

Business Update

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Ambassador Meeting

Committee Corner

Business Brief

New Members

Membership Renewals

Brown Bag

THE Voice

March 2021

www.gochamber.org

North Dakota Senators Continue to Support Grand Forks Air Force Base Missions

US Senators John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer had lunch with Mayor Bochenski, Council President Dana Sande and Air Force Civic Leaders Bruce Gjovig, Barry Wilfahrt, Jim Bradshaw and Linda Inman.



The group talked about GFAFB's on-going role in protection of our nation through its Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) platforms and technology. The group talked about how important the Grand Forks region UAS ecosystem is in support the base and its future missions.

Grand Forks Virtual State of the City is March 17th.

Watch your email for details.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE GRAND CITIES DRONE TOUR](#)

East Grand Forks Intergovernmental Retreat

The Chamber and the East Grand Forks Economic Development Authority teamed up for an Intergovernmental Retreat on Thursday, February 25th at the American Legion Club in East Grand Forks. Local leaders talked about the City of East Grand Forks strategic plan.

Antonio Rosell presented the East Grand Forks Land Use Plan. Including goals and vision with emphasis on economic development.

District 1 State Senator Mark Johnson and District 1B House member Deb Kiel joined the group via phone with a Legislative Update.

Other discussions from city and business leaders included: Post COVID World, Impact of Retail Changes, the Downtown Study, Demers project and touched base on facilitating the bridge project.

Executive Committee

- Chair: Dave Zavoral**, RJ Zavoral & Son's, Inc.
- Chair Elect: Tommy Kenville**, iSight Drone Services
- Past Chair: Paula Anderson**, Sterling Carpet One
- Josh Grinde**, Right Choice Electric
- Tony Hodny**, H & S Electrical Services LLC
- Brian Leach**, The Golf Center
- Barry Wilfahrt**, Chamber GF/EGF

Board of Directors

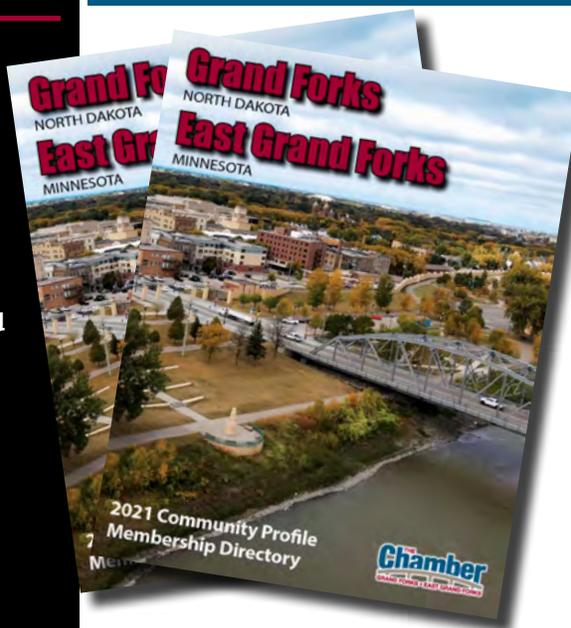
- Chris Adams**, Adams Family Farm
- Brandon Bochenski**, Barys Const./City of GF
- Pat Boppre**, Blue Moose Bar & Grill
- Meghan Compton**, Altru Health System
- Russell Crary**, Crary Real Estate
- Mike Dunn**, Construction Engineers
- Matt Fischer**, Probitas Promotions
- Margo Johnson**, Hugo's Family Marketplace
- Skyler Johnson**, Sage Legal, PLLC
- Curt Kreun**, District 42 ND Senator
- Meloney Linder**, University of North Dakota
- Keith Lund**, GF EDC
- Anna Rosburg**, Alerus Center
- John Schumacher**, American Federal
- Jill Wilson**, Edgewood Healthcare

Sr. Military Advisor to the Board

Col. Cameron Pringle, GFAFB



Community Profile Membership Directories Available!



You may have received a copy of our 2021 Community Profile/ Membership Directory and our 2021 Plan of Action in the mail last week. If you would like a copy or more copies for your office a limited number of additional copies of the 2021 Chamber Community Profile Membership Directory are available. Use them for your waiting rooms and workforce recruitment purposes.

Contact us at info@gochamber.org for additional copies.

Chamber Staff

- Barry Wilfahrt**
President/CEO
barry@gochamber.org
- Kimberly Strom**
Vice President of Operations
kimberlys@gochamber.org
- Emberly Lietz**
Membership Director
emberlyl@gochamber.org
- Tina Neil**
Communications Director
tina@gochamber.org



CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

CHECK OUT OUR NEW PUBLICATIONS AND SO MUCH MORE!

By Doug Loon

Businesses throughout Minnesota continue to struggle their way through the COVID-19 pandemic. With tax filing season upon us, it's time to help employers who have sacrificed, yet still maintained paychecks for their employees.

Lawmakers in Minnesota can ease some of this uncertainty, support struggling small businesses and propel the state toward economic recovery by preventing taxes on Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans.

PPP was a major component of federal COVID-19 relief legislation, providing forgivable loans small businesses need to pay employees and cover expenses throughout the pandemic. Congress didn't intend to tax the forgiven PPP loans, and businesses are allowed to deduct the associated payroll costs and eligible expenses paid for with PPP loans.

Unfortunately, Minnesotans will not see this relief on their state tax returns unless the legislature and Governor Walz act soon to align Minnesota's tax code with the changes in Congress's COVID-19 relief packages.

Minnesota does not automatically conform to federal tax law changes, requiring new legislation. Without it, forgiven PPP loans — a lifeline for thousands of small businesses — will be taxed as Minnesota income. This could be the difference between a business continuing its operations, retaining employees and contributing to Minnesota's economic recovery, or having to close its doors for good.

What's worse, other states have fully conformed to the federal legislation. For example, North Dakota does not tax these loans, creating an unfair advantage along the border. According to Barry Wilfahrt, President and CEO of the Chamber of Grand Forks/East Grand Forks, "As consumers, if we want choice and selection in the new normal we need to do everything we can to support our local businesses including not taxing PPP loans which are intended to help businesses survive."

The Minnesota Chamber – and the vast network of local chambers throughout the state – work with small businesses members to recover their businesses and find economic growth and stability, when the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us. But for the 100,000 businesses that accepted PPP loans, this tax season is a step in the wrong direction.

We ask legislators lawmakers to make employers and employees a priority as they consider a tax bill this year. Conforming with the federal PPP tax code will help small business owners keep their doors open, their lights turned on and employees on the payroll — all of which will contribute to a quicker economic recovery and financial stability for the state.



Doug Loon, *President of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce*



GRAND FORKS HERALD | Written By: Adam Kurtz | Feb 7th 2021 - 6am

The Henry Havig Award for Community Service is presented by the Grand Forks/ East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce each year to a person who provided exemplary leadership service to the community over a period of time, across a variety of community activities.

Sen. Ray Holmberg, R-Grand Forks, was awarded the prestigious Henry Havig Award for Community Service for 2020. In 2019, it went to Kristi Magnuson Nelson, CEO and president of Hugo's Family Marketplace. But who was the man for whom the award is named?

The Henry Havig Award for Community Service is presented by the Grand Forks/ East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce each year to a person who provided exemplary leadership service to the community over a period of time, across a variety of community activities. The award is considered the highest honor a person from the Greater Grand Forks area can receive for community service. The award is named after Henry Havig, who was born in Cooperstown in 1908. The March 1970 issue of UND's Alumni Review described him as "one of the county's outstanding civic leaders."

Havig attended UND and graduated in 1931. He ran a men's clothing store downtown at a time when there were six other clothing stores for men that were open for business. Hal Gershman, president of Happy Harry's Bottle Shops and 2001 recipient of the Henry Havig Award, was familiar with the store. "If I remember, it was not large, but (it was a) very, very elegant store," Gershman told the Herald. "Very high-quality merchandise."

According to staff at the Grand Forks County Historical Society, Havig married Lilah M. Heen in 1937. He ran his store until 1955, after which he became involved in real estate and investments. It was at that time that he got involved in civic life. He served two terms on the Grand Forks City Council starting in 1964, and, before that, he was president of the board of the Chamber in 1955 and 1956.

Havig worked to establish Chambers of Commerce in seven cities across the country, from Florida to North Dakota, according to an article in the March 1970 issue of the UND Alumni review, provided to the Herald by Curt Hanson, head of the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections at UND's Chester Fritz Library.

The article notes that among his contributions to the community, Havig was coordinator for the old YMCA building downtown and was building coordinator for when the YMCA opened on University Avenue. [CLICK HERE](#) for the full story.

Mark Your Calendar for This Year's Grand Forks State of the City Virtual Event



Wednesday,
March 17, 2021
6:00 pm



New Bridge Over The Red River Discussion

For decades our two cities have discussed potential locations of a new bridge over the Red River. The Chamber will participate in the MPO process to identify two bridge locations. One neighborhood type bridge aimed at connecting local traffic between the two cities and a second regional bridge further South.

The Chamber is also communicating with MN State Senator Mark Johnson about potentially getting funding included this session for the MN half of a bridge. From a Chamber's perspective, getting funding has very often been the necessary catalyst to get major infrastructure projects off the planning table and actually constructed.



Barry Wilfahrt,
Chamber President
and CEO

"Pursuing both of these paths will give us the best opportunity to actually get a 4th and 5th bridge built" according to Chamber Board Chair, Dave Zavoral. Chamber President Barry Wilfahrt added, "it has been 56 years since the Kennedy Bridge was constructed."

Grand Forks Day at the Capitol

We are looking forward to Grand Forks Day in Bismarck on March 4th and 5th.

Please see page 8 for more details and registration information.

2021
Grand Forks Day
at the
CAPITOL
March 4-5, 2021

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

2021
ONLINE
AUCTION *Live*

Wednesday, February 3rd at 8:00 am through Monday, February 8th at 5:00 pm

The Chamber's First Ever Online Silent Auction was a great success!

We sincerely thank more than 50 Chamber members who donated items to the Auction.

Also a big thank you to all who registered and who bid on the great auction items.

See the Silent Auction Contributors [HERE](#).

We look forward to a fantastic 2021 with Opportunity in ALL Directions!

Welcome

THE Chamber
GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS

NEW MEMBERS

Rachel's Poop N' Scoop & Other Services

Rachel Rakoczy
Thompson, ND 58278
(P) 701-740-1221
ICleanUpGF@gmail.com
www.ICleanUpGF.biz

My mission is to leave you and your family (including fur babies) extra time for family time, out in your yard. This service is my top priority (there are other services as well) and my main goal is to leave a clean yard for everyone to play in, 100% guaranteed.

Billie's Soap & Spa

Dale Kellar
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Grand Forks, ND 58203
(P) 701-610-6428
Billiesoapandspa@gmail.com
www.BilliesSoap.com

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Eagle's Crest Grill

Jeff Waind
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Grand Forks, ND 58201
(P) 701-787-3491
(F) 701-757-1051
eaglescrest2@hotmail.com
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Jesse Helland
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jesse.helland@ics-builds.com
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At ICS, we specialize in providing innovative facility solutions that help you plan, build, and operate your building well. Our customized services integrate the planning, funding, construction, and ongoing operations of your facilities as we help you throughout all phases of a building project.



Rags For Sale



Purchase 50 pound box of rags for \$60.

Please support our consumer work program!

Donations of torn or stained clothing, towels or linen accepted.
(please no jeans or infant clothing).

Donations are tax deductible.

Drop off donation or pick up rags between 8am - 5pm

Monday - Thursday at

Prairie Harvest Mental Health Office - 930 N 3rd Street

For more information, or to arrange purchase of rags or donation of material contact:

Email: beth@prairieharvest.net

Phone: 701-795-9143 ext. 17

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2021

Grand Forks Day at the **CAPITOL**

March 4-5, 2021

Be part of the Grand Forks Leadership Team as we meet with the Governor, and other state leaders to discuss some of the vital issues impacting us this legislative session.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Call or email the Chamber with any questions or concerns.
701-772-7271 or info@gochamber.org

Thursday, March 4, 2021

- 2:00 Meeting with Team GF and North Dakota Department of Commerce**
Location: Bismarck Event Center – Prairie Rose Ballroom 105
- 3:00 Meeting with Team GF and NDDOT Leadership**
Location: Bismarck Event Center – Prairie Rose Ballroom 105
- 4:00 Meeting with Team GF and NDUS Chancellor Mark Hagerott and team**
Location: Bismarck Event Center – Prairie Rose Ballroom 105
- 5:30 Social**
Location: First International Bank / Stonehome Brewing Company

Friday, March 5, 2021

- 8:30 Bank of ND**
Location: Bismarck Event Center – Prairie Rose Ballroom 105
- 10:00 Governor's Office**
Location: Bismarck Event Center – Prairie Rose Ballroom 105

Cost to attend: \$35.00 Includes Heavy Hors d'oeuvres and beverage

Hotel Information:

Radisson Hotel Bismarck • (701) 255-6000 (Reservations to be made under the block of "Grand Forks Day")

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The Official Monthly Publication of The Chamber GF/EGF

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Your Chamber Working For You



I **Inform**
We inform our members on important business and community information.

P **Promote**
We promote our members, the business community and the GF/EGF region.

A **Advocate**
We advocate for our members and our business climate at the city, state and federal levels.

C **Connect**
We provide opportunities for business to connect with other businesses.

E **Educate**
We provide education opportunities for your business and employees.

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HEART OF THE HAWKS

TUESDAY, MARCH 16 - FRIDAY, MARCH 19
NOON

LEARN MORE

UNDalumni.org/hearthawks

UND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION
LEADERS IN ACTION

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

Ameriprise Financial - Ethan Hodnefield
Archives Coffee House
Barys Construction
Behl's Photography
Brode Communications Consulting, LLC
CF Industries Distribution Facilities, LLC
City of Grand Forks
Countrywide Sanitation
D & M Auto Body
Dakota Commercial & Development, Inc
Dakota TV & Appliance
DJ Colter Agency Inc. American Family Insurance
Doherty Staffing Solutions
Doherty Staffing Solutions
Don's ABC Seamless, Inc.
Edward Jones - Brian Emerson
Edward Jones - Bryan Brenden
Epic Companies
Evergreen Insurance
Fergus Falls Granite Inc.
First Community Credit Union
Frandsen Bank & Trust - S. Wash
Gate City Bank - 24th Ave S
Gate City Bank - DeMers Ave
GF County Agencies
Grape Mill Vineyard and Winery
Greater Grand Forks Area Human Services Association
Greater Grand Forks Convention and Visitors Bureau
Gregory J. Norman Funeral Chapel
HELIX wine & bites

Home of Economy
Home Therapy Solutions, LLC
Hugo's Retail Support Center
Invest Wise, LLC
LafargeHolcim
Liberty Business Systems, Inc.
LM Wind Power
Mike's Pizza & Pub
Network Center
Northern Plains Potato Growers Assn.
Now or Never Nutrition
Pepsi Americas, Inc.
RDO Equipment Company
Red River State Recreation Area
Red River Valley Motorcyclists
Revive Nutrition
Service Credit Union
Sigma Defense Systems
SimplyMaid
Sleep Inn and Suites
Sodexo
St. Michael's Catholic School
Strive Life Grand Forks
Ten Acre Marketing
The Bun Lounge
Thrifty White Pharmacy #081
Tom Rosendahl
UND Office of the President
Women's Pregnancy Center
Xcel Energy



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Ambassador Meeting

Hosted by:

Speedway 805 Grill and Bar

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.

The Chamber Ambassador Committee held their February meeting at **Speedway 805 Grill and Bar**.

Thank you to Caleb Schoonover with **Plains Chiropractic & Acupuncture P.C.** for giving a great presentation!



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MARCH

ZoomBAH!

Mark your calendars...

Registration is
LIMITED TO 100
guests.
RSVP to
participate!

Join us on...

Thursday, March 18th
4:00pm ~ 5:00pm

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

The Chamber GF/EGF invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join us for ZoomBAH! virtual networking event on March 18th from 4-5pm!

This will replace our Business After Hours event for March. We hope to resume our in-person networking schedule soon! Until then, join us for ZoomBAH!

You can count on it being interactive and fun!

We will play Trivia, have Great Prizes and Small Group Networking in Breakout Rooms!

A BIG THANK YOU to Brian Woinarowicz with **Networking Specialties** for donating a webcam prize and to Brian Leach of **The Golf Center** for donating 2-\$50 Golf Center gift cards to our February ZoomBAH!

Watch Member 2 Member, The Voice newsletter, emails and social media for more information on March 18th's ZoomBAH!





EMPLOYEE RETENTION

“You can no longer do the base minimum to attract and keep employees”

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm - Hybrid Option

Presented by:

Jeff Franck

MinnKota, Corporate Staff Development Leader



Seminar Info:

A successful employee retention plan involve strategies that address the whole employee, the whole person. You need to start thinking about things from the employee’s perspective. No two employees are ever alike. Each has their own dreams, desires, and goals. Yet, everyone wants to feel appreciated and treated fairly and with respect. Employees want to be challenged and to feel good about the work they produce.

You can no longer do the base minimum to attract and keep employees. You need to consider every area of the employer-employee relationship to keep your employees engaged, productive, and happy. In this engaging 60-minute presentation, you will be shown the risks of not planning, not engaging, and not doing the things that employees expect from their employer—and what to do to create a strategic plan that attracts, retains, and happifies your staff.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER FOR SEMINAR

\$10/Virtual or \$20/In Person (Includes Lunch) - LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!

If you have questions, please contact Tina at the Chamber. tina@gochamber.org or 701-772-7271

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Swanson & Warcup, Ltd. is excited to announce a new addition, Patricia Castro

Patricia Castro joins the firm as an associate attorney focused in the areas of family law, immigration and civil litigation.

Patricia joins attorneys Howard D. Swanson, John A. Warcup and Kellie E. Ebertowski.

Patricia graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 2017 and has four years of experience in areas of family and immigration law. Patricia has a 4-Year Degree from the University of Winnipeg and is a member in good standing with the North Dakota State Bar, admitted to practice in all North Dakota State Courts and the United States Federal Court in the District of North Dakota.

Prior to joining Swanson & Warcup, Ltd., Patricia was an associate attorney with Kraus-Parr, Morrow and Weber as well as a Staff Attorney with Legal Services of North Dakota. Swanson & Warcup, Ltd. is a full-service law firm founded in 1937 by Daniel S. Letnes.



Patricia Castro

Grand Forks Public Named 2020 North Dakota Star Library



Grand Forks Public is excited to be recognized as a 2020 North Dakota Star Library. This award from the North Dakota State Library is given based on a series of criteria documented by the Annual Report, including circulation by population, program attendance, Wi-Fi usage, and more.

"It's an honor to be recognized as a Star Library, especially this year," explains Wendy Wendt, Grand Forks Public Library Director. "We have a wonderful team who works hard to serve the community in new ways, such as offering contactless Curbside Pickup, providing book bundles, creating virtual programming, and much more."

Wendt continues, "A vibrant library has the power to strengthen communities and change lives."

Alerus Adds Adrian Cummings As Financial Guide

Alerus is pleased to announce the addition of Adrian Cummings as financial guide. In this role, Cummings is responsible for assisting clients in identifying their specific financial needs and providing comprehensive advice to help them achieve their financial wellness goals. He works closely with experts across Alerus to ensure each client has access to the company's full suite of diversified services. He is based at Alerus' Corporate Center in Grand Forks, North Dakota.



Adrian Cummings

The University of Minnesota Crookston welcomes two new staff to campus.

Amanda Arndt (Amy), Sodexo General Manager, is joining UMN Crookston from the University of Minnesota Morris where she spent the last six years with Sodexo as a Food Operations Manager. Amy has held management positions in the food service industry for the past nine years and is excited to bring her catering, retail, and dining experience to the Crookston Dining Services team.

Beth Zaske, Academic Records Specialist, begins her new shared role serving the Office of the Registrar (OTR) between Morris and Crookston campuses. Beth will be physically located in Morris, but her workload is split 50/50 for each campus. Beth's primary duties will be working on daily incoming requests of the OTR, registration, course substitutions, Registrar questions, transcripts, etc. Beth has served Morris in many ways, most recently the last 18 months in the Office of the Registrar.



THE Chamber
GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[CLICK HERE FOR CALENDAR](#)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Widseth Welcomes Strain to Aerial Team

Miles Strain, CP, RPP, has joined Widseth as the Aerial Services Manager. Strain is an American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) certified



Miles Strain

photogrammetrist with more than 35 years of experience in the geospatial industry. He holds a Bachelor of Science in geography and a minor in cartography from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls.

Strain is responsible for the oversight and overall performance of Widseth's aerial mapping/geospatial department. He directs planning, project scoping and design, production utilization, and staff management. Strain will also manage client relations, scheduling, and budget management.



**New staff?
Business**

accomplishments?

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IN Business Briefs FREE!

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT

Anne Carlsen Announces New Chief Development Officer



Michael (Mike) Meyer

serve the development and marketing teams.

Most recently, serving as the managing director of development at North Dakota State University Foundation in Fargo, Meyer brings over 30 years of marketing and fundraising experience along with a strong grasp on managing a development team. Although serving Anne Carlsen state-wide, he will be officed in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

"Mike brings strong relationship skills and a very caring heart to the role of leading the development team at Anne Carlsen," Tim Eissinger, Chief Executive Officer says.

Bringing extensive background in development and fundraising in previous roles including Special Olympics of North Dakota, University of Minnesota – Crookston, University of North Dakota (UND), associate vice president at California Baptist University and vice president at Life Pacific University. Meyer also brings a diverse

background in marketing and a passion for Anne Carlsen's mission of making the world a more inclusive place where independence is a gift to all.

Lindsey Wretling has joined Prairie Harvest Mental Health as the Case Assistant



Lindsey Wretling

Dependency. Lindsey has worked in the behavioral health field since 2016 and shares a true passion for helping people achieve their goals and maintain independence for enhanced quality of life.

Lindsey lives in Grand Forks and loves raising her family in the Red River Valley community. Her hobbies include staying active at the gym, being a homebody, and spending time with her family in the backyard.

Lindsey has two children: Loa, her five-year-old daughter, and Royce, her five-month-old son. Her four-year-old bullmastiff dog, Riddick, loves laying around with the kids and going on walks with his people. Lindsey is very excited to be a part of the PHMH team and looks forward to getting to know her consumers!

BUSINESS BRIEFS

- The official Chamber of Commerce GF/EGF Weekly E-Publication -

THE Chamber
GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS

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

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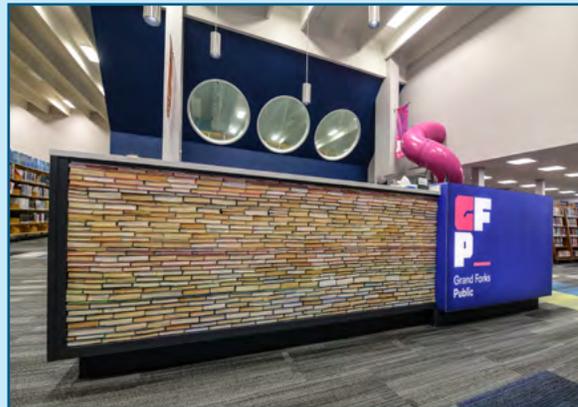
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The Chamber E-Promotion

CLICK HERE TO ADVERTISE

Playground for curious minds to start open hours March 1, 2021

A vibrant library is at the heart of a strong community. Throughout the challenges of COVID-19, the team at Grand Forks Public has found new and innovative ways to continue to serve Grand Forks County. Here's a recap of the past year:



- **March:** Closed due to COVID, continued to offer digital resources & parking lot Wi-Fi.
- **April:** Began offering virtual programs, such as Storytimes, craft videos, and more, with over 84,000 Facebook video views in 2020 alone.
- **July:** Touchless Curbside Pickup services began, including "book bundle" options for easy selection, state park passes, Wi-Fi hotspots, Take & Make craft kits, etc.
- **October:** In-library appointments became available, in addition to Curbside.
- **January:** Curbside and in-library appointment hours expanded.

Behind the scenes, a full renovation continued, transforming the library into a colorful, modern space. The "playground for curious minds" is now complete with a giant pink slide, thick wooden swings, bright lights, fresh carpet, and cozy, colorful new furniture

throughout.

Starting Monday, March 1, Grand Forks Public is expanding open hours and will no longer require appointments. Curbside will continue to be offered six days per week.

Open hours include:

- Monday through Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Thursday: Open until 8 p.m.
- Curbside Pickup | Monday through Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Grand Forks Public is our community's place for connection, innovation, curiosity, and creativity—and has been for the last 121 years! Whether you're looking for your next great escape, researching a new business, working on your professional development, or connecting your family to stories, be sure to check out our community's refreshed playground for curious minds.

YES!

We Do PPP Loans

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cruger Named to National Economic Advisory Committee



Becca Cruger

Becca Cruger, workforce development manager at the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation (EDC), has been named to the International

Economic Development Council's (IEDC) Young Professionals Advisory Committee. This committee advises IEDC on matters important to young economic development professionals and students of economic development related disciplines.

"I'm very excited to represent Grand Forks and North Dakota among a diverse group of board members from across the nation," said Cruger. "This gives me the opportunity to learn best practices from other regions, as well as offer insight on economic development trends in the Upper Midwest."

The IEDC Young Professionals Advisory Committee recommends programming that is relevant to early-career professionals, assists with communication to this demographic and those interested in supporting young professionals, and provides general guidance to the organization on engaging young people. The Young Professionals Advisory Committee provides an outlet for younger members to become more involved in the organization.

IEDC is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base.

Keith Vanderlin New Store Director Of Hugo's Family Marketplace Park Rapids, MN



Keith Vanderlin

Hugo's Family Marketplace is pleased to announce that Keith Vanderlin has assumed the position of Store Director of our Park Rapids, MN location.

Keith began working for Hugo's in 2009 as the Frozen Manager of our EGF location. He moved into the Grocery Manager position, 2nd Assistant Manager and Assistant Store Director positions at the EGF location over the next nine years. In 2018, Keith was promoted to Store Director of the North Grand Forks location. Keith has previous retail experience working with Thrifty White and Pamida in East Grand Forks.

Keith enjoys spending time at the lake with his wife Cynthia and dog Maggie. He also enjoys golfing, campfires and spending time with friends and family.

"Keith's continued experience and commitment to Hugo's, our customers and our communities are invaluable." Said Kristi Magnuson Nelson, Hugo's

Matt Forrest Assumes Assistant Store Director Position Of Hugo's Family Marketplace In Park Rapids, MN



Matt Forrest

Hugo's Family Marketplace is pleased to announce that Matt Forrest has assumed the role of Assistant Store

Director of our Park Rapids, MN location.

Matt began his career with Hugo's in 2013 as the Grocery Manager at our East Grand Forks, MN location. He worked in that position for seven years before being promoted to Assistant Store Director of our 32nd Ave. S. Grand Forks Hugo's location.

Matt enjoys fishing and the great outdoors. He says the continued growth opportunities with Hugo's is exciting and he is happy to make Park Rapids his home.

"Matt's experience with all areas of grocery and our company is amazing." said Kristi Magnuson Nelson, Hugo's President/CEO. "His dedication and leadership abilities will be a great asset to our Park Rapids team and shoppers."

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BUSINESS BRIEFS



Grand Sky Welcomes New Tenants to Fill its First Multi-Tenant Building

Fully leased building is testament to the high demand from UAS companies to be North Dakota.

Grand Sky Development Company, LLC (Grand Sky) has entered into lease agreements with four tenants to occupy the entirety of the new Multi-Tenant Building 1 (MT1) at the business and aviation park. The tenants include General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc., Northern Plains UAS Test Site, Grand Sky Airfield Operations, LLC and Innovets Aerospace.

The Northern Plains UAS Test Site has signed a 10-year lease in the MT1 building at Grand Sky and has plans to use the space as the headquarters and operations center for Vantis, the statewide Beyond Visual Line of Sight Network (BVLOS). Northern Plains UAS Test Site and Grand Sky have collaborated numerous times on multiple projects in support of medium and large UAS operations. These projects include supporting a commercial beyond-line-of-sight flight of the General Atomics MQ-1 Predator UAS, as well as the company's first trans-Atlantic flight with a MQ-9 Reaper UAS. More recently, Northern Plains UAS Test Site and Grand Sky collaborated to support test and demonstration flights including extended BVLOS flights of Northrop Grumman's Firebird optionally manned aircraft. Northern Plains UAS Test Site

will occupy 25% of the nearly 18,000 square foot building. "All of these flight operations were made possible through the tremendous partnership between the Northern Plains Test Site and Grand Sky," Grand Sky Development Co. President Thomas Swoyer Jr., said. "The addition of Vantis to Grand Sky will enhance the capabilities of firms that want to operate UAS from Grand Sky or from anywhere in the state of North Dakota."

a partner at Grand Sky from the very first day of flight operations. The team from Innovets manages the ground operations at Grand Sky and continues to support tenant and partners with their operations. "The fact that the building is fully leased is a testament to the high demand from UAS companies to be North Dakota and in particular at Grand Sky," Swoyer said. "We appreciate the commitment to long-term leases."



The MT1 building was conceived several years ago to support smaller organizations that want to be at Grand Sky but don't want to invest the funds necessary to build their own buildings under long-term leases. Plans are already underway for a new building, Multi-Tenant Building 2, to capture the demand for space that companies have.

General Atomics will use the expansion to grow its operations at Grand Sky to support more customers. Grand Sky Airfield Operations manages the Joint Use Agreement between the Air Force and Grand Forks County that allows the Grand Sky tenants and partners to utilize the Grand Forks AFB runway and flight facilities. According to Swoyer, the ability to conduct civilian flight operations from the Air Force Base runway is a crucial part of the value of Grand Sky.

"As Grand Sky looks to the future of UAS, we're preparing to develop capabilities around UAS-based cargo and package delivery, as well as processing the vast amount of information that the UAS industry is creating on a daily basis," said Swoyer. "Getting a deliverable to a customer, whether it's a physical package or data package is the crux of the UAS industry. Having Vantis at Grand Sky will give our tenants and partners a true advantage as the UAS industry in North Dakota continues to grow."

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