:Local@gfbestsource.com)  
[www.Gfbestsource.com](http://www.Gfbestsource.com)

*Grand Forks Best Source is a Video/Podcast show with daily updates, human interest stories, and on location shows. It's all local only, and available on almost every form of social media. Geared toward small business.*

### **UND Ray Richards Golf Course**

Kyle Myers  
3501 Demers Ave.  
Grand Forks, ND 58202  
(P) 701-777-4340

[kyle.myers@und.edu](mailto:kyle.myers@und.edu)  
<https://und.edu/ray-richards/>

*Ray Richards Golf Course is open to the public and is a 9-Hole golf course & 18 basket disc golf course owned and operated by the University of North Dakota*

# BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Randy Newman Receives "Leaders & Legacies" Award From Prairie Business



Randy Newman

Alerus is pleased to announce Randy Newman, chairman, president, and chief executive officer, has received the "Leaders &

Legacies" award from Prairie Business magazine. Annually through this award, Prairie Business honors ten of the most influential and innovative corporate executives throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. The award recognizes leaders with significant high-level achievements who have positively impacted their business and community.

Mr. Newman joined Alerus, formerly First National Bank North Dakota in 1981, became its president in 1987, and CEO in 1995. He has led through the organization through tremendous growth into new markets, diversification of the company's revenue with new products and a holistic delivery model, and through challenging times including the flood and fire of Grand Forks in 1997, the Great Recession of 2008, and now the Corona virus pandemic. Newman's distinct leadership and focus on doing right by clients, employees, and the community has resulted in a strong financial foundation for Alerus and a positive impact on our community.

"I am truly honored to receive this award, and share this recognition with our Alerus team," said Newman.

Under Patrick's leadership, many "firsts" have been achieved, including several zero-energy projects that were the first in their region, building type, or time period; and the first LEED for Healthcare-certified hospital in the state of Georgia.

In his role as the Principal Sustainability Officer, Patrick will lead strategy and project process development for the benefit of JLG's clients. The common element throughout his work is creating innovative yet practical design that elevates the human experience and achieves positive performance for energy, carbon, water, waste and materials, and with lower total cost of ownership. "Patrick is a driven explorer," said Michelle Mongeon Allen, JLG CEO. "The common element throughout his work is that he inspires teams to do what has not yet been done."

"We share a common vision about the impact good design has on the lives of people," said Thibaudeau, about JLG. "The Syrup Syndrome is too often the way people think" where sustainability is poured on a design after it's done rather than baked into the batter from the beginning. We think differently, we ask the right questions and our outcomes are dramatically improved. We're not just building spaces; we're building an idea that has transformational impact and produces resilience in people and places. We envision making the way we live, learn and work "better."

## Nationally-Recognized Sustainability Leader Joins Jlg Architects



Patrick Thibaudeau

JLG Architects, ENR Mountain States™ 2019 Design Firm of the Year and one of Building Design + Construction's Architecture Giants, is pleased to announce the

addition of Patrick Thibaudeau, LEED Fellow, as the Principal Sustainability Officer at JLG.

A 20-plus-year nationally-recognized visionary in his field, Patrick is a frequent speaker at national and regional events and has been widely published on a variety of inventive, research-based topics. He was an original member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Large Firm Roundtable working toward carbon neutrality by 2030, and his national influence continues today with several leading national organizations such as the United States Green Building Council, Living Futures Institute, Design Futures Council and the UC Berkley Center for the Built Environment. Patrick's work has been honored with numerous awards, including his previous firm receiving the National Environmental Stewardship Award. He led efforts that resulted in more than 100 projects achieving third-party certification, such as LEED, B3 or 2030 performance standards.

# BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Prairie Harvest Mental Health welcomes Bethany Stoley as Lodge Coordinator



Bethany Stoley

Bethany graduated from the University of North Dakota with a degree in Rehabilitation and Human Services, emphasizing in mental health and

developmental disabilities. Bethany also spent time previously at Prairie Harvest Mental Health as the Life Skills and Job Development student intern.

As Lodge Coordinator, Bethany will oversee two peer supported homes and make sure lodge members maintain compliance with the lodge rules and programming. The Lodge Coordinator collaborates with the Job Developer for employment opportunities and work contracts.

## Ultima Bank Minnesota Welcomes Joseph Fietek To The East Grand Forks Location



Joseph Fietek

Joe comes to UBM with over 20 years of banking experience, working in both Minnesota and North Dakota. He will be taking on the Branch Manager/

Lender role and is looking forward to getting out in the community. Ultima Bank Minnesota is eager to grow with both the cities of East Grand Forks and Grand Forks, as well as their surrounding communities, offering the same great service and cutting edge technology that has allowed UBM to be consistently ranked within the top 2% of it's peers. With roots dating back to 1904, Ultima Bank has additional branches in the cities of Winger, Fosston, Plummer, and Bemidji.

## Care Facility Begins Annual Celebration Of "St. Anne's Week" While Marking 75 Years Of Service

This year, though, amidst the craziness of the Corona virus, we have a special reason to celebrate; we're marking 75 years of serving the elderly and disabled in eastern North Dakota.

For several years now, St. Anne's has been marking the feast day of St. Anne (celebrated July 26) with several days of festivities, including theme dress up day, a special party, and sometimes, even a cake walk.

Our history of honoring St. Anne (who was Jesus' grandmother) goes back much further, however. A home named in her honor was opened in Fargo in the mid-1940s. On November 12, 1944, a house was opened at 1303 - 13th Street North by the Catholic Welfare Bureau (now Catholic Charities). Nine months later, in August of 1945, the Franciscan Sisters from Hankinson, ND took over the building, serving homeless men who had been accustomed to "riding the rails" from place to place, but whose health no longer allowed them to maintain this lifestyle.

By 1978, however, the building was no longer up to fire codes, and the Sisters had to move to a new location once again. Renovations were undertaken at the former convent of the Sisters of St Joseph, who had been serving in Catholic schools in the



area. An additional wing was added to the building to provide subsidized housing. In 1981, the move was made to the current location of St. Anne's.

The Home continues to serve elderly and disabled individuals from various backgrounds. Many of these people have little or no family involvement. The Sisters and staff become like family to them, caring for their needs and showing interest in them. Nursing, housekeeping, laundry, and personal care services are provided as well as various activities. St. Anne's also has a chapel with spiritual opportunities. In recent years, the home has adopted the name "St. Anne's Living Center" as an umbrella term to include both the Basic Care and the Subsidized Housing units.

Our mission at St. Anne's is to provide a safe, caring, and family-like home for our residents. Inspired by St. Francis, we strive to serve each person who comes to us as we would Christ. We welcome those who come to us from various backgrounds, treating them with love and dignity while providing for their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

# BUSINESS BRIEFS

## **Hannaher's Workplace Interiors Sold and Established as Connect Interiors**

Hannaher's Workplace Interiors announced that Paul Hannaher, CEO, and Joe Stanger, CFO, have sold their commercial furniture business to a group of long-time executives of the company, along with female investors from Atmosphere Commercial Interiors. Omni Workspace Company is a minority investor and Atmosphere's parent company—both are headquartered in Minneapolis, MN.

The new company, known as Connect Interiors, will continue operating three locations in Fargo and Grand Forks, ND, and Detroit Lakes, MN, and has applied for a women owned business certification.

From Hannaher's, the new owners are CharRae Chwialkowski, President, Kim Dean, Vice President, and Amy Hannaher-Overby, Client Experience Manager. Joining the new female-led investor group are Carlene Wilson, CEO of Atmosphere, and Catherine Mika, VP, Client Experience and Operations of Atmosphere, who will serve as senior business advisors to Connect Interiors.

Chwialkowski, long-time leader at Hannaher's, says "We are so proud of our

new female ownership team because we're enriching our local business communities, and can now help our clients fulfill their diversity goals." Chwialkowski's career spans both the manufacturing side at Steelcase, and several roles at Hannaher's. She attributes her success to her strong relationships with clients and the design community, and her relentless drive to create exceptional solutions and deliver exceptional service.

Dean has nearly 30 years of industry experience and brings specialization in design leadership and the healthcare market. "I am excited for this new chapter in our business, because we have clients that face similar challenges and opportunities, and rely on us to advise them about creating agile and resilient workplaces that will grow and flex with the needs of their business."

As a family member, Hannaher-Overby has a unique perspective on becoming an owner and her newly expanded role. "Growing up, I learned a lot about commercial furnishings and services, and I am so happy that I can continue my family's legacy, and I'm excited to expand my role leading our focus on client experience and promoting our new brand."

"I am thrilled that the value of our heritage, the caliber

of our team members, and the potential of our markets speak for themselves. The new owners will drive long-term value for our clients," Paul Hannaher said of the sale.

Connect Interiors will build on their award-winning business performance as a fully authorized Steelcase dealership serving clients across corporate, healthcare, education, and hospitality industries. Steelcase has the most comprehensive portfolio of commercial grade products and is a global leader in worker and workplace innovation through its research and development program.

"We believe this strategy demonstrates our vision to grow our organization in a way that honors our values, and it is especially meaningful to me as a female business leader," shares Wilson, a 25-year commercial furnishings leader. "In fact, the Connect brand is based on the critical importance of bringing people together in meaningful ways." Atmosphere's purpose centers on creating spaces that can create a sense of belonging, and that is a powerful message for a workforce that is increasingly diverse. "We are leading our business forward with a new generation of female owners and business leaders, which enhances our strength as a partner and will fuel our growth."

# BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Altru has been named one of Newsweek's Best Maternity Hospitals of 2020

It is with great pride that I share an important announcement with you. Altru has been named one of Newsweek's Best Maternity Hospitals of 2020. We are one of 231 hospitals across the country to earn this recognition, and the only hospital in North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota. This is a significant achievement and should be celebrated.

The recognition as a 'Best Maternity Hospital' is based on nine key quality metrics related to delivery. Newsweek has partnered with the Leapfrog Group, a national non-profit organization that reports on the safety and quality performance to determine those deemed the 'Best' in healthcare. A panel of national experts advised Leapfrog on standards for excellence in maternity care, including achieving low rates of C-section and early elective deliveries, and following protocols to ensure safe care for mother and baby. Being named 'Best Maternity Hospital' means that we are demonstrating excellence in care and a commitment to quality.

Please join me in congratulating our teammates who earned this recognition, of which there are many. The providers, the nursing team, environmental services and many others have a hand, each and every day, in ensuring that great care is given to our patients. We thank you for your dedication to delivering high-quality, safe care for our new mothers and their babies.

Dr. Steven Weiser

## True North Equipment Purchases a Former Wells Concrete Building & Property Innovating, Improving, & Focusing on Customer Solutions

True North Equipment, a North Dakota based John Deere Dealer, purchases a former Wells Concrete building and property in Grand Forks, ND. The dealer with locations in both Minnesota and North Dakota is taking an "out-of-the-box" approach to improving efficiency, focusing on customer solutions, and enhancing the career paths available to their employees.

The facility will act as a central location for receiving, assembling, and preparation of new equipment, as well as reconditioning of incoming used equipment, and will initially house a team of approximately 16 to 20 technicians, plus a support staff. In addition, the new facility will also extend their capabilities with customer clinics and certified educational programs.

According to True North Equipment leadership "It's not just about growing our business but adding a highly capable facility that produces real value for both our customers and employees. As John Deere continues to advance their machinery with proven technology and advance functionality, we as a dealer need to be able to position ourselves in the best



way possible to empower our customers' success. We will advance this, through education on new technology, increased service availability and capability in both our service departments and in the field, and through efficient and timely set up/delivery of equipment."

The new facility offers True North Equipment the opportunity to accomplish those various challenges in an impactful and value driven way. By centralizing new machine assembly and reconditioning of used equipment, the regional True North Equipment service departments will be more agile in meeting their customer service demands and doing it in a more efficient manner.

True North Equipment is currently cleaning and preparing the facility, plans for hiring staff are underway and operations in the building are expected to start as early as this fall.

## Stay Connected Through the Chamber

Many amazing connections have been made during our Chamber events. The Chamber's website directory is a great resource to help you stay connected, and has over 1,000 business contact's phone numbers, emails and website links. Check in with one another, collaborate creatively and support one another.

**Stay well and stay connected!**

**[CLICK HERE](#) to view the directory.**

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**1811 S. Washington, Grand Forks, ND**  
**[www.prairieharvest.net](http://www.prairieharvest.net)**

**Hours: Monday - Friday 10AM - 6PM**  
**and Saturday 10AM - 5PM**

**Please bring donations in bags or boxes that you can leave.**

**Drop off your cotton or cotton blend stained, torn, old clothes (no jeans or infant clothing) to be used for Prairie Harvest Mental Health's Rag Contract.**

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**Insure Forward/Bank Forward  
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**The Chamber, Insure Forward and Bank Forward  
invite you to  
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**Thursday, September 10, 2020**

Valley Golf Course - East Grand Forks, MN

**\$130/Golfer or \$500/Team of 4**



**Your registration includes:**

- 4 person team scramble, cart included
- Team prizes in 3 flights
- Commemorative tournament gift
- Driving range opening at 10:30am
- Box lunch
- Post golf awards ceremony
- Dinner after golf
- On course games and give-aways
- Door prizes
- \$10,000 Hole-in-One Contest

**Check-in & Driving range opens ..... 10:30 am**  
**Boxed Lunch ..... 11:30 am**  
**Shotgun start ..... 12:00 noon**  
**Awards reception and dinner will be after golf**

*Game advantage pack & Eagle passes are also available  
to purchase online at the time of registration.*

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!**

**Sponsorships Still Available**

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**Join these Game Sponsors:**

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**Hole Sponsor**

(\$390)

**Join these Hole Sponsors:**

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Your donated door prize will be given away and  
credited to your organization. All other sponsors are  
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Please call or e-mail **Kimberly Strom** with  
questions or to Sponsor this event.

**701-772-7271 or  
kimberlys@gochamber.org**