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THE Voice

www.gochamber.org

Space Development Agency To open Space Operations Center at GFAFB



Pictured L to R are: Chris Long, General Dynamics Mission System attendee, Mr. Matt Barker, SDA Mission Operations Cell Chief, Col. Kalli Landry, SDA Support Cell Chief, Dr. Derek Tournear, SDA Director R – Brig Gen (Ret) Greg Bowen, Military Affairs Committee & former Space Command, Senator Hoeven, Senator Cramer, Brig Gen (Ret) Andy Armacost, President, University of North Dakota.

Pictured L to R are: Congressman Kelly Armstrong, Senator John Hoeven, Col. Jeremy Fields, GFAFB Vice Commander, Senator Kevin Cramer.

The Chamber hosted a meeting for Chamber members at Minnkota Power to learn more about the new Space Development Agency mission and \$324 million dollar investment at GFAFB.

Grand Forks Air Force Base and the City of Grand Forks are pleased to be selected as the home of the Space Development Agency's first Ground Operations and Integration (O&I) Center, serving a critical mission operating satellites that provide space-based missile warning and missile tracking and high-speed tactical data communications. **GFAFB:** Page 2

*Check out
July BAH
on page 11*

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

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Meghan Compton, Altru Health System

Kay Derry, Northern Roots Boutique

Mike Dunn, Construction Engineers

Torrie Enget, Hugo's Family Marketplace

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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

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SDA is the Department of Defense's constructive disruptor for space acquisition, delivering a proliferated constellation of satellites to support the joint warfighter using a spiral development approach that incorporates new capabilities from the commercial market every two years. On June 28, SDA officially establish its space operations center at Grand Forks Air Force Base. On June 28 The Chamber hosted a community engagement meeting with SDA's leadership to learn more about SDA's efforts in and around the base and how they will provide new opportunities for the broader community.

**Market Capture Data Supports for the need for
Destination Attractions**

The Grand Forks City Council heard proposals last month on the Grand Forks Park District master planning process. As part of the presentation the concept for a large destination style children's playground was presented by Jill Nelson, Operations and Development Director for the GF Park District. Sally Miskavige presented the concept plans for a Center for Exploration which has secured a site near Choice Health and Fitness from Altru Health System and has already raised nearly \$3 million in private contributions. Two years ago the Chamber with its partners, the City, Visit Grand Forks, EDC, and EGF EDA released data showing Grand Forks lags other Metropolitan areas in attractions and museums. The data also showed destination attractions are coming even more important in a more experienced based economy.

The private sector is stepping up with microbreweries, ax throwing, a multimillion dollar all electric indoor go cart track. Every year there are more and more things to do in our communities.

Meanwhile Grand Forks is ahead of the curve with its two major anchor venues the REA and Alerus Center. Both have massive positive economic and social impact on our community.

Joint City Council Meeting Set for July 11th

Grand Forks and East Grand Forks City Councils will meet in a much anticipated joint meeting on July 11th at 5:30 in the Grand Forks City Council Chamber.

For months the Chamber has been advocating for the coordination of major infrastructure projects. Chamber board Chair, Tommy Kenville who plans to make some comments at the meeting notes; "we have not built a bridge since 1965." The Chamber will be advocating to firm up an in town bridge corridor and the Merrifield bridge corridor along with an interchange on I-29 near 47th, at Merrifield, and a 42nd street underpass at Demers.



*Barry Wilfahrt,
Chamber President
and CEO*

This joint meeting will be a key step in firming up projects so the environment work can move forward.

Community Leaders meet with ND DOT Chamber Board Members Tommy

Chamber Board Members Tommy Kenville, Sen Curt Kreun, Dave Zavoral and Barry Wilfahrt along with representatives from Grand Forks County and the City of Grand Forks met with the ND Department of Transportation Commissioner, Bill Panos and his key staff late last month. The group reviewed a list of projects under discussion in Grand Forks and Grand Forks County.

Commissioner Panos noted there is significant money available from the Federal Government and it is critical for the City and County to take the lead on these projects so the design and environmental work is completed as funds become available over the next several years. The Chamber will continue to push local units of Government to make some decisions and move these much needed projects forward in the interest of public safety and growth.

REACH OVER 3000 MEMBERS MONTHLY

WE OFFER AFFORDABLE ADVERTISING



Each month The Chamber produces an E-Newsletter that includes **FREE LOCAL INFORMATION** submitted from our members, along with monthly Chamber news, activities and events.

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GFK Airfield Development Program

We coordinated this schedule one year in advance with the airlines so that they would not schedule flights during this time. We realize this will be a temporary inconvenience for our passengers. The intersection work (12-day closure) is the only phase of construction over the 7-year program that will result in a closure for all large aircraft. We will do everything we can to stay on this schedule, complete the proposed work for this

phase, and return the runway(s) safely to service.

The GFK Airfield Development Program will result in two new runways that can be utilized by large aircraft and lead to enhanced safety, improved efficiency, and increased capacity for the airport and its users for many years to come.

The Thunderbirds are back, and Grand Forks Air Force Base has new missions



*Barry Wilfahrt,
Chamber President
and CEO*

Bruce Gjovig

It has been 12 years since the Thunderbirds last appeared in Grand Forks. Our community is honored to host them again.

to show how much our community appreciates what they do every day to defend our country. GFAFB is home to the 319th Reconnaissance Wing, which operates the RQ-4 Global Hawk worldwide to supply intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance information to our warfighters and national leaders.

At any given time, the 319th Reconnaissance Wing is managing three RQ-4 aircraft airborne, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Our Global Hawk mission generated 26,570 flying hours and 1,304 sorties (flights) from June 1st 2020 to May 31st 2021 across the world. From a mission perspective, GFAFB is expanding.

Bruce Gjovig serves as an Air Force & Space Force civic leader to Gen. C. Q. Brown, chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force. Barry Wilfahrt is an Air Combat Command civic leader to Gen. Mark Kelly, ACC commander. In addition to these Air Force appointments, both have been members of the Base Retention & Investment Committee (BRIC) for 12 years. Wilfahrt also is the CEO of the local Chamber of Commerce

It is important for the community to know more than a third of the airmen on our base are on their first assignment in the Air Force. This is why it is extra important our community does everything we can to continue the long tradition of making them feel welcome. The Chamber's Military Affairs Committee (MAC) does this through a variety of programs and events aimed at connecting community members with our airmen. For example, during the pandemic MAC had pizza delivered to the dorms on base a couple times



NEW MEMBERS

SpotOn Transact, LLC

Rebecca Hajicek, Account Executive
2437 Pinehurst Ct NW East Grand Forks MN 56721
218-791-6138

rebeccahajicek@spoton.com

www.spoton.com

SpotOn is one of the fastest-growing software and payments companies with comprehensive, cloud-based technology for small, midsize, and enterprise businesses in the restaurant, retail, sports, education, and entertainment space. Known for its rapid innovation and industry-leading customer service, SpotOn offers integrated solutions including marketing and loyalty, website development, ecommerce, reservations and waitlisting, mobile ordering, digital payments, review management, and both retail and restaurant point-of-sale (POS) solutions. Learn how we can help your business: www.SpotOn.com

A&H Vending

Curt J Helgeson
212 Second Street NE, East Grand Forks, MN 56721
(218) 773-1192

ahvend@rrv.net

www.canteen.com/find-your-canteen/east-grand-forks/

Our East Grand Forks, MN Canteen franchise offers 24/7 service to their clients. With a wide selection of options, we offer coffee services, vending and micro-markets to the Red River Valley around East Grand Forks, MN. We make customer service a priority at our East Grand Forks branch while we service a variety of manufacturing, food processing and healthcare businesses around the area. During the busy day-to-day activities, it can be tough to find time to grab a bite to eat or snack – so we're always there to feed your associates and customers! We service Grand Forks and Drayton, ND as well as Crookston, Fertile, and Warren, MN – and no matter if you're a small business or a large corporation, we have a solution that is just right for you.

IPACE
INFORM PROMOTE ADVOCATE CONNECT EDUCATE

Your Chamber Working For You

While you are hard at work, your Chamber of Commerce is working for you. The Chamber GF/EGF is a 5-star accredited chamber. We inform, promote, advocate, connect and educate our members and community.

How can you get the elephant out of the bathtub?

Jump Start's unique challenges get you thinking outside the box to help you create effective solutions for your business!

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NORTH DAKOTA CHAMPIONS GOLF TOUR

Register for the ND Champions Golf Tour in Grand Forks

Grand Forks | Thursday, July 21



LAST CALL
one more for the road
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2022

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ALANJACKSON.COM

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

ACCESSND	German Law	Spectra Health
Anytime Fitness	Greenberg Realty - Roberta Benson	Speedway Grill & Bar
Ashley Furniture HomeStore	Greenberg Realty - Tammy Howard	State Farm - Andrew Bergee
Azurance Group	Hampton Inn & Suites	Stennes Granite & Grand Forks Memorial
Berkshire Hathaway	MyAlly Health	Sterling Carpet One Floor & Home
HomeServices Family Realty - Katie Marcotte	Nexus-PATH Family Healing	The Arc, Upper Valley
Choice Bank - 42nd Street	Premium Waters, Inc.	Tidbits of Grand Forks/EGF
Coldwell Banker - Forks Real Estate	Profile by Sanford	Tim Lord, CPA
Countrywide Sanitation	Riverside Christian School	True North Equipment
Dakota Science Center	Sanford Health 621 Demers Ave Clinic	Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing
Dan's Pest Control	Sanford Health 625 Demers Ave Clinic	White Drug Pharmacy
Eagles Club #350	Sanford Health Grand Forks Clinic	White Water Truck Wash LLC
Emerson Duty Free Shop	Shooting Star Casino	WIDSETH - EGF
Expressway Suites		
Forks Chem-Dry		
Gereszek Law Office P.L.L.C.		

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.

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Prairie Harvest Mental Health provides mental health wellbeing services to adults with mental health concerns. Prairie Harvest Mental Health has been redefining our newly designed person-centered services and is accepting referrals for the following services.

- ◆ Life Skills & Job Development
- ◆ Targeted Case Management
- ◆ Rehabilitative Services
- ◆ Community Connect Care Coordination
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Med Services—Nursing
- ◆ 1915(i) Services

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MEET THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LIGNITE
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INFORM PROMOTE ADVOCATE CONNECT EDUCATE

Your Chamber Working For You

While you are hard at work, your Chamber of Commerce is working for you. The Chamber GF/EGF is a 5-star accredited chamber. We inform, promote, advocate, connect and educate our members and community.

Ambassador Meeting

Hosted by...
The Hub

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.

June's Chamber Ambassador meeting was held at The Hub. Our presenter was Sue Shirek, Northland Rescue Mission. It was great to listen to Sue speak about the mission and the services they provide along with the needs of the community. Thank you to Sue for what you and the Northland Rescue Mission do for the community. Your services are so essential to our community.



THE Chamber

Business After Hours



..... Hosted by

First Community Credit Union

3351 32nd Ave South, Grand Forks, ND 58201

Thursday, July 14 - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

First Community Credit Union invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event!

Free Admission – Complimentary hors d'oeuvres - Drink ticket & cash bar - Great door prizes - Progressive cash drawing is at \$500.

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

Forward this message on to your friends and colleagues.

See you Thursday, July 14 at Business After Hours!

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

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Thank you to Hugo's Pure Market & An Elegant Affair for hosting an eventful June Business After Hours.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Local Grand Forks Balloon Professional chosen to create Balloon Wonderland for Wish Kids in Orlando.

Misti Kauffman, owner of Balloons by Misti has been selected as part of a talented team of international Balloon Professionals, to create a giant immersive balloon wonderland sponsored by Qualatex and using over 300,000 balloons for the Give Kids the World charity in Orlando.

As part of one of the biggest most unique projects, Kauffman, leaving her business in Grand Forks joins a select group of balloon artists in Orlando between 11th and 15th July 2022.

Using her balloon skills she has developed over the last 14 years, Kauffman will be part of the creating several fantastical themed areas such as Toyland, the Enchanted Forest and Under the Sea in an

area of nearly 30,000 sq ft, with displays towering as high as 24ft in height. All to support the critically ill children from all over the USA including North Dakota, providing the families with joyful moments that can lead to lasting memories, transforming the happiness into hope.

Pam Landwirth CEO of Give Kids the World "What an amazing event this is, Misti Kauffman is going to be part of creating many iconic pieces from our Give Kids the World Village in this gigantic balloon display ... We are so grateful for their support of 'Give Kids the World', demonstrating how the joy of balloons can also make a difference to the lives of so many."



PAUL OLSON NAMED ASSISTANT DEAN OF UND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES NORTHWEST CAMPUS IN MINOT

Paul D. Olson, a critical care and family physician

in Minot, N.D., and clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine at the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences, has been named assistant dean for the School's Northwest Campus.

UMN Crookston Announces Hiring of Jess Bengtson as Communications Specialist



Jess Bengtson

The University of Minnesota Crookston announced the hiring of Jess Bengtson as communications specialist. Bengtson will be a member of the University and Alumni Relations team under Director of University and Alumni Relations Brandy Chaffee. Bengtson joins UMN Crookston from the Crookston Times where she served as the managing editor for the newspaper.

"I'm so excited to be able to work at and for my alma mater, and with the team that comes along with it!" Bengtson stated. "It's no secret I'm deeply involved in the community and this position will allow that to continue as well as open new doors for partnerships. When I heard about the position opening I was proud to know that my previous education at UMN Crookston and my years of experience made me a qualified candidate. On to the future! Go Golden Eagles and Go Maroon and Gold!"

New staff? Business accomplishments? SHARE YOUR NEWS IN Business Briefs FREE! CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Vantis Opens Mission & Network Operations Center for Statewide UAS System

Vantis officially celebrated the grand opening of its Mission and Network Operations Center (MNOC) on Thursday at GrandSky Business and Aviation Park (GrandSky), marking a significant milestone in the development of the nation's first statewide Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) system. The MNOC serves as the command center and is integral to coordinating beyond-visual-line-of-sight (BVLOS) flight.

"This is the heart of Vantis," said Trevor Woods, executive director of the Northern Plains UAS Test Site (NPUASTS), which administers Vantis. "From this location, we have the technology to monitor and control the remote infrastructure, enabling the entire operation. The MNOC will be integral to coordinating safe, repeatable BVLOS flights

across North Dakota, and scalable to larger regions." As part of the event, representatives were on hand from Vantis, NPUASTS, Thales, the FAA, the UAS industry, and North Dakota state leaders, who have provided ongoing vision and support since authorizing its creation in 2019.

"This operations center is a prime example of how North Dakota continues to invest in technology to create opportunities for citizens and businesses and diversify our economy," said Gov. Doug Burgum. "With Vantis, we're creating a platform for entrepreneurs and innovators to develop new products and for the government and private sector to offer better services to the public. Today's grand opening further cements North Dakota as a destination for UAS operations."

Attendees were invited to tour the facilities and see a static display of UAS that are

flying on the system. Vantis signed a long-term agreement with GrandSky and began construction on the MNOC early last year. Simultaneously, Thales was selected as the Vantis system integrator and long-term partner to build out the system. Key site testing and validation flights have been occurring regularly in western North Dakota, in primary test sites near Williston and Watford City which have all been securely monitored at this MNOC. Vantis is working with partner Thales as it expands the buildout to include other areas of the state.

"Today marks a significant step towards the safe and efficient integration of drones into our airspace system," said Todd Donovan, vice president of Airspace Mobility Solutions for the Americas at Thales. "With the MNOC up and running, drones will deliver real-world economic and social benefits to North Dakota citizens, at scale."



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Xcel Energy is first in the nation to add all-electric bucket trucks to fleet

Xcel Energy is taking the next steps in its journey toward electric transportation by becoming the first energy company in the nation to add all-electric bucket trucks to its fleet. Xcel Energy crews will use these new, quiet, zero-emissions trucks as they maintain the electric system and respond to outages after storms.

"We're proud to be the first energy company in the United States to add all-electric bucket trucks to our fleet," said Bob Frenzel, chairman, president, and CEO of Xcel Energy. "By adding these clean energy vehicles to our fleet, Xcel Energy is demonstrating its commitment to leading the clean energy transition by becoming a net-zero energy provider for all our customers' energy needs – electricity, heating and transportation, while also helping shape the electrification of the truck industry, which complements our overall vision to provide 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050."

Xcel Energy was one of the first energy companies to put forward a plan to electrify all its light-duty vehicles and 30% of its medium and heavy-duty fleet by 2030. This directly supports the



company's vision to power 1.5 million electric vehicles by 2030, allowing everyone in the communities we serve to experience the benefits of electric transportation, whether they own an EV, take transit, or benefit from improved air quality.

The truck's technology is being delivered by Terex Utilities and Navistar, manufacturer of International® trucks, two years ahead of industry projections. The truck features two electric sources: one for the drive train and one for the lift mechanism. It has a 135-mile driving range and the ability to operate the bucket for a full workday on a single charge.

Xcel Energy crews will use these trucks in real working conditions during a six- to 12-month pilot. Their feedback

will help ensure the trucks become a dependable, preferred work truck, and help Xcel Energy and the industry better prepare for the electric vehicle transition. The company currently has 1,000 aerial bucket trucks in its fleet.

The vehicle was showcased on June 6 in Williamsburg, Virginia, at the Electric Utility Fleet Manager's Conference. Xcel Energy will roll out the first truck in the Twin Cities in late June. The second truck will be delivered to our Denver fleet at the end of 2022.



Ribbon Cutting

The Chamber Ambassadors would love to meet you and celebrate your business with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

If you are interested, please contact Jessica at **772-7271** or jessicat@gochamber.org to schedule a ribbon cutting event.



Listen Center



The Rock Bottle Shop

Nonstop Flights
**Grand Forks to
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Book your nonstop flight to Las Vegas for the US Hockey Hall of Fame Game before it's too late.



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NORTH DAKOTA ATHLETICS

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CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Bridging the Gap to Success

Skill sets exist in both trainable and inherent realms. This means that what you excel at is either a part of you or something you acquired. In this short session, Jeff Franck will walk us through understanding what is learnable and what is not. This is important when we address our Gap, that void of unlearned skills that we need to meet in order to achieve our goals and dreams. This impacts job and candidate selection as well as giving ourselves an accurate view of that most important person: our self.

Brown Bag Seminar  **THE Chamber**
GRAND FORKS - EAST GRAND FORKS

Wednesday, July 20 2022

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Chamber of Commerce Board Room

Presented by:

Jeff Franck

Minnkota, Corporate Staff Development

Jeff Franck is a big fan of the Chamber educational programs, and has been working in HR development for over 25 years. He has a beautiful wife and four awesome daughters that run his life ragged. Despite this, his dogs still respect him. Today, he works at Minnkota Power in Training and Development. He has lived in Grand Forks for the last 12 years, and still roots for the Gophers. Somehow, we still have retained him.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR SEMINAR

\$20/Member & \$30/Non Member (Includes Lunch)

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