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MADC ATTENDS ENERGY DAY AT THE CAPITOL

With over 200 attendees, this year's Energy Day at the North Dakota State Capitol was a great success. Energy Day featured engaging speakers, who reviewed the state's economy and took a close look at the future of the Bakken. Industry leaders, such as Oneok, NFIB, BakkenBackers, Consumer Energy Alliance, and the North Dakota Petroleum Council sponsored the event, which took place on Tuesday, March 7th. Energy Day featured a diverse group of statewide leaders, [click here](#) to read the full article about Energy Day.

Energy Day also took an extensive look at North Dakota's oil and gas production in 2016:

- The state's total oil production was 380 million barrels.
- On average, 35 rigs operated in ND in 2016.
- ND produced an average of 1.19 million barrels of oil and 1.5 million MCF of natural gas per day.
- There were a total of 13,293 oil producing wells in ND, producing an average of 80 barrels each per day.
- ND has a total of 16 oil producing counties. The top 5 in 2016 included: McKenzie, Mountrail, Dunn, Williams, and Divide.
- ND produced 2.47 trillion cubic feet of oil and natural gas and sold 512 billion cubic feet of natural gas.
- Since 2006, ND has seen a total of increase of 852% in annual oil production.
- The average cost of drilling and completing a well in ND in 2016 was \$6-7 million.

MADC MEETS WITH GOVERNOR TO HELP LEAD COALITION TO FOUR LANE HWY 52

The Minot Area Development Corporation (MADC) was asked to help lead a coalition to four lane US Highway 52 (HWY 52) from the Canadian border at Portal to Jamestown. MADC has joined several other communities to support this coalition, which if successful, will alleviate traffic congestion, increase motorist safety, and improve commerce within the state and internationally. MADC met with Governor Burgum on March 3rd to express the importance of four laning HWY 52.

MADC Chair, Jim Montgomery explains, "We had a great meeting with Gov. Doug Burgum and Ron Rauschenberger, senior advisor. Rauschenberger, who's from Kenmare, was very familiar with the importance of four laning HWY 52, he even shared insights on how HWY 2 was 4 laned. Our group discussed how HWY 52 joins together the vast majority of agriculture plants across the state, including ethanol, potato, soybean, sunflower, and other key plants that are significant to the state of North Dakota. With Canada four laning their highway, it only makes sense to have four lane traffic entering on a four laned HWY 52. As far as the next steps for the coalition, we will see what happens with legislature in the next few weeks and hopefully we can begin to lay out a plan to four lane Highway 52. We appreciated the opportunity to meet with the new Governor and were very pleased with the conversations that took place during our meeting." [Click here](#) to read more.

SKYSKOPES RANKS TOP 3 UAS COMPANY IN THE U.S. FOR THE OIL & GAS INDUSTRY

[SkySkopes](#), a UAS company MADC recently attracted to Minot, has secured a position in the top three UAS companies for oil & gas in the nation! [This article by DronesX](#), reviews the extensive requirements of becoming a "world class" oil and gas drones service provider. SkySkopes, hand-picked by [DronesX](#), was one of three companies first-to-market with meaningful solutions that met all the criteria for a "world class" UAS provider. Specifically in the oil and gas industry, there are ten different requirements:

1. Professional aviation background

2. Oil and gas industry experience and certifications
3. A thorough understanding of oil and gas regulations
4. Robust ground and air safety management systems
5. Risk mitigation processes
6. Ability to scale
7. Appropriate knowledge of equipment and capabilities
8. Creative problem solving to meet client needs
9. Clients and partnerships

According to [DronesX](#), these ten requirements should serve as a checklist for energy businesses looking to hire UAS operators and UAV services. [DataWing Global](#) and [Trumbull Unmanned](#) are the other two businesses named in the top three ranking alongside SkySkopes. As an industry leader not only in the state of North Dakota, but also recognized nationally, Minot couldn't be more lucky to have a company like SkySkopes kickoff Minot's MAGIC Sky initiative. [Click here](#) to read more.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK & TRUST FOR RECEIVING THE 2016 READERS' CHOICE AWARD

First International Bank & Trust's story just gets better and better. What started in 1910 as a small bank for farmers in rural western North Dakota has grown into a multi-billion dollar, full-service financial institution serving customers in three states through 26 branches. And now, First International Bank & Trust has been selected for the Readers' Choice Award, picked by Minot area residents from a wide field of financial institutions. [Click here](#) to read more.

SAVE MONEY ON NEW EMPLOYEES WITH THE OJT PROGRAM

Are you looking to hire a new employee? Apply for the On-The-Job Training (OJT) Program and you could be eligible for a 50% reimbursement of wages, for up to six months!

[Job Service North Dakota](#) offers the OJT Program to help employers defray the costs of hiring and training new employees. The OJT Program only applies to employees who are 18 or older and not currently attending school. Utilization of the OJT Program presents an opportunity for employers to

train new employees in the skills needed to meet business needs. Plus, participating employers receive up to a 50% reimbursement of wages for up to six months!

If you interview a candidate who lacks the skills for your job opening, but you're willing to train them while receiving financial assistance with the job training costs, please contact Job Service at [701-328-5000](tel:701-328-5000) (ask for Carol or Scott) to see if the OJT Program will work for you. **Please note, the OJT Program contracts must be approved before the first day of work!**

Thank you for supporting economic development in the Minot area and investing in Minot's future! The following businesses renewed their yearly investment in February:

**Century 21 Action
Realtors Inc.
Circle Sanitation
Cognizant
Enbridge
Monarch Products
Company
Montana-Dakota Utilities
Company
Morelli's Distributing,
Inc.
Waste Management of
ND**

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