

THE Voice

Official Publication of Grand Forks - East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce

Vol 8 Issue 1

January 2012

Please Join Us..... 2012 Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting & Dinner

Thursday, January 12, 2012
Alerus Center

5:30pm
Social & Silent Auction

6:30pm
Dinner

7:15pm
Guest Speaker & Program

8:15pm
Introduction of Henry Havig Award Winner

Check our website, www.gochamber.org, for a listing of auction items



Featured guest speaker:

Dale Brown

Legendary basketball coach,
motivational speaker, author and
North Dakota native.

Presented by:



Tickets: \$50/person -or- Table of 8 for \$360
Menu:
Harvest Salad ~ New York Strip with Mushroom
Red Wine Sauce ~ Wild Rice Blend ~ Honey Glazed
Baby Carrots ~ Raspberry Chocolate Mousse



Presenting Sponsor:



Corporate Sponsors:



Business Sponsors:



American Federal Bank - Gate City Bank - GF Region EDC - PS Doors -
Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing

Reservations are required. For reservations, contact The Chamber at 772-7271,
info@gochamber.org or online at www.gochamber.org.

Reservation deadline is January 6th, 2012

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

Coming Up With The Chamber

January 12
Chamber Annual Dinner

January 26
Chamber Open House

February 22
Mayor's State of the City

**Last day to RSVP
for the Annual
Dinner/Meeting
is Friday, January
6th**

Mission Statement

"The Chamber of Commerce
creates an environment
that encourages business
success while enhancing the
quality of life in our region."

202 N. 3rd Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203
PO Box 315
East Grand Forks, MN 56721
(701)772-7271
(701)772-9238 Fax
info@gochamber.org
www.gochamber.org

Officers

Chair: Chris Semrau

Ralph Engelstad Arena

Chair-Elect: Jeff Wilson

Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning
Plumbing

Past Chair: Jim Galloway

JLG Architects

Secretary: Bryan Lee

Gateway Storage

Jeff Westrem

Hugo's Family Marketplace

Chris Wolf

Alerus Financial

Barry Wilfahrt

The Chamber - GF/EGF

Directors

Craig Amiot - 5 Star Collision

Bill Burga - LM Windpower

Colin Cutler - Bold Method LLC

Torrie Enget - Best Buy

Ron Galstad - Galstad, Jensen, Olson PA

Brady Hansen- Verizon Wireless, BeMobile, Inc.

Brian Johnson - Choice Financial

Phyllis Johnson- UND

Jay Kleven - EAPC Architects

Curt Kreun - GF City Council

Kristi Magnuson-Nelson - Hugo's Wine & Spirits

Dennis Reinsour - Altru Health System

Brian Rydell - Rydell Auto Center

Klaus Thiessen - GF Regional EDC

Coleen Tweten - Midcontinent Comm.

Matt Winjum - Rhombus Guys

Sr. Military Advisor to the Board

Colonel Tim Bush - GFAFB

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Finance Director

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Kelly Useldinger

Administrative Assistant

info@gochamber.org

Audrey Lind

Project Assistant

**Community Visioning
Moving Forward**

While the Steering Committee has not met recently the facilitation team of Rick Duquette, Judi Paukert, Barry Wilfahrt, Kristi Mishler, Joyce Hagen, Tyrone Grandstrand and Amanda Bentow have been very active.

Grants: We have now received two grants: As previously reported we received a \$17,000 Knight Foundation Grant. We have also been awarded a \$75,700 Bremer



Grant which is what the team has been working on for the past several months. This grant will assist us in taking community engagement in the community visioning process to a whole new level; involving segments of our population typically excluded from community visioning processes.

Process:

Phase I – Input Gathering. Using the Knight funding more than 70 groups and ten broad interest areas have been identified from social offerings to openness (see attached overview and 10 category definitions) The first 3 of the 14-16 planned input meetings have been held and have been a huge success with over 50 people participating and offering thoughtful input. The balance of these meetings are scheduled on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday's in January from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. (see attached schedule). This phase will wrap up in early February. This first phase also uses the Knight Foundation/ Gallup Organization research as baseline data. Please see the attached 5 minute video on the Soul of the Community Project conducted by Knight.

Phase II – Community Conversations and Electronic Community Engagement

– From the information gathered in Phase I community conversations will be framed to secure further input through additional meetings and through electronic means. From a timetable perspective we anticipate wrapping this up late summer.

Final Report and Action Steps. The final report and recommended action steps will be produced in Fall of 2012. We also anticipate some recommended follow-up steps and a follow-up process to ensure the vision plan is implemented.

Chamber Open House

The Chamber remodeling project is nearly completed and we want to show it off. All

chamber members are invited to an open house on **January 26 from 4:30pm to 6pm** to see the many improvements that have been made to the chamber offices and conference room. Special thanks to the many chamber members who contributed close to \$50,000 toward this major project.

BGEA and Board Programs Announced

The Chamber Board and BGEA (Business Government Education Alliance) will be hosting two guest programs in January and February.

First, in January the Grand Forks Park District will make a presentation at both meetings on two planned sheets of ice in a new hockey facility on the Choice Health and Fitness campus. The project would position Grand Forks to be the youth hockey tournament leader in the region.

In February The MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) will present on future transportation plans including Columbia road repair and expansion, Washington street overpass and access issues along with long range plans like another bridge over the Red River at the Merfield road and also a potential new interchange on the interstate.

The BGEA meetings are open to all chamber members and the January meeting will be on the 11th and the February meeting will be on February 8th. Both meetings will start at 7:30 a.m. and be held at the Chamber office.

Catfish Days Makes Changes

Responding to new invasive species laws in both states the CATS Incredible fishing tournament will be an all Minnesota tournament with all teams launching from LaFave Park in East Grand Forks, MN in 2012. The field will also be reduced to from 150 teams to 125 teams. In the past few years 50 teams launched from the ND ramp near The ND Mill in Grand Forks and 100 teams launched from LaFave Park in East Grand Forks. Regulations in both states now prohibit fish transportation across state lines despite being released into the same body of water. The committee respects and takes the invasive species threat very seriously and decided to make the changes so the tournament can be a role model.

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The new approach will allow the committee to put all of its focus on the LaFave Landing site, streamline the logistics of the tournament and continue the long tradition of offering the best Catfish tournament anywhere.

The committee also welcomes back two former chairmen of the tournament as 2012 cochairs – Tom Stennes and Tom McDonald. Both have chaired the tournament individually multiple times and everyone involved in the tournament is excited about the 2012 event. The committee is also excited to have Cabalas back for its 10th year as tournament sponsor.

Havig Award Recipient Selected

The Henry Havig Committee, made up of former Havig Award winners, has made it's selection for 2011. The award winner will be announced at the Chamber Annual meeting on January 12th, 2012 at the Alerus Center.

The Henry Havig Award is named after long time Grand Forks Businessman and volunteer Henry Havig. It is the Chamber's highest award and recognizes individuals for a lifetime of volunteer service and leadership in the community.

Retail Opportunities Subject of Entrepreneur Forum

Chas Stoker from the Buxton Retail Analytics firm in Fort Worth, Texas will be the featured speaker at the Entrepreneurship Forum for anyone interested in opening a business. Chas will highlight potential business opportunities in the region. Anyone interested in opening a business should attend to find out what businesses should work in our area based on consumer analytic data. Representatives from the Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Center, UND Entrepreneurship and Center For Innovation Programs and Chamber staff will also be part of the program.

The event will be on January 25th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Idea Lab at the Center For Innovation.

Come Share in Western ND Opportunities

All chamber members doing business in Western North Dakota are invited to attend one of two meetings being held the first week in January. Chamber President Barry Wilfahrt and EDC President Klaus Thiesen will facilitate a discussion on potential cooperative efforts to make doing business in Western North Dakota easier for all of us.

With over 50 local businesses operating in Western ND at some level, we are hopeful we can identify ways for all of us to do business more efficiently and cost effectively in Western ND through potential cooperation and resource sharing. Two identical sessions will run from **7:30am to approximately 8:45am on January 4th and 6th in the Chamber conference room.** Come join in the discussion.

BRIDGING THE FINANCING GAP

Sometimes projects need a boost when trying to cross over from concept to reality. AE2S Nexus helps bridge that gap. We focus on creating solid plans, aggressively pursuing funding options, and assisting you with implementation to make sure your project is on solid ground.

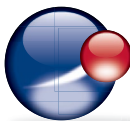
SERVICES

- Utility Rate Analysis
- Funding/Financing
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- Economic Development
- Asset Management

AE2S

NEXUS

The Financial Link



A Division of AE2S (Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.)
Registered Financial Advisor

www.AE2SNexus.com



Welcome New Members

Advanced Drainage Systems

Joe Balestri
16234 13th Street NE Suite. 2
Buxton, ND 58218
www.ads-pipe.com
joe.balestri@ads-pipe.com
701-847-3111

University of Phoenix-Military Division

Lori Thompson
7890 2nd Street North
Moorhead, MN 56560
www.phoenix.edu/mil
lori.thompson@phoenix.edu
701-620-9422

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Pizza Ranch

The Ambassadors helped welcome new restaurant and new Chamber Member, Pizza Ranch, with a ribbon cutting.



AE2S

The Ambassadors took part, with a ribbon cutting, in the open house at AE2S/ICON's new building on 42nd St.

Thank You For Renewing Your Membership

The following businesses know the value of their Chamber Membership and have renewed their membership in The Chamber - GF/EGF. Please visit them for your purchasing needs.

1st Liberty Federal Credit Union
1st Liberty Federal Credit Union
4th Street Eatery
5-Star Collision & Glass Center
AAA Quality Cleaners
Achieve Therapy & Fitness
ACME Tools
Advanced Business Methods
Affinity Builders, LLC
Ag Country
AgriData, Inc.
Agri-Valley
Alerus Financial
Altru Health Foundation
Altru Health System-Hospital
Altru Home Services
Amazon.com
American Federal Bank-EGF
American Federal Bank-GF
American Tire South
Amundson Family Funeral Home, Inc.
Anderson Steel Erection & Crane
Anne Carlsen Center community Services
Aqua Pure Water Solutions
Artwise
Barb Lander
Bergstrom Electric
Biliske Group
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C.
Bremer Bank
Britton Transport
Brown Corporations
Business Essentials
C.L. Linfoot Company
Cambridge Property Management



ICON Architectural Group

The Ambassadors took part, with a ribbon cutting, in the open house at AE2S/ICON's new building on 42nd St.

Membership Renewals Continued

Cancer Center of North Dakota
 Cellular Communications
 Cenex - Gateway Drive
 Charles Bridgeford, DDS
 Cheryl Tupa
 Chiro RX, Ltd.
 City of East Grand Forks
 C'Mon Inn
 Columbia Mall
 Comfort Keepers
 Commercial Printing/Morgan Printing, Inc.
 Community Foundation of GF, EGF
 Community Options
 Community Safety Net
 Construction Engineers
 Country Inn & Suites
 Countrywide Sanitation
 CPS, Ltd. Engineering/Land Surveying
 Culinex
 Culver's of Grand Forks
 Custom Stripes
 D.J. Burris Quality Carpet Cleaning
 Dahl Funeral Home
 Dakota Carrier Network
 Dakota Sales/Budweiser
 Dakota Supply Group
 Dakotas Chapter NECA
 Dance, Etc.
 Daydreams Specialties, LLC
 Demers Dental-Chelsea Erickson
 Demers Dental-Dr. Paul Stadem
 Docu-Shred, Inc.
 Drummer's Diesel, Inc.
 Eagle Electric, Inc.
 EAPC Architects Engineers
 Ecolab, Inc.
 Economic Development Housing Authority
 Edgewood Vista-EGF
 Edward Jones-Justin Johnson
 EGF Blue Line Club
 EGF Rod & Gun Club
 El Roco Nightclub & Bottle Shop
 Enbridge Pipeline
 Face and Jaw Surgery Center
 Farmers National Company
 Farnes Insurance Group - George Wogaman
 First church of God
 First Class Mortgage
 Forks Lath & Plaster
 Forum Communications Printing
 Forx Rental & Mini Stor-All
 G.W. & Sons Construction, Inc.
 Games Galore
 GF Abstract & Title Company
 GF Board of Realtors
 GF Public Schools
 GF Region Economic Development Corporation
 GFK Regional Airport Authority
 Girl Scouts - Dakota Horizons
 Good Samaritan Society Heritage Grove
 Gowan Construction
 Grand Forks Fire Equipment
 Grand Forks Senior Center
 Greenberg Realty - Rita Schuster
 Greg Gerloff
 Hanson-Maves Company (Bekins)
 Happy Harry's Bottle Shops
 Happy Harry's Bottle Shops (2)
 Heritage Highland I
 Heritage Highland II
 Heyer Engineering, PC
 Hjelmsstad Insurance
 Holiday Inn Express
 Holy Family/St. Mary's School
 Home of Economy
 Home Place Thrift Store
 Hugo's #8
 Hugo's Wine & Spirits (32nd Ave)
 Hugo's Wine & Spirits (Columbia Rd.)
 IMM
 Independent School District #595
 Innes Construction Company
 Innovative Products
 InvisiMax
 J & G Landscaping
 J.R. Simplot
 James O'Connell, DDS
 James S. McDonald, DDS
 Jenny Craig Weight Loss Centre
 Job Service North Dakota
 Joe Black's
 JTC, Inc.
 Kadmas, Lee & Jackson, Inc
 Karl's TV and Appliance
 Keith Danks Jr.
 Keith's Security World
 Kelly Services
 Kentucky Fried Chicken
 L & M Meats & Sausage
 Lakeview Inn & Suites
 Lander Limited Partnership
 Laser Systems
 Liberty Tax Service
 Lifetime Vision Center
 Lind Electric
 Lutheran Social Services
 Maple View Memory Care
 Mayo Manufacturing
 McDonalds Gateway Drive
 McDonalds South Washington
 McFarlane
 McKenna & Associates, P.C.
 McKinnon Company
 Merry Maids
 Midwest Coca-Cola of Grand Forks
 Minn-Dak Growers
 Minnkota Enviro Services Inc.
 Modern Auto Body
 Muddy Rivers
 National/Alamo Car Rental
 NCTC Foundation
 ND Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
 NDSU Distance & Continuing Education
 Neil Law Firm
 Network Center
 North Dakota Eye Clinic
 North Dakota Society of CPA's
 North Valley Arts Council
 Northeastern Dakota Area HR Association
 Northland Community & Technical College
 Northwest Tire
 Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
 Northwood Inn, Laundromat and RV Park
 Northwood park townhomes
 Olivieri's Salon & Spa
 Opticare-Forks Vision Clinic
 Options: Interstate Resource Center
 Performance Chiropractic PLLC
 Petcetera Animal Clinic
 Peterson Veterinary Clinic
 Playmaker All American Lounge
 Polk County DAC
 Prairie Harvest Mental Health
 Premium Water
 Priority Title, LLC
 Prudential Crary Real Estate
 Prudential Crary-Linda Pierce
 PS Doors
 PUCKS Commercial Cleaning
 Red Pepper East, Inc
 Red River State Recreation Area
 Red River Valley Gymnastics
 Remer Accounting
 Rhombus Guys
 Riddle's Jewelry
 Riverside Christian School
 Riverview Clinic
 Robinson Excavating
 Rogers Construction
 Ron Kochevar
 Sacred Heart Catholic Schools
 Sanders 1907
 Scenic Sign Corp.
 SCORE-Service Corp of Retired Executives
 Settle Inn
 Shooting Star Casino
 SimmonsFlint
 Simonson Lumber & Hardware
 Ski & Bike Shop
 SmartSearch
 Society of St. Vincent De Paul
 Southern Estates, INC
 Spare Husband
 Speedway Grill & Bar
 Springhill Suites
 St. Anne's Guest Home
 Stamart Truck Stop
 State Farm Insurance-Gary Belanus
 Steamatic Total Cleaning & Restoration
 Steve Adams Farms
 Steve Erlandson, DDS
 Steven Swanson, DDS
 Stone's Mobile Radio, Inc.
 Strinden (Pearle) Vision
 Super One Foods
 Swanson & Warcup, Ltd.
 S-Y Commodities
 Taco John's
 Tavern United
 TDL, Inc.
 The Bun Lounge
 The Listen Center
 The Salvation Army
 The Toasted Frog
 Titan Machinery
 Toucan International Market
 UND University of North Dakota
 United Valley Bank
 United Valley Bank-Downtown
 University Station, LLC
 US Food Service-GFG Division
 Vaaler Insurance
 Valley Bone & Joint Clinic
 Valley Golf
 Valley Memorial Homes
 Valley Oral & Facial Surgery
 Valley Truck Parts & Service
 Valley Vision Clinic
 Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing
 Vreeland Remodeling
 Wall's Medicine Center
 Webster, Foster and Weston
 Wells Concrete
 Whalen's Moving Storage
 Wiseth Smith Nolting
 Winmar Sleep Center
 Wonder Years
 Workwrite
 YMCA Family Center

Meet Your 2012 Chamber Leadership Team

Executive Committee



Chris Semrau
Ralph Engelstad Arena
Chair



Jeff Wilson
Vilandre Heating, Air
Conditioning & Plumbing
Chair Elect/Treasurer



Jim Galloway
JLG Architects
Past Chair



Bryan Lee
Gateway Storage
Vice Chair/Secretary



Chris Wolf
Alerus Financial
Vice Chair



Jeff Westrem
Hugo's Family
Marketplace
Vice Chair

Board of Directors



Barry Wilfahrt
The Chamber - GF/EGF
President/CEO



Craig Amiot
5 Star Collision



Bill Burga
LM Wind Power



Colin Cutler
Bold Method, LLC



Torrie Enget
Best Buy



Ron Galstad
Galstad, Jensen &
Olson, PA



Brady Hansen
Verizon Wireless,
BeMobile, Inc.



Brian Johnson
Choice Financial



Phyllis Johnson
UND VP Research &
Economic Development



Jay Kleven
EAPC Architects &
Engineers



Curt Kreun
GF City Council



Kristi Magnuson-Nelson
Hugo's Wine & Spirits



Dennis Reinsour
Altru Health System



Brian Rydell
Rydell Auto Center



Klaus Thiessen
GF Region Economic
Dev. Corporation



Coleen Tweten
Midcontinent
Communications



Matt Winjum
Rhombus Guys



Col. Tim Bush
GFAFB Commander
*Sr. Military Advisor to
the Board*

A Month in Pictures



December Brown Bag Seminar



December Brown Bag Seminar



AE2S/ICON Open House



BAH-ACME Tools



BAH - ACME Tools



BAH- ACME Tools



Advanced Training for Managers & Execs:

Conflict creates a challenge for anyone in a leadership position. This year, commit to developing the skills to manage conflict with ease, saving important business relationships and reducing the high cost of conflict, and increase your value at work (and home!).

***March 2, 2012—Advanced Training for Executives in Conflict Management (8:30-4:30)**

Learn about the causes of conflict, what makes it difficult for those in leadership, and strategies for managing conflict on all levels—top to bottom. \$125/person with group rates available. At the REAC at UND. **Early Bird** : Register by February 15 for a \$25 discount!

***March 29-30, 2012—Developing Your Emotional Intelligence (8:30-4:30 daily)**

This workshop is about YOU. Increase your self-awareness, your ability to regulate and manage your emotions under pressure, and enhance your inner capacity to motivate yourself even in the most challenging situations. Consider the use of empathy and compassion in your ability to work well with others, and the social acumen to read situations and capitalize on the positive potential. If you are hoping to climb the ladder, this workshop is for you!

\$250/person, group rates available. At the UND Memorial Union.

Early Bird: Register by March 15 for a \$50 discount!



***April 20, 2012—Negotiations Skills for Women (8:30-4:30)**

Women bring a particular skill set and personal qualities to the negotiation table that can create opportunities for win-win solutions. Learn more about your own negotiation style, uncover stereotypes around gender and bargaining, develop new tools for your next negotiation. At Skalicky (across from Hilton, UND)

***June 20 & 21, 2012—Organizational Conflict Management—2 days (8:30-4:30)**

Day 1 Self-management/ face-to-face conflict interaction & skill building

Day 2 Managing group conflict as a mediator and understanding group dynamics in conflict

\$250/person, group rates available. At Skalicky (across from Hilton) on UND Campus.

Early Bird: Register by May 20th for a \$50 discount.

Session you wish to attend: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Credit Card: Visa _____ Master Card _____ Exp Date: _____ CVV# _____ Amount: _____

Checks: Please make checks payable to UND

Mail to: Conflict Resolution Center, 314 Cambridge St., STOP 8009, Grand Forks, ND 58202-8009

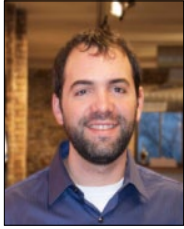
E-mail: und.conflictresolution@email.und.edu Call us: (701)777-3664

Visit us on the Web: <http://conflictresolution.und.edu>

JLG New Hires

JLG Architects is pleased to announce the addition of 6 employees to JLG's Grand Forks office.

Cody Baum joins JLG in the role of Production Leader.



In this newly-created position, Cody will oversee JLG's production staff in order to streamline the drafting process and provide more efficient coordination between

JLG and the firm's consultants. Cody graduated from North Dakota State University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Architecture, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design, and a Minor in Spanish. Prior to JLG, Cody worked for R.L. Engebretson, Foss & Associates, and Zerr Berg Architects.

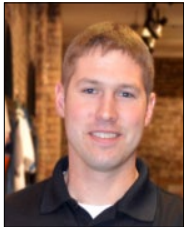
A Project Manager and the head of JLG's Healthcare Division, **Danielle Foertsch** brings nearly a decade of



architecture experience with companies such as Mayo Clinic, BWBR Architects, and Architects Alaska to her new role at JLG. Danielle is a Licensed Architect in North Dakota, Minnesota,

and Alaska, and has been a LEED-Accredited Professional since 2008. She received a Bachelor of Architecture, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design, and a Minor in Interior Design from North Dakota State University.

Nate Hacker has joined JLG as a Project Designer.



Nate graduated from North Dakota State University with a Masters Degree in Architecture and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Design. During his

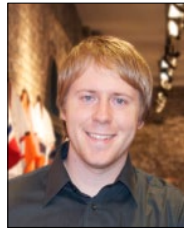
college years, he took Second Place in a Marvin Windows Design Competition for the design of the Trollwood Performing Arts Center. He also emphasized the Construction Management curriculum, which led him to contract and estimating work for a number of local contractors, including Dakota Contours, Builders Drywall, and Studs to Rugs, before joining JLG Architects.

Daniel Hillukka has joined JLG Architects as a Project Designer after



graduating from North Dakota State University with a Master of Architecture and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design. Prior to JLG, Dan worked for GH Construction in Montrose, Minnesota, RCJ Framing Specialists in Fargo, North Dakota, and Quality Home Construction in Big Lake, Alaska.

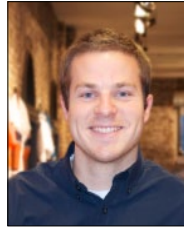
A Project Designer at JLG, **Derek Maher** graduated with a Master of



Architecture, a Bachelor of Environmental Design, and a Minor in Religious Studies from North Dakota State University. Derek is the current Vice President of the Young Architects Forum, and

was a finalist in the "Freegreen: Who's Next Residential Design Competition" and the 2nd Place recipient of the "Downtown Fargo: An Urban Infill Competition." Prior to JLG, he worked for Stahl Architects, Helenske Design Group, and Foss Architecture and Interiors.

Robert Remark has joined JLG as a Project Designer



after graduating magna cum laude from Montana State University's School of Architecture with both a Master of Architecture and a Bachelor of Environmental

Design. While at Montana State, Rob received the Alpha Rho Chi Medal, presented to a graduating student who has shown an ability for leadership. He was also a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the Tao Sigma Delta Honor Society, and was the project lead for the Montana State University Community Design Center project, which completed the pre-design for a Cooperative Natural Resource Office for the Salish and Kootenai Tribe of the Flathead Indian Nation.

Johnson Featured as 40 Under 40

Brian L. Johnson, chief executive officer at Choice Financial, has been selected as one of Prairie Business magazine's fourth annual "40 under 40."



The nominees submitted to Prairie Business for 40 under 40 are for business professionals who are making a difference in their regions. Nominees and recipients of the award are from North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, and are elected by two judges.

Johnson has been with Choice Financial since 1999. Johnson is also a member of the company's board of directors, senior credit committee, and executive management team.

Johnson graduated from Jamestown College with a business management and economics degree. He was recently named to the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce board of directors, and Federal Reserve's Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council and was named a Rising Star by Northwestern Financial Review in 2006. He and his family reside in Grand Forks.

Alerus Financial Hires and Promotes

Alerus Financial has hired **Sandy Beich** as an IT help desk supervisor.



Beich is responsible for managing Alerus' IT help desk team, which provides support of technology tools to all Alerus Financial employees.

Beich previously was the division IT manager and joins Alerus with more than 20 years' experience in the information technology field. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from the University of Hawaii and is actively involved in Cub Scouts. Beich and her husband, Terry reside in East Grand Forks, MN with their three children.

Alerus Financial is pleased to announce the promotion of **Katie Darling** to commissions and revenue accountant.

Previously an accounts payable specialist, Darling is now responsible for managing the commissions, revenue, and billing of retirement accounts for

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Alerus Retirement Solutions and Alerus Investment Advisors.

Darling joined Alerus earlier this year, and previously was a payroll accountant at RJ Zavoral & Sons, Inc. She received a bachelor of accountancy degree from the University of North Dakota and is currently pursuing her Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation. Darling is a member of

the Greater Grand Forks Young Professionals and currently resides in Grand Forks.

Networking Specialists Receives Panasonic Advanced Certification

John Harrie, President of Networking Specialists Inc., Grand Forks, recently completed Panasonic advanced certification training and testing.

Networking Specialists is certified in Panasonic TDA50G and NCP/TDE Pure IP PBX Phone Systems filled with rich features demanded by Hospitality, Healthcare and Call Centers.

S&S Promotional Group Hires Fisher

S&S Promotional Group announces the hire of **Jake Fisher** as a Promotional Consultant with the sales team in Grand Forks.



Jake will be working with local businesses and members of the community serving their promotional product and custom apparel needs. Jake brings with him a wealth of experience in the industry having owned a promotional products company. Jake is an asset to the community being a youth hockey coach in East Grand Forks and a member of GGFYP. He is currently finishing

up his degree in Communications at UND.

Home Place Thrift Store

701-795-9704

1811 S. Washington

www.prairieharvest.net

Call us to pick up your donations!

- * Furniture * Clothing * Household Items
- * Appliances * Electronics * Books

All Proceeds Benefit:



CHOICE

HEALTH & FITNESS

Choice Financial is proud to be the naming sponsor of Choice Health & Fitness.

Helping build a healthy community.

Helping improve quality of life.

Helping support economic development.

Helping make it happen.



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4501 South Washington Street
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2012 REGIONAL ATHENA AWARD NOMINATIONS



Now Being Accepted!

Would you like to recognize an outstanding individual for his or her leadership qualities?

The ATHENA Award honors individuals for professional excellence, for providing valuable service to their community and for assisting women in their attainment of professional goals and leadership skills.

Nomination submission deadline is Friday, March 16, 2012.

For more information and a nomination form please visit: www.gochamber.org or contact Kim at 772-7271. The recipient will be announced at a reception on May 23, 2012



INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL AND NEW MEDIA

Just when you thought you had social media figured out, it all changes. Then it changes again. And again. Keeping up with the evolution of social media can be a full time job, and it helps to get advice from those who spend time with it every day. Join us for the January Brown Bag event to get an overview of the current state of the social media world.



Wednesday, January 18, 2012

11:30am – 1:00pm

Chamber Board Room

202 N. 3rd St.

\$20/Person (Includes Lunch)

\$30/Non-Member

Seating is limited. Sign up soon! Reservations can be made at 772-7271 or email info@gochamber.org with the names of those attending. RSVP deadline is January 17, 2012.

Presented by:

Jay Mindeman & Steve Eickman, An-

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

Member Referrals Made By
The Chamber In 2011:

3072

Total for December 525

Certificates of Origin Signed
By The Chamber In 2011:

25

Total for December: 2

New Resident Packets
Distributed By The Chamber
In 2011:

260

Total for December: 26

Check Out The Chamber Calendar of Events Here
www.gochamber.org

Number of Member Exposures for December (statistic includes internet search engine visits): 909,925

Top Member Directory Views/TCS Page Views for December

	<u>Dir.</u>	<u>TCS</u>		<u>Dir.</u>	<u>TCS</u>
Dahl Funeral Home	1208	273	GuestHouse International	1036	41
James O'Connell, DDS	1075	86	1st Liberty Federal Credit Union	1034	41
American Red Cross	1066	90	Columbia Mall	1033	82
AdFarm	1050	N/A	Space Aliens	1033	25
First State Bank	1049	33	Cornerstone Ag Services	1033	N/A
Jump For Joy Bounce Houses	1042	76	AmericInn Hotels & Suites	1032	40
Stray Media Group	1036	27	Forx Builders Assn.	1031	20



Hosted by:



Hosted by
Sanford Clinic

929 Central Ave. NW - EGF

Thursday, January 19, 2012

4:45pm - 7:00pm

Free Admission

Free Admission – Drink Tickets – Great Hors d'oeuvres
Catered by Mama Maria's - Awesome door prizes -
Progressive cash drawing is at \$1100!

Sanford Clinic invites all Chamber Members and employees to their Business After Hours. Take advantage of great networking opportunities while you are there. You might even win \$1100 in our progressive cash drawing! We'll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that business is present, they win!

Business After Hours is a great time to network, catch up with friends, coworkers and clients in a fun and casual way. Spread the word and plan to attend the next Business After Hours.