

May 2022

Business Update

Chamber News

Business After Hours

Ambassador Meeting

Business Brief

New Members

Membership Renewals

Brown Bag

THE Voice

www.gochamber.org

Mayor Gander Hosts EGF State of the City



The Chamber sponsored the East Grand Forks State of City last month with a great live crowd of over 200. Mayor Gander talked about the many businesses that are growing and make EGF great. He also yielded time to Councilman Brian Larson who talked about the importance of an in town bridge and many city road projects.

Thank you Mayor Gander for hosting this event with the Chamber. Special thanks to HB Sound and Light for stepping up contributing their services to make this a first class presentation!

Thursday,
May 19, 2022
**Business
After
Hours**

See page 11 for more details.

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



The high water this spring once again reminds us that building new and upgrading our roadways is just as important than ever. The Chamber Board continues to strongly advocate for four major infrastructure projects:

1. 42nd street underpass at Demers
2. New I-29 Interchange near 47th Ave S
3. In- town Bridge connecting GF and EGF
4. Merrifield Bridge and connecting roads

Each of these projects is at one stage or another in the planning process and the 1-4 listing above also corresponds to where each is at in the overall environmental work at this point. Grand Forks City Council is taking the lead on project 1 and 2 and the NEPA (environmental assessment) is nearly complete for both projects.

A joint meeting of the two City Councils will be held in late May where the two potential in town bridge corridors will be discussed. The Chamber will be at this meeting urging the two cities to agree on a corridor and fund the NEPA (environmental) process which is a key step in getting the in town bridge built.

According to Chamber Board Chair, Tommy Kenville "with all of the Federal infrastructure money it is absolutely critical everyone cooperate and we get this work done".

Senator Johnson and Representative Kiel Support UI Insurance Relief.

The MN Legislature passed the \$2.7B Bill that refills Minnesota's depleted unemployment insurance fund and pays back more than \$1 billion the state owes the Federal Government for unemployment benefits. Johnson and Kiel have supported this legislation from day one. The money would have come from increased taxes on businesses for many years to come if the Bill had not passed.

North Dakota took similar action proactively nearly two years ago at the state of the pandemic.

This was the most important business climate victory thus far during the MN legislative session.

Candidates Forums Take on a New Look

Chamber News

With 23 candidates for 5 positions on the Grand Forks School Board each candidate has been asked to submit a short video introduction with comments on school district finances and building solutions. The videos will be posted on the Chamber You Tube Channel just before Memorial Day.



Barry Wilfahrt,
Chamber President
and CEO

Candidates for the two contested City Council seats will square off on Tuesday, May 31st at 6:30 pm in the Grand Forks City Council Chamber. Candidates for Wards 2 and 4 have been invited to participate. Government Affairs Co-Chairs, Garth Rydland, from Valley Memorial Homes and Stacey Dahl, Minnkota Power Company will moderate the forums. The public is invited to attend and questions will be taken in writing from the audience.

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.

**CLICK HERE TO
ADVERTISE!!**

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.



We are happy to say no one suffered a Shark bite at the Chamber Shark Tank event! 7 brave entrepreneurs jumped into the tank to present their business idea.

In the end, the "Sharks" announced their choice of top 3 ideas:

- 1st Place, Brace Cap LLC
- 2nd Place, Money Golf
- 3rd Place, Ben's Clean Bins

Thank you to all the contestants for braving the waters, of our Sharks, Matt Winjum, Phil Gisi, Tommy Kenville and Rachel Gornowicz. Thank you to our emcee, Amy Whitney, guest speaker, UND Student lead Dakota Venture Group, sponsors (listed below), the Empire Arts Center and guests! It was a great night!



First Place - Brace Cap LLC



Second Place - Money Golf



Third Place - Ben's Clean Bins

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Countrywide
SANITATION COMPANY

RHOMBUS GUYS
BREWING COMPANY

ALERUS

TGLOBAL Delivered by Healthy
Quintessence by Inland SA

Altru
HEALTH SYSTEM

Phil Gisi





NEW MEMBERS

Triangle Coach Service, Inc.

Dale Helms
1611 Central Ave NW
East Grand Forks MN 56721
218-773-2631

contact@trianglecoachservice.com
<http://www.trianglecoachservice.com>

Triangle Coach Service provides transportation for you and your traveling companions locally, long distance & internationally to Canada since 1921.

Triangle Coach Service's main goal of providing excellent customer service with safe, reliable buses at a reasonable rate is still in force! Every employee at Triangle prides himself or herself and strives to provide their customers with a dedication to service that, we would like to think, cannot be beat by any other transportation company out there! Therefore, as we look forward, not knowing what the future may hold with our fast paced and ever changing world, rest assured that Triangle's commitment to YOU, our customer, will never change. We will always be dedicated to making sure you will be totally satisfied with your transportation experience with us!!

Thermal Air was brought in by our Membership Drive Volunteer Brice Welch of Bremer Bank.

It All Adds Up

Tracie Hill
701-404-7955
italladdsup@me.com
<http://italladdsup.biz>

We provide professional support to businesses, through accountability, integrity, and transparency.

We provide quality, affordable, independent bookkeeping & payroll services.

As an Advanced Certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor, we have the knowledge and experience to guide your business through the setup process, as well as train you and your staff on how to best utilize QBO for your business needs. It's so simple to create professional invoices, track your payables, and even run payroll. We can guide you, assist you, or do it all for you. You

decide! Let us help you build your business accounting backbone! Give us a call today!

In-Prints Screen Printing, Inc.

Todd Palmiscno
216 17th St. NW
East Grand Forks MN 56721-1512
218-773-6449

inprints@midconetwork.com
https://www.facebook.com/inprintsEGF/?ref=page_internal

Todd Palmiscno is the owner for In-Prints Screen Printing, Inc. in East Grand Forks, MN. He opened his doors in 1992 and tucked away on the north end of town. Todd's little two-person shop really kicks out a lot of product. If you can think it, they can ink it!! From screen-printing to embroidery, they can create your next event apparel. Bring in your own design, or have our skilled artist create one for you. Give them a call today!!

Brought in by our Membership Drive Volunteer Brice Welch of Bremer Bank. Great job Brice!!

Forks Frame up

Jane Meyer
1901 DeMers Ave
Grand Forks ND 58201
701-746-7248
info@forksframeup.com
<https://forksframeup.com/>

Forks Frame Up is a locally owned and operated custom framing business. Our designers have over 30 years of framing experience. We are committed to customer service and satisfaction as well as to the creative process that results in an excellent product. We offer you choices that will enhance and preserve your project for years to come!

So you see, we have just what you need when it comes to framing what's important to you.

Stop by and we'll help you make your vision a reality!



NEW MEMBERS

Play It Again Sports

Dale McLeod
1726 S. Washington St - Suite 8
Grand Forks ND 58201
701-795-1424

piasgfbusiness@gmail.com
<https://www.playitagainsports.com/locations/grand-forks-nd>

Play It Again Sports® locations are locally owned and operated, and are focused on serving the community. We buy, sell, and trade used and new sports equipment and fitness gear and pass along the savings to you! We pride ourselves on providing exceptional customer service every day and believe that our selection of major brands and breadth of products will keep you coming back for years.

Get Cash for Your Gear and Equipment! We want your quality used sports and fitness gear. Get cash or trade for your equipment. We're currently looking for fitness, hockey, baseball, golf, football, and soccer gear.

We service what we sell at Play It Again Sports, and when it comes to fitting sports equipment, we know our stuff. Our team is trained to provide athletes with the best possible fit in the gear they need. We make sure you have the right equipment for your sport – and that it performs for you.

Red Wing Shoes

Brad McGauvran
2475 32nd Ave S - #5
Grand Forks ND 58201
701-772-4641

rss471@redwingshoes.com
<https://stores.redwing.com/grand-forks-nd>

The Ultimate Fit Experience™ is at your local Red Wing Store. Years of innovation have led to an experience that gets you in the perfect pair of work boots. When you step into the store, the whole experience is engineered and built for one person—you. Your Red Wing Ultimate Fit Specialist will help you build a fit system tailored to your specific needs to keep you supported, comfortable and safe—all day, every day.

We also offer comprehensive care after your boot purchase, including complimentary oiling and lace replacement for as long as you own your footwear, plus convenient access to minor and major shoe repair.

To learn more about the Ultimate Fit Experience™, visit us today!

Sweet 3 Boutique

Laura Dahlen Jessica Ford
2520 S. Washington St. - Suite C
Grand Forks ND 58201
402-708-7430

sweet3boutique@gmail.com
<http://www.sweet3boutique.com/>

We believe every woman should love the way she feels in her clothes without hating the process. We are busy moms too. We juggle kids, careers, and, laundry baskets. And the shopping experience you dream of is exactly what we wanted.

We've made shopping really simple. You can shop our website where there are tons of great styles to choose from. Or, to get the most from Sweet 3, join our online community. That's where you get to choose your color and size on exclusive deals so you're guaranteed to get exactly what you want. You'll also get to see how the clothes fit on real bodies, not just the airbrushed super models. Plus you'll meet Jess, Laura, and the whole Sweet 3 team. They will take great care of you and get to know your style and preferences over time. So leave the chaos of rushing through stores and crazy online return policies behind.

Blue Line Custom Detailing

Vanessa Lyn Richter
2575 N 42nd St
Grand Forks, ND 58203
701-302-0567

bluelinecustomdetailing@gmail.com
<http://bluelinecustomdetailing.com>

Blue Line Custom Detailing can promise you we take working for our customers seriously and do not take shortcuts to save time. NO MATTER WHAT! If you want a detail done right, Blue Line Custom Detailing is the place for you! Quality Professional Work is worth the extra cost. Blue Line Custom Detailing specializes in automobiles, semis, aviation, motorcycles, boats, RV's, etc. If you're in the market to sell your used vehicle and want the most bang for your buck, bring your vehicle to Blue Line Custom Detailing. We can take care of the details inside and out. We can make your car look brand new again. We are proud of what we do and it shows.



We're Here for You

With comprehensive home, auto, commercial, and life and health policies for protection and peace of mind, Bell Insurance stands out from the crowd with coverage options in *your* best interest – always.



bell.insurance

4303 S. Columbia Rd. Suite 103
Grand Forks, N.D.

Bell Insurance Services, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bell Bank. Products and services offered through Bell Insurance are: Not FDIC Insured | No Bank Guarantee | May Lose Value | Not A Deposit | Not Insured by Any Federal Government Agency



ADVERTISE TODAY
(218) 779-9416
STACEY@ICON-SPORTSMARKETING.COM

UND NIGHT @ TARGET FIELD

June 24, 2022

GET YOUR TICKETS



UND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION LEADERS IN ACTION



HANKJR.COM

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

Academy of Kids Childcare Center
Achieve Therapy & Fitness
Ameriprise Financial - Ethan Hodnefield
Amundson, Roger D.D.S.
BNSF Railway Company
Bon Voyage Travel Leaders
Connecting Point
CORE Property Group
DakMinn Technologies
Daydreams Specialities
Delta Dental of Minnesota
Dusterhoft Family Stores
Edgewood Healthcare, LLC
Epic Companies
Fergus Falls Granite Inc.
Ferguson Books & More!
Firehouse Subs
Forks Frame up
Frandsen Bank & Trust - S. Wash
Grand Forks Best Source
Grand Forks Clinic

H & R Block - S. Washington
Handy Law Group PLLC
Hugo's Wine & Spirits - 32nd
Hugo's Wine & Spirits - Columbia Rd
Lori's Pet Sitting Service
Mo's Cafe
NextHome Legendary Properties
Northern Plains UAS Test Site
Northern Valley Youth Orchestras
Pro Transport & Leasing, Inc.
ReadiTech IT Solutions
River Cities Speedway
RiverView Clinic
Rydell Honda Nissan of Grand Forks
Simply Boutique
Steve Christian Insurance Professional
TIAA-Scott Roche
Tim Shea's Nursery, Inc.
Transystems
Wells Fargo Bank - Columbia Rd



Rags For Sale

The Home Place Thrift Store has 2-pound bags of recycled rags for sale for only \$5!



Do you have a cleaning business? Maybe you like to paint or refurbish furniture? Save some money and buy a bag of cotton rags at The Home Place Thrift Store. You will be helping the environment, helping Prairie Harvest Mental Health serve the community and save money while doing it!!

Life is enjoying what you love



What do you live for?

Success is about progress and is founded on hard work. First International Bank & Trust can bear some of the load, taking the work out of managing your accounts. Our experts can custom tailor banking solutions to best suit your operations, so you can get back to business.

BANKING | MORTGAGE | INSURANCE* | TRUST & INVESTMENTS*



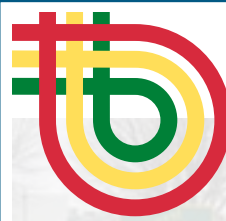
FIBT.com

Member FDIC



0274_3-21

*Not FDIC or any federal agency insured | No bank guarantee | May lose value



Elite Steering Driving School

Services:

- Behind-the-Wheel Training
- Driver Education Classroom
- Permit Study Course

Immediate Lesson Feedback



Road Test Waiver APPROVED!

SAND STEEL BUILDING CO.

Emerado, ND
701-594-4435
www.sandsteelbuilding.com

Metal Building Construction
Steel Fabrication
Millwright Services



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.

Ambassador Meeting

Hosted by...
The Spud Jr.

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.

April's Chamber Ambassador meeting was held at the Spud Jr. in their Prohibition Room. Our commercial presenters were Emberly Lietz from CVIC and Dee Decimus from All Embracing Home Care. It was great to listen to what these two women had to say about the businesses they represent. Thank you to both Emberly and Dee for what they do for the community. Your services are so essential to our community.



We would like to thank our volunteers for the month of April!

- *Emberly Lietz*
- *Shaun Havis*
- *Valeria Becker*
- *Stacey Brorson*
- *Amanda Rengstorf*
- *Dee Skjold*
- *Lisa Morgan*
- *Kathy Snider*



Membership Drive Participants

- *Dee Skjold*
- *Amanda Rengstorf*
- *Valeria Becker*
- *Caleb Schoonover*
- *Stacey Brorson*
- *Nicole Kringstad*
- *Kathy Reiser*
- *Aaron Horak*
- *Craig Ventzke*
- *Dee Decimus*
- *Emberly Lietz*
- *Mike Sojka*
- *Kathy Snider*
- *Maggie Brockling*
- *Adrian Cummings*
- *Linda Bedard*
- *Jenny Kuhns*
- *Shaun Havis*
- *Angie Belbas*
- *Julie Olien*
- *Chelse Kippley*
- *Jenny Brandon*
- *Traie Dockter*
- *Andrew Bergee*



THE Chamber Business After Hours



..... Hosted by

Rydell Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac

2700 South Washington St., Grand Forks, ND 58201

Thursday, May 19 - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

Rydell Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac 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, May 19th at Business After Hours!*

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

.....
Thank you to Rhombus Brew Pub for hosting an eventful March Business After Hours.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ahlstrom Joins EDC Staff



Ron Ahlstrom

Ahlstrom Joins EDC Staff
Ron Ahlstrom has joined the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation (EDC) as its Unmanned and Autonomous (UAS) sector developer

Ahlstrom will execute strategies to support primary sector business recruitment and expansion in the Grand Forks, N.D. region in the aerospace sector, primarily focused on unmanned and autonomous systems and associated technology development. He will lead EDC initiatives to foster collaboration among industry partners and provide resources and expertise to engage with stakeholders and capitalize on new opportunities for industry development.

EDC President & CEO Keith Lund said, "We are very excited to welcome Ron to the EDC. His background in the Air Force, leadership skills, and passion for the UAS sector will allow him to easily adapt to his role and have an immediate impact on expanding UAS sector and associated technology business in the region."

Ahlstrom recently retired from the U.S. Airforce after 26 years as an aircraft and logistics supply chain manager. During that time, he worked with multiple countries on behalf of the U.S. government to establish and develop partnerships in Africa, Europe, Central America, Japan, and the Middle East. Ahlstrom is originally from Colorado Springs, Colorado.

DCN employees earn Ethernet certification

Eleven DCN employees recently earned MEF Carrier Ethernet Certified Professional (CECP) certification following a week of intensive training and successful exam completion.

CECP is a vendor neutral, technical certification recognizing carrier Ethernet expertise in professionals from a cross section of job functions. The certification is valid for three years and is recognized industry wide as the highest standard for carrier Ethernet professionals. The following DCN team members were certified or recertified (* indicates recertification):

- Mark Aslakson, wholesale sales manager
- Sheldon Dacar, Ethernet/IP technician I
- Todd Domres, manager of Owners and government relations
- Jennifer Guthmiller, commercial sales manager
- David Malsam, Ethernet/IP technician II



Front Row: L to R: Aparna Subramanian, Tara Taylor, Barb Pfeifer
Back row: L to R: Jennifer Guthmiller, Todd Domres, Jody Sommer, Tim Paulson, David Malsam, Branden Rasmussen
Not pictured: Mark Aslakson, Sheldon Dacar

- Tim Paulson, Ethernet/IP engineer
- Barb Pfeifer, Ethernet/IP technician I
- Branden Rasmussen, cloud services specialist
- Jody Sommer, Ethernet/IP technician II
- Aparna Subramanian, information systems manager
- Tara Taylor, application analyst

"Employee education and training are vital, especially in the ever-changing technology field," says DCN CEO Seth Arndorfer. "CECP certification is crucial when working with carrier Ethernet and this shows that our team has the expertise to develop and deliver dynamic services to DCN's customers. We are proud to have this many subject matter experts on our team who are dedicated to providing customers with services tailored to their specific needs."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

U of M Crookston's NACTA team brings home Four Year Sweepstakes Division Runner Up

The University of Minnesota Crookston team competing at the annual North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) brought home the four-year Sweepstakes Division Runner Up. This year's competition was held in North Platte, Neb. at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, March 30 - April 2.

Participating NACTA Team individuals include:

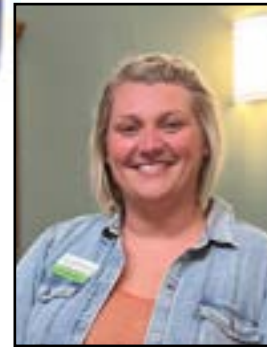
Adam Lange, agronomy senior, Deer Creek, Minn. Alissa Sharp, agronomy junior, Hamilton, N.D., Ally Eblen, equine business management senior, Belgrade, Minn., Alyssa Anway, equine science management senior, Hager City, Wis., Ashley May, equine science management senior, Dell Rapids, S.D., Beau Spilde, ag business senior, Halma, Minn., Ben Olander, agronomy senior, Staples, Minn., Charley Walsh, ag business senior, Park Rapids, Minn., Elaina Knott, ag education senior, Thief River Falls, Minn., John Heuchert, ag systems management senior, St. Thomas, N.D., Kaitlyn Rux, animal science sophomore, Hawley, Minn., Katie Orth, animal science senior, Randall, Minn., Laney Swiers, ag education junior, Mahnomon, Minn., Logan Kettner, ag education senior, Mahnomon, Minn., Luke Trandem,

agronomy senior, Crookston, Minn., Nicole Schilling, animal science senior, Fort Ripley, Minn., Peyton Loss, ag business senior, Brainerd, Minn., Sam McGregor, natural resources senior, Hastings, Minn., Savea Zimmerman, equine science senior, Little Falls, Minn., Steve Murray, agronomy junior, Karlstad, Minn., Tiara Malakowsky, ag education junior, Hartland, Minn., Tristen Norenberg, ag systems management senior, Fergus Falls, Minn., Veronica Schwartz, ag education senior, Parkers Prairie, Minn. and Student Co-Chairs Arica Caughey, ag education junior, Brainerd, Minn., Melissa Hammer animal science junior, Aldrich, Minn.

The following teams placed: ag business placed third; ag computers first place; dairy judging first place; equine management first place; horticulture first place; livestock management second place.

Individuals high placing: ag computers, Alissa Sharp third, Tristen Norenberg third, Beau Spilde fourth; ag mechanics John Heuchert first; dairy judging Veronica Schwartz second, Melissa Hammer third; equine management Ally Eblen second, Katie Orth third, Savea Zimmerman fourth, Alyssa Anway fifth; horticulture Tiara Malakowsky second, Elaina Knott third; livestock management Melissa Hammer third, Sam McGregor fifth.

Amber Hahn is the Life Enrichment Director at Edgewood!



Amber Hahn

Amber joined Edgewood just a few months ago and has already jumped into her new role, making a difference in both the mental and physical health of our residents.

"Activities is my passion and I LOVE working with seniors, which is why I chose Edgewood. I am so excited to be a leader in this brand new building and start fresh with exciting ideas, enriching the lives of the most wonderful people moving in. I want every resident and family member to say one of the many reasons they chose Edgewood is because of how FUN it is!"

Amber says her FAVORITE thing to get to know about our residents is what career(s) that had throughout their life!

**New staff?
Business
accomplishments?**

**SHARE YOUR NEWS
IN Business
Briefs FREE!**

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT](#)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

North Dakota utilizes UAS network to assist storm recovery efforts with drones

After another round of severe weather brought blizzard conditions, heavy snow and ice to western North Dakota this past weekend, the state has enlisted unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) technologies to help restore services to residents and assist recovery efforts, Gov. Doug Burgum announced today in a joint release with the Northern Plains UAS Test Site (NPUASTS).

North Dakota mobilized UAS to survey rural areas, locating and assessing damage to utility infrastructure, and to help prioritize resources for repairs and recovery.

The remote-pilot-operated drones, flown by ISight Drone Services and the NPUASTS, are able to operate beyond-visual-line-of-sight (BVLOS) flights as part of the state's creation and implementation of Vantis, North Dakota's UAS network. The UAS flights have been supported and monitored through Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and officials.

"North Dakotans are known for their innovation and resilience," Burgum said. "In difficult times like this, our citizens and neighbors come together to find new solutions to challenging problems. We're leveraging the investment the state has made in this UAS infrastructure to help workers identify damage



and repair ground-based infrastructure. Utilizing our strength in aviation will help citizens and communities on the ground."

The drones are assisting members of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, complementing efforts with manned aircraft utilized by Montana-Dakota Utilities. As crews work around the clock to restore power, it's estimated that some western and northwest parts of the state will not regain service for days or weeks. After coordinating with the FAA, flights began Tuesday, April 26.

"This is one of the primary applications we envisioned in creating this UAS network," said Trevor Woods, NPUASTS executive director. "We hope this nimble response can help the state's residents in getting life-saving power restored, and benefit areas and businesses affected by the natural disaster. For such a massive undertaking in fixing lines and infrastructure, we know that locating damage in difficult-to-travel-to areas saves time and assets that can't afford to be wasted."

The NPUASTS, one of seven FAA test sites, has been assisting UAS testing for nearly a decade, and has been a leading research facility in the United States. It has been building out Vantis, the state's BVLOS network that it administers, since the initial state investment in 2019. Vantis' primary test sites in the Williston and Watford City areas are in close proximity to the regions most heavily affected by the storms.

"We're proud to be part of a team that is helping North Dakotans in a significant and tangible way," said ISight CEO Tommy Kenville. "These flights highlight the real-world applications for drones and how critical they will be for services going forward."

ISight and NPUASTS have also offered to help livestock producers to assess fence lines, do cattle counts and provide imagery of their property in the wake of storm damage. The spring blizzards come at calving season for many ranchers, meaning an added economic vulnerability for these businesses.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

UMN Crookston Lecturer Rutherford Johnson Honored with Regional ACBSP Teaching Excellence Award



Rutherford Johnson

University of Minnesota Crookston Business Department Lecturer Rutherford Johnson, Ph.D., was awarded the Accreditation

Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Teaching Excellence Award for region four.

Built on the significance of the classroom teacher to the mission of degree-granting institutions, the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Teaching Excellence Award is an annual award that recognizes individuals each year who exemplify teaching excellence in the classroom. One recipient is chosen from among associate degree institution applicants, and one from among all baccalaureate/graduate degree institution applicants within each of the eleven ACBSP regions around the world. The selection process evaluates nominees based on a series of criteria, teaching philosophy, and recommendation from university administration. In the summer, one recipient will be selected for the international award. ACBSP is the only specialized accrediting body for business schools that presents an award recognizing excellence in teaching that is open to the entire membership.

All Embracing Home Care Welcomes Tina Neil as the New Director of Education/Marketing



Tina Neil

Tina will join our team at All Embracing Home Care. As Director of Education/Marketing Tina will be responsible for tracking the education process of the Care Mangers. With her knowledge and strong organizational skills, she will definitely be an asset to our team. Tina also brings 25+ years of marketing experience. With that experience we will be developing our brand strategy and promote our business, team members and

clients.

We pride ourselves on "Lovin' on Your Loved Ones." As the needs of our community grows, so do we. We help persons of all ages live as independently as possible, without compromising their health and safety. We are a professional in-home care company servicing the Red River Valley, and we specialize in providing customized non-medical care of senior citizens and individuals with special needs. Our goal is to enable our clients to live comfortably in surroundings, which are familiar to them. To find out more information about All Embracing Home Care, visit: allembreacing-homecare.com or give them a call today: 701-330-8373.

Alerus Promotes Joe Miedema



Joe Miedema

Alerus is pleased to announce it has promoted Joe Miedema to lead financial advisor. In this role, he will be responsible for Alerus'

Northern Valley financial advisor team, in addition to working directly with clients to help them meet their complex and unique long-term financial objectives.

and has nearly 20 years of financial industry experience, specializing in investment management, retirement planning, estate planning, and trust administration. He holds Series 7 and Series 66 securities licenses and a Chartered Financial Consultant designation from the American College of Financial Services. He also holds the American Bankers Association Certified Trust and Financial Advisor designation. He currently serves on the Grand Forks Foundation for Education board of directors and is active with Grand Forks Youth Baseball as a board director and volunteer coach.

Miedema joined Alerus in 2015

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 Tina at **772-7271** or info@gochamber.org to schedule a ribbon cutting event.



Chapter Aesthetics



Alzheimers Association



Affairs by Brittany

I **P** **A** **C** **E**

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!

Sign up to learn more about Jump Start!



Nonstop Flights

Grand Forks to Las Vegas

allegiant.com

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

GFK Grand Forks International Airport | **OFFICIAL AIRPORT OF NORTH DAKOTA ATHLETICS**

[Learn More](#)

Brainstorming Road Map



BUSINESS PLANNING

The thought of writing a business plan can sometimes be daunting. There is so much to cover and a ton of research that needs to take place. So where do you start? Let us break it down into small manageable chunks before you write complete comprehensive thorough paragraphs.

Wendy Klug, VBOC of the Dakotas Director, will lead attendees through a bubble chart approach and discuss

simple research tricks that will help you lay the foundation for key categories of the business plan. From these methods, you will be ready to take the next step and transform your brainstorming session information to sections of a full business plan with ease. This session can be helpful to those looking to start a business as well as helping current business owners analyze what is working and areas for improvement.



Brown Bag Seminar

THE Chamber
GRAND FORKS - EAST GRAND FORKS

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

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



Presented by:

Wendy Klug

Program Director, Veterans Business Outreach Center of the Dakotas

Wendy Klug is the Veterans Business Outreach Center Director which serves both North Dakota and South Dakota. She provides entrepreneurial focused training workshops both on and off installations that teach key concepts for starting, running, and operating a small business. Wendy also provides no-cost advising, webinars, and subject specific workshops tailored around a community or client's interests and needs. She specializes in creating workshops and events that are interesting, upbeat, and filled with vital information. Wendy has a creative knack that allows her to assist with marketing, social

media, and other business aspects that involve creative thinking. She brings 15 plus years of teaching, over 10 years of small business ownership, and more than 5 years of small business consulting to this program. Klug holds a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of North Dakota.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR SEMINAR](#)

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

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



June 2, 2022 - Valley Golf Course

GOLF

The Chamber, Insure Forward and Bank Forward invite you to get your business on the course!

June 2, 2022
Valley Golf Course
East Grand Forks, MN

This popular golf tournament has a history of filling up fast and sponsors have the first opportunity for golfers. Sponsorships are available on a first come-first serve basis and are available now!



Email or Call Kim today: 701-772-7271 or kimberlys@gochamber.org



Thank You

Over 30 volunteers participated
The Chamber's Annual
Spring Membership Draft
March 21th-April 8th!



Each team had a great time "drafting" 15 prospects at our Kick-Off Party. Our teams are reached out to these non-chamber member businesses during the Chamber's Annual Spring Membership Draft.



Thank you to our volunteers & sponsors!

Probitas Promotions
Black Widow Cafe
Bremer Bank
S & S Promotional Group, Inc.
Ground Round Grill & Bar
Hugo's Retail Support Center
Joe Black's

Tesoro
Dairy Queen-Northend
Playt!
Power Plate Meals
Ramada Inn
SCORE - Grand Forks
Merry Maids

Speedway Grill & Bar
True Healing Massage
UND Athletics Department
Widman's Candy
Northern Roots
Opticare