

Business Update

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Brown Bag

THE Voice

www.gochamber.org

2022 Chamber Annual Meeting



**2021 Henry
Havig Award
Winner
Greg Opp**

Gov. Doug Burgum told attendees at the annual Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce dinner that the community has emerged as a statewide leader in development, saying “you’re doing all the right things, so keep it up.”

The governor spoke discussing economic development and business activity. When he spoke of Grand Forks specifically, he seemed especially pleased with recent business developments.

“What are the four pillars of main street?” the governor asked. “One: smart, healthy communities. You guys (in Grand Forks/East Grand Forks) are working on that – that includes a vibrant downtown. Smart infrastructure – you’re working on that. Economic diversification – you’re talking about that. And the other pillar is workforce.

For 43 years – since 1977 - the Chamber has presented the Henry Havig Award to an outstanding citizen recognizing them for community service. This is the highest honor a person from Greater Grand Forks can receive for community service. The award is named after longtime businessperson Henry Havig who exemplifies the community service this award stands for.



Sally Miskavige, daughter of Greg Opp, accepts Opp's Henry Havig Community Leadership Award from Chamber President/CEO Barry Wilfahrt

This year's Henry Havig award was given to Greg Opp from Opp Construction. Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber President and CEO presented the award at the Chamber Annual Dinner on Wednesday, January 26, 2022. Opp was praised for his entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to the business community. Greg was recognized for many of his business achievements, along with several boards that he has served on in the community. Opp Construction has also made numerous donations over the years, including the park district and public schools to construct playgrounds and parks.

On behalf of her dad, Sally Miskavige accepted the award. Greg winters in Florida and gave his acceptance speech from there. Greg thanked his parents, his wife, family and business partners for helping build the businesses to what it is today.

Congratulations Greg and thank you for all you do for Grand Forks.

The Chamber Ambassador of the Year 2022

Congratulations to Kathy Snider. Kathy Snider was elected 2021 Chamber Ambassador of the year at this year's Chamber Annual Dinner that was held on Wednesday, January 26, 2022. This prestigious award is highly honored by the Chamber and the Chamber Ambassadors.



Kathy Snider is from Grand Forks, ND is a Wealth Management Banker at US Bank in Grand Forks where she has held several positions over the past 45 years. She is originally from Langdon, ND and has twin adult sons Jimmy and Joey Snider who both live in Grand Forks.

Kathy enjoys camping with her family and friends, biking, and time with her grandson. Kathy has been an active member of the Chamber Grand Forks & East Grand Forks for all the years she has worked at the bank and cherishes the friends she has made along the way and encourages people to become active in the Chamber.

Thank you to Kathy and all of the Ambassadors for their dedication to the Chamber and to our community.

Executive Committee

Chair: Tommy Kenville,

iSight Drone Services

Chair Elect: Russel Crary,

Crary Real Estate

Past Chair: Dave Zavoral,

RJ Zavoral & Son's Inc.

Matt Fisher, Probitas Promotions

Tony Hodny, H & S Electrical Services LLC

Pat Boppre, Blue Moose Bar & Grill

Barry Wilfahrt, Chamber GF/EGF

Board of Directors

Brandon Bochenski, Barys Const./City of GF

Meghan Compton, Altru Health System

Kay Derry, Northern Roots Boutique

Mike Dunn, Construction Engineers

Torrie Enget, Hugo's Family Marketplace

Mike Fridolfs, Northrop Grumman Corp.

Tarek Howard, Auto Finance Super Center

Curt Kreun, District 42 ND Senator

Brian Leach, Golf Center

Meloney Linder, University of North Dakota

Keith Lund, GF EDC

Mike McLean, JLG Architects

Anna Rosburg, Alerus Center

Andy Schneider, Dakota Concealed/

GF County Sheriff

John Schumacher, American Federal

Penny Stai, River Cinema

Sr. Military Advisor to the Board

Col. Timothy Curry, GFAFB

Chamber Staff

Barry Wilfahrt

President/CEO

barry@gochamber.org

Kimberly Strom

Vice President of Operations

kimberlys@gochamber.org

Tina Fetsch

Executive Assistant

info@gochamber.org

Tina Neil

Membership & Communications Vice

President

tina@gochamber.org



Each year, students at colleges and universities in the Northern Valley Region have the opportunity to spend an hour in the life of their future careers. Regional employers open their doors for one-hour conversations with students that include information about career pathways, company tours, and real-life experiences.

The goals of Career Conversations are to:

- Create connections between students and professionals in the greater Grand Forks area
- Give college and university students an opportunity to observe daily/routine activities, ask questions, and link academic learning to real-world applications
- Build community partnerships between our post-secondary schools and companies
- Help prepare college and university students for regional in-demand careers upon graduation
- Cover the full spectrum of regional careers for students receiving training at our region's universities and colleges by matching them with targeted employers

Register by February 21, 2022 to host student conversations and get the word out about careers within your company to thousands of students.

Register at northernvalleycareers.com/career-conversations-week/

CAREER CONVERSATIONS
A PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING EVENT

SPEND AN HOUR IN THE LIFE OF YOUR FUTURE CAREER

MARCH 29 & 30
REGISTER ONLINE BY MARCH 25:
NORTHERNVALLEYCAREERS.COM

nvc
northernvalleycareers

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM YOUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Wednesday, January 26, 2022, Alerus Center



Thank you to everyone who attended, participated and sponsored our wonderful event.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING



Wednesday, January 26, 2022 through Monday, January 31, 2022

The Chamber's Annual 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 2022!

Top **TEN** Chamber Membership Benefits

- 1. New Business Contacts** – Networking and new business contacts will help your business grow. With more than 100 chamber programs and events, you'll have no problem adding to your contact base.
- 2. Credibility** – Make a statement that you are committed to the future of the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks region.
- 3. Leadership Development** – The Chamber offers learning and professional development opportunities to help you run a smarter, more profitable business.
- 4. Community Commitment** – Community involvement benefits you and the community and shows your commitment to helping our region grow.
- 5. Referrals** – The Chamber's referrals of our members are a great return on your investment.
- 6. Publicity and Exposure** – Publicity and heightened name recognition as a Chamber Member shows your customers and potential customers who you are.
- 7. Marketing & Advertising** – Targeted and affordable advertising offered by The Chamber help you promote your business effectively on a small budget.
- 8. A Healthy Local Economy** – Be a part of a group that is committed to creating a strong local economy to keep our business momentum moving forward.
- 9. Gain a Voice in Government** – The Chamber is your representative on a local, regional, state and national level. With over 1100 members representing thousands of area employees, The Chamber speaks with a strong voice for our business community on issues affecting your business.
- 10. Partnership** - You will be a part of an organization whose mission is to create an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region.



NEW MEMBERS

Lunseth Trucking Company
Alexandra Lunseth
PO BOX 7
Manvel ND 58256
701-330-5239
lunsethtco@gmail.com

Dufault Insurance Agency
Colter Dufault
1418 Central Ave NE - Suite B
East Grand Forks MN 56721
218-773-2480
colter@dufaultinsurance.com
<http://www.dufaultinsurance.com>

Dufault Insurance Agency is here to bring you the power of choice. We are your trusted independent insurance agency. Your family, your business, and your possessions are all important to you, but you may not know how to best protect them. As your insurance advisors, we help you find the protection you need and give you the ability to make informed decisions about your coverage.

We are an independent insurance agency specializing in auto insurance, home insurance, business insurance, farm insurance, contractor insurance, and restaurant insurance. Since our founding in 2011, we've proudly been serving clients in East Grand Forks, MN and surrounding areas, helping them to find the right coverage for their needs. Give them a call today! 218-773-2480.

Dakota Fence Company
Cody Baker
1110 25th Ave N
Fargo ND 58102
701-237-6181
cody@dakotafence.com
<https://www.dakotafence.com/>

Dakota Fence is the largest full-line fence company and specialty contractor in the Upper Midwest providing service to the Dakotas, Minnesota, Montana and Wyoming.

From start to finish, you'll appreciate working with the experienced estimators and installers at Dakota Fence. We are professionals who've seen it all, tackling virtually every topographic and design challenge imaginable. We are proud to say that many of our employees have been with us over 40 years. We'll help you choose the perfect fencing material based on the style of your property, safety considerations, privacy needs and budget.

In addition to the best quality fencing, gates and kennels, we also offer: School Playgrounds, Parks and Recreation Playgrounds, Parking Lot Guardrails, Highway Guardrails, Custom Gates and Railings, Telespar Square Sign Post Distributor and Signs.

Since 1972, Dakota Fence has provided value, safety and security all over these areas with high quality fences and we pride ourselves in on-time project completion. Let us tackle your next project.

CHAMBER E-NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Each month The Chamber produces this E-Newsletter that includes **FREE LOCAL INFORMATION** submitted from our members, along with monthly Chamber news, activities and events. This publication is distributed each month to **OVER 3000 MEMBERS** in our Chamber database. With this coverage and information we are offering affordable advertising.





NEW MEMBERS

The Opal Events Center

Sadie Gardner

920 North 3rd Street - Suite C

Grand Forks ND 58203

701-317-3255

info@theopalgrandforks.com

<https://www.theopalgrandforks.com/>

Stunning chandeliers throughout, elegant finishes, marble accents, glass garage doors and a private outdoor patio space. Mix those elements with a vaulted ceiling with original beams and refurbished historic hardwood flooring in the former Simonson's Lumber warehouse, The Opal is a sight to see.

Offering an elegant mixed with industrial feel, thoughtful planning and an impeccable level of personalized services. The Opal delivers a decidedly different experience and will be the premier venue in Grand Forks.

The Opal will be the perfect for your wedding reception, corporate event, or non-profit function.

Cloud 9 Events

Sadie Gardner

322 Demers Avenue

Grand Forks ND 58203

701-317-3255

info@cloud9eventsgrandforks.com

<https://www.cloud9eventsgrandforks.com/>

Cloud 9 Events is the newest and most luxurious event venue to open in the region. Surrounded by windows and located on the top floor of Edgewood Corporate Plaza, it offers superior views of Grand Forks as well as natural light throughout the space. The interior design of Cloud 9 Events is polished and dignified.

Whether planning an intimate gathering, a large-scale wedding or corporate event, your guests will be exposed to a first-class experience and service.

Cloud 9 Events can accommodate up to 450 guests.

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KNIGHT FOR A
Princess
Annual Daddy Daughter Dance
Feb. 18 & 19 | Mar. 18 & 19
ALERUS CENTER | 6-9 pm
REGISTER ONLINE AT
gfparks.org

Thursday, February 10, 2022
GIVING HEARTS DAY
help someone
like Carson.

KILL THE NOISE
Fun
PAPA ROACH
HOLLYWOOD UNDEAD
BAD WOLVES
MARCH 8 | ALERUS CENTER
LIVE NATION

February 1 - February 28

Membership Renewals

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

Aatrix Software	Don's ABC Seamless, Inc.	Pampered Chef-Tonya Murphy
Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.	EAPC Architects Engineers	Praxis Strategy Group
Aflac District Office	East Grand Forks Economic Development Authority	RDO Equipment Company
AFS Automated Financial Services, Inc.	Ellingson Companies	Red River State Recreation Area
American Federal Bank	Evergreen Insurance	Rhombus Guys
American Federal Bank	gCariveau & Associates	Rydell Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac
Anderson Appraisal Service, Inc.	Gereszek Law Office P.L.L.C.	Sacred Heart Catholic Schools
Anderson Brothers Auto Body Shop	Gerrells Sports Center - Hockey World	SimplyMaid
ANew	Grand Cities Mall	South Hampton Townhome Apts.
Aurora Dialysis	Grand Forks Country Club	Steeple Apartments, LLC
AVI Systems	Grand Forks Herald	Stones Mobile Radio Inc.
Bell Insurance Services LLC	Greenberg Realty-Rita Schuster	Ten Acre Marketing
Bob's Oil and Gas LLC	Greenberg Realty-Rita Schuster	The Arc, Upper Valley
Brekke Tours & Travel	Hampton Management	The Bun Lounge
Bremer Bank	ICON Architectural Group	The Exponent
Carrington Court Townhome Apts.	Italian Moon Pizza & Restaurant	Third Street Clinic
Chiro Rx Ltd	Job Service North Dakota	Times Square Townhomes, I, Inc.
Circle of Friends Humane Society	Keith's Security World	Times Square Townhomes, II & III, Inc.
Cirrus Aircraft	Leisureland RV	Times Square Townhomes, II & III, Inc.
City of East Grand Forks	Lifesong Family Music, LLC	True North Resource Center
City of Grand Forks	LifeVantage - Linda Bedard	UND Office of the President
Coleman Family Law	McKenna & Associates, P.C.	Unique Auto Body & Sales, Inc.
Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Region	Mexican Village	United Way of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks & Area
Compass Leadership Advisors	Midco	Vaaler Insurance, a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC Company
Construction Engineers, Inc.	Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.	Valley Petroleum Equipment Inc.
Crary Real Estate-Mary Adams	Mutch Oil Co. of Grand Forks, Inc.	Vreeland Remodeling, Inc.
Custom Aire	Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Wall's Medicine Center
Dakota Commercial & Development, Inc	Nodak Insurance Company - Kris Moen Agency	Whalen's Moving & Storage
Dakota Venture Group	North Dakota Museum of Art	Women's Pregnancy Center
Dance, Etc!	Northern Air Family Fun Center	
Denny's	Northland Community & Technical College	
	Northridge (Hospitality & Construction)	

DON'T MISS OUT ON
APPETIZERS,
DRINKS AND PRIZES!



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

SNEAK PEEK SOCIAL HOUR

For Edgewood Grand Forks
Assisted Living & Memory Care

OPENING SPRING 2022



LOCATION **CLOUD9 EVENTS**

322 DEMERS AVENUE IN GRAND FORKS

PARKING AVAILABLE BEHIND BUILDING

DATE **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH** TIME **4:30 PM**

AGENDA:

4:30 WELCOME | 5:15 PRESENTATION | 5:30 FAQ

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USE THE CAMERA ON
YOUR PHONE TO SCAN
THE CODE AND **RSVP!**
OR CALL
701.215.6527



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GIVING HEARTS DAY

Prairie Harvest Mental Health is participating in this **one day on-line fundraising** annual event. Your giving is more impactful when matched by our generous donors. Please help us promote independence and an enhanced quality of life for adults with serious mental illness on

February 10, 2022.

Help someone.

Your donation does make a difference!



Click on button or go to www.givingheartsday.org



★ Membership Draft ★

2022

Join the Chamber!

March 21-April 8



Reasons to Join:

- New Business Contacts
- Credibility
- Leadership Development
- Community Commitment
- Referrals
- Publicity and Exposure
- Marketing & Advertising Options
- A Healthy Local Economy
- Gain a Voice in Government
- Partnership
- Networking Opportunities
- Fun Events

Ambassador Meeting

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.

Congratulations to these Nominees for the 2021 Ambassador of the Year!

Stacey Brorson
Kathy Snider
Denice Dee Quinnell Skjold
Valeria Becker
Brenda K Kovar
Not pictured is Brenda K Kovar.

We appreciate the time and dedication that all of our Ambassadors put into volunteering for the Chamber. Please watch for the Ambassador of the Year to be announced at the Chamber Annual Dinner on Wednesday, January 26, 2022.



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MEET THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LIGNITE

I AM LIGNITE



THE Chamber

Business After Hours



..... Hosted by

Lithia Ford Lincoln of Grand Forks & Ground Round

2273 32nd Ave S., Grand Forks, ND 58201

Thursday, February 17th - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

Lithia Ford & Ground Round invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event.

Free Admission – Drink ticket & cash bar - Complimentary hors d'oeuvres- Great door prizes - Progressive cash drawing is at \$600.

Stop by... *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!!*

.....
Thank you to Sterling Carpet One for hosting an eventful January Business After Hours.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Betsy Seaver Engineering Intern for Burian Associates



Betsy Seaver

We'd like to introduce our Engineering Intern, Betsy Seaver! Betsy is a native of Grand Forks, ND and

a senior in Civil

Engineering at UND. She plans to continue her education, and will be pursuing a Master's degree in the fall. She also holds an Officer position in the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. We are excited to have her join our team and assist on various projects across the region!

Valley Senior Living Names Adam Edwards Chief Human Resources Officer



Adam Edwards

Valley Senior Living, a Grand Forks retirement community with levels of care including memory care, skilled nursing, basic care, assisted living

and independent living, is pleased to announce Adam Edwards has accepted the position of Chief Human Resources Officer. Adam received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Mayville State University, a Master of Science in Leadership from North Dakota State University, and is a Board-Certified Nursing Home Administrator. Adam comes to Valley Senior Living with over four years of human resources and administration experience.

Altru Health System announced today that Todd Forkel has been selected as Altru's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective February 28, 2022.



"On behalf of Altru's CEO search committee, we are thrilled to have Todd joining our leadership

team," shared Karen Thingelstad, Chair of Altru's Board of Directors. "His experience and leadership style make him the perfect leader for Altru. He is a humble servant leader and a visionary who will lead Altru's path to growth and innovation for generations to come."

Forkel brings over 24 years of leadership experience in healthcare, most recently serving on Avera's executive team as the Regional President and CEO of Avera St. Luke's and CEO of Avera St. Mary's Region since 2011. In this role, he has managed two regions of a regional faith-based, nonprofit health system in South Dakota comprised of six hospitals, multiple clinics and physician groups. He also serves as the executive lead for several system-wide initiatives, including lean initiatives, implementation of evidence-based leadership practices, support of veterans, as well as the lead of several

service lines, including orthopedics, radiology and the hospitalists.

"I am excited and honored to be named as Altru Health System's next CEO," shared Forkel. "Altru's stated vision is to deliver world-class care for those we serve. That level of commitment and high standard inspires me. I cannot wait to journey with the 3,600 Altru teammates in the continuation of making that dream a reality." Forkel earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Mary School of Business, a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration from Cal Coast University, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Northern State University and an Associate of Science in Radiology Sciences from Presentation College. Prior to his most recent role with Avera, he served in leadership roles with Essentia Health, Innovis Health and Mayo Clinic. "My family and I love everything about Altru Health System, as an organization, and the vibrancy of the Greater Grand Forks community," said Forkel. "We are excited to become part of the team and community in the near future."



BUSINESS BRIEFS

CHOI NAMED ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AT UND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

UND Completes New State-of-the-Art Memorial Union



University of North Dakota (UND) opened the doors and welcomed students, faculty, and community into its new Memorial Union, completed just in time for the start of fall semester. Located at the heart of UND's thriving campus, the new Memorial Union offers students and faculty an exciting experience in interactive gathering, both indoors and outdoors. Inside the glass-walled, two-story atrium is a day-lit environment with enhanced areas for dining, entertainment, ballroom events, student resources, and retail, along with state-of-the-art study and meeting spaces. The new study spaces range from individual pods to group spaces equipped with advanced Wi-Fi, HD Screens, white boards, and the latest in modern collaboration technology.

While WTW Architects in Pittsburgh, PA was the Architect of Record for the preliminary master planning, their team recruited the Grand Forks-based firm, JLG Architects to help capture UND's unique campus culture. Project studies spearheaded by WTW's Paul Knell in 2016 and 2017, kicked-off the project's planning, guided by

the UND facilities department, student affairs, and student leaders. Fifty-three percent of student voters agreed that a new facility was needed to provide student-focused space, upgraded technology and student services that would better meet the present and future needs of their student body.

Fostering campus engagement, the Memorial Union offers a multipurpose entertainment zone with a stage, open community stairs with built-in seating, and a jumbo HD screen. Students also have access to an expanded gaming lounge with TVs, table games, and a kick-back space for e-gamers. As an integral part of the master planning, WTW collaborated with JLG and local subconsultants to create an inviting outdoor dining terrace and patio space connected to the food court and adjacent to the Second Avenue pedestrian promenade. "The whole concept was centered around the Union being more than a building; it's a method for building community. We really wanted everyone to feel that sense of belonging in a modern building that still has the flavor of their traditional collegiate gothic architecture," said WTW's Amy Maceyko.



Academic medicine veteran Namil Choi, MBA, CPA, has been named Associate Dean for Administration and Finance and Chief Operating Officer (COO) at the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS).

Originally from South Korea, Choi is joining the SMHS from the prestigious University of Chicago's Biological Sciences Division (BSD), where he has served as Executive Director of Planning and Financial Analysis since 2017.

The COO is a key member of the SMHS senior management team and acts as a strategic partner and advisor to the Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the School, Dr. Joshua Wynne. The COO is effectively "second-in-command" to the Dean for all non-academic SMHS functions, and is responsible for the efficiency of its multi-dimensional business operations that involve four regional campuses across the state of North Dakota.

The COO also provides the leadership, management, and vision necessary to advance the SMHS's status and reputation and ensures that the School has the proper operational controls, administrative and reporting procedures, and systems in place to effectively grow the organization and to ensure financial strength and operating efficiency.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Salvation Army Thrift Store Closes Temporarily to Perform Updates and Enhancements

Grand Forks Salvation Army Thrift Store Plans Grand Reopening for Early Spring 2022

The Grand Forks Salvation Army Thrift store has been an anchor point for community resources for many years and is finally getting a much-deserved refresh. Late last month staffing and resource changes allowed The Salvation Army the opportunity to start a refresh of the local Grand Forks Thrift Store.

While the Thrift Store is closed to the community for a short time, all other Salvation Army resources are still available to the community through their University Ave offices. Services such as the food pantry, social programs, chapel and much more will not be affected by the Thrift Store updates. Major AmyJo Ferguson with The Salvation Army in Grand Forks said, "We are thrilled for the opportunity to refresh the store and have a grand reopening in 2022."

Although our closure was abrupt, it will end up being a blessing not only for our organization but the greater Grand Forks community." She continued, "We appreciate the community's support during this time and look forward to serving you again this spring."

The Grand Re-opening is set for early spring 2022. For those in need of making donations, check out The Salvation Army's Facebook page for updates on donations. For a list of The Grand Forks Salvations Army's open services during this time, contact 701-235-7335.

About The Grand Forks Salvation Army
The Grand Forks Salvation Army believes in faith put into action and making life better for others. Our services meet physical, emotional and spiritual needs to rebuild lives and create lasting change. Help is given freely and without discrimination, while preserving the individual's dignity. We're here to change lives, one at a time.

Countryside Insurance Agency, Inc NEW EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENT!!

We are pleased to announce Alex Osland will be our new Crop Insurance Underwriter/ Customer Service Representative.



Alex Osland

Alex Osland lives in Mayville, ND with her husband Derek and their two young kids. She grew up on a farm in Portland, North Dakota. Alex attended high school in Mayville then went on to NDSU for five years then headed back home to marry, start a family and farm. Working in a small chiropractic clinic for 4 years, she got to know many faces in our rural area and help a wide range of people. She's excited for new opportunities to use and expand her knowledge, grow as a person, and help people along the way. Her hobbies include reading, sewing, and watching gymnastics. She loves tractor rides with her kids and spending time with them outside and at the lake in the summers.

UpNext, replacing 1Million Cups

Local entrepreneurs will be featured on the fourth Wednesday of every month through this format to provide excitement for audience members. The focus will be

about building connections, learning something new, and creating inspiration. Through this format, attendees will be able to directly interact with the host and speakers to learn more about being a business owner. You will also be given

the opportunity to network with local business and community leaders. Quarterly, the evening installments will be more hands-on and convenient to those with busy daytime schedules.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

New Name. New Logo. Same Great Company.

HB Sound & Light has been a proud member of the Fargo and Grand



Forks regions for over 25 years. In those 25 plus years we have expanded into so much more than sound and light. In order to better communicate what we do we have decided to drop the "Sound & Light." HB has a full installation department equipped to install video systems, automated control systems, access control, security systems, noise masking, acoustical treatments, just to name a few, along with sound and lighting systems. HB also has a video department that can assist with event capture, commercials, interviews, and more.

Along with dropping the "Sound & Light" HB has developed a new slogan, "Connecting People."

This new slogan describes every aspect of our business including events, installations, and rentals. Our new website is hbconnects.com.

New staff? Business accomplishments?



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[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT](#)

American Funds Advisors. Mr. Villalon holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in business administration from Carnegie Mellon University. He currently resides in Maple Grove, MN.

Mr. Hanson previously served as Controller with the Company for over the past two decades. In his new role, Mr. Hanson will be responsible for the strategic direction and oversight of all corporate accounting functions and staff including corporate accounting, SEC and other financial reporting, corporate tax, share-based compensation, and other financial reporting matters. Mr. Hanson is a Certified Public Accountant, holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of North Dakota, and is a Graduate of the School of Banking at the University of Colorado. He currently resides in Grand Forks, ND.

"Al and Jerrod will be a dynamic team to drive our company's future growth," said President and Chief Executive Officer Katie Lorenson. "We are excited to welcome Al, who is a seasoned executive with deep analytical experience, a proven track record in corporate strategy, and a strong background in investor relations. The combination of Al's analytic expertise and Jerrod's extensive accounting knowledge will benefit both our strong financial foundation and long-term strategic growth plan."

ALERUS FINANCIAL CORPORATION NAMES NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND CHIEF ACCOUNTING OFFICER



Alan Villalon

Jerrod Hanson

Alan Villalon to join Alerus as Chief Financial Officer; Jerrod Hanson promoted to Chief Accounting Officer

Alerus Financial Corporation (Nasdaq: ALRS) (the "Company") announced today that Alan "Al" Villalon has been named Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President of the Company. Mr. Villalon replaces Katie Lorenson, who transitioned to President and Chief Executive Officer effective January 1, 2022. Additionally, Jerrod Hanson has been named Chief Accounting Officer and Senior Vice President.

Mr. Villalon is a strategic finance executive with over 25 years of experience in financial services. He most recently served as Deputy Director of Investor Relations and Senior Vice President at U.S. Bank. Prior to U.S. Bank, he spent most of his career in equity analyst research roles, including serving as a Senior Research Analyst at Thrivent Asset Management, and a Senior Research Analyst at Nuveen Asset Management/First

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA EXPEDITION LEAGUE TEAM UNVEILS NAME AND LOGO

The Expedition League's Grand Forks, North Dakota affiliate, which will begin play in May of 2022, has announced the team's name and unveiled the official logo. The team name is the Red River Pilots and the logo, designed by Eller Bonifacio of Eller Bonifacio Designs in Grand Forks, has been released. Navy Blue, Light Royal Blue, Golden Yellow, Tussock Brown, Black and White are the official team colors.



The steamboat was a major contributor to the Grand Forks region in the late 1800s and into the first decade of the 20th century. The overseer of a steamboat was called a pilot, and among the most famous steamboat pilots around Grand Forks was Alexander Griggs, who is considered the "Father of Grand Forks". The team name not only ties in with steamboats, but it

also honors the University of North Dakota's (UND) John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences. UND's flight training programs are nationally recognized and an important aspect of UND, the community and Grand Forks International Airport. The team name also fits well with the local Grand Forks Air Force Base, which makes a significant contribution to the Grand Forks community.

"We received a lot of incredible team name suggestions from our great fans", said Expedition League President Steve Wagner, "and Red River Pilots really resonated with the fans and local businesses. Thank you for all of your input into this process..."

this is your team! The logo designed by Eller is amazing and it will be really fun to see fans wear hats, shirts and apparel with this distinct and cool logo. We're excited to embark on our 2021 inaugural season and we look forward to being a part of this wonderful community for decades and decades."

Wray Wright is the new Store Leader at the Grand Forks Scheels store



Wray Wright

Wray started his new position on January 17th. He has been with Scheels for about 9 years starting as a Full-time Hardline (Hunting, Fishing, Archery, Guns area) Shop Manager. He then went into the Store Leader Candidate Program and moved to the Texas Location to help open up the new store in The Colony. From there he moved to the Overland Park Location and is now the Store Leader here! He is excited about living in Grand Forks with his family as he loves the "small town" feel.

Julie Edman, Owner of Waxing the City was the proud recipient of the Patriot Award!



Julie Edman, Sydney

This award is given to employers that support National Guardsmen and their families during deployment. "I am beyond grateful for you Sydney, and the sacrifices you have had to make during your husband's military deployment! Your nomination and loyalty to the studio mean so much to me!" Congratulations to Julie and thank you to the men and women of our military.



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Tina Neil,
Chamber Membership
& Communications
Vice President

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Brown Bag Seminar



Virtual Option Available!!

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Chamber of Commerce Board Room



Presented by:

Nancy Godon, Content Marketing Strategist/Owner, NAV Innovators

Nancy believes every business needs a comprehensive marketing strategy which includes their website, email, and social media. For over ten years, she has helped businesses take a fresh look at their marketing in order to stay at the forefront with current and prospective customers.

Nancy has a B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences and an M.S. in Geography from UND. Through the publication of *Reshaping the Tornado Belt*, a nonfiction book featuring historical research, Nancy utilized her WordPress website development, copywriting, and social media skills to market the book and launch her business. She has lived in the Red River Valley since 1987.

REGISTER HERE

In-House & Virtual = \$20/Member & \$30/Non Member (Includes Lunch)

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