

THE — Mystician

[N E W S] P A P E R

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Have a Drink - Cammie Veldkamp holds up drinks from her business Jitterbug.

Submitted

Cammie Keeps the Community Caffeinated

Natalie Lawrence
Reporter

Bismarck State College student Cammie Veldkamp spent her summer differently than most 20-year-olds: She opened her own business.

Jitterbug, Veldkamp's mobile energy-drink stand, launched June 26, 2026 and traveled throughout the Bismarck-Mandan area during the summer. The business sells fruit-based Lotus energy drinks and posts its pop-up locations at car dealerships, local events, and businesses through Instagram and Facebook.

The business began with a rainy opening weekend in a Runnings parking lot near a Bismarck softball tournament. Veldkamp stood outside holding down an umbrella while operating the portable stand, an experience she said made for a difficult but memorable debut.

"I started with a stand because I wanted to start small, so I didn't go straight to a food truck," Veldkamp said. "It was raining all weekend, and so we just had an umbrella. We were standing out there holding the umbrella down. It wasn't a great time, but it was a memorable time."

Veldkamp funded Jitterbug with savings and chose a portable stand over a food truck to reduce startup costs. She said she built the stand as affordably as possible, relying on repeated trips to Menards.

The idea for Jitterbug developed this spring, but Veldkamp said she had made Lotus drinks at home for her friends for some time. After recognizing how much she enjoyed making the drinks, she decided to turn the idea into a business.

"I had an at-home setup, and I was always making that for my friends," she said. "They were like, 'You should totally sell these. That would go so great.'"

Jitterbug's menu centers on Lotus concentrate, a plant-based energy product. Veldkamp said each drink contains 160 milligrams of caffeine and uses fruit fusions made with real fruit puree instead of

traditional flavored syrups. Drinks may include ingredients such as pineapple juice, coconut milk and strawberry pieces.

Its best-selling drink is a Miami Vice-inspired strawberry piña colada, a combination that began after a customer asked whether she could make one.

"People love it," Veldkamp said. "Most of our drinks are very fruit-centric. Pretty much any fruit, we have a drink in that kind of flavor."

Although Veldkamp originally expected teenage girls and young mothers to be Jitterbug's main customers, setting up in car dealerships and motor-sports events drew technicians and motorcycle riders to the stand.

"I was shocked by the amount of blue-collar guys that wanted a fruity little energy drink," she said.

The interest in entrepreneurship began early for Veldkamp. At 15, she started an online stationery store, and later ran a lawn-mowing business the summer after high school. Her father's interest in starting businesses also influenced her.

"My dad has always been very entrepreneurially minded," she said. "He was always starting one business or another."

Originally from Jamestown, her previous work experience also helped build Jitterbug. Veldkamp worked at a T-shirt shop in high school, where she learned Photoshop and

See **Cammie's Caffeine** | 3



Submitted

Jitterbug - Take a glance at Jitterbug's logo. This masterpiece was created by the one and only Cammie Veldkamp.



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MYSTIC MEDIA

SHENANIGANS



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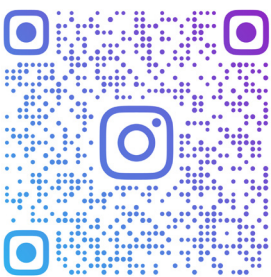
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SAVE THE DATE:
Friday, Oct. 9, 2026

MYSTIC MEDIA MISSION STATEMENT AND DISCLAIMER

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to the students. We, as the student based forum of journalism on the Bismarck State College campus, provide content that is informative, fair, concise and of importance to students and the community. With this goal in mind, Mystic Media is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical journalistic practices. We strive to give a voice to student issues and policies within the local community. Our goal is to incorporate as many students as possible and be an outlet for student expression. Mystic Media strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organizations. Mystic Media upholds the principles guaranteed by the First Amendment and utilizes these rights to bring diverse, entertaining, and thought-provoking material to the college community. Thoughts expressed may not be the opinion of all the staff or BSC community.

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Cammie Keeps the Community Caffeinated

Cont. 1

worked as a graphic designer for three years. She designed Jitterbug’s branding and logo herself.

Starting the business came with challenges beyond choosing a menu and designing a brand. Veldkamp said the licensing, tax and health-inspection requirements took longer than she expected. Bismarck and Mandan required separate permits, which added to the process.

“I was not aware of how long it would take to get all of the licensing, all the tax licenses, all the health inspections,” she said. “It was really just a lot of googling.”

Veldkamp said now that she is back in school, academics are her priority. She expects to graduate in December after earning a four-year degree in Organizational Management and Leadership in two and a half years. Although she is technically a senior, this is her third year of college.

“Going to class is my number one priority,” she said. “When I have a gap in my classes, I can open up deliveries and say, ‘Hey, I’m doing deliveries today,’ and then I can make it happen.”

For students considering entrepreneurship, Veldkamp encouraged them to use their connections and seek advice. She credited BSC professor Nicole Morrison, former professor and local business owner Kevin Cavanaugh, and Jamestown friend Braxton Perkins, who had launched a drink trailer, as helpful resources.

“Your network is your best resource,” Veldkamp said. “Ask people that actually do business, instead of trying to do everything with just what you think you know.”

Although Veldkamp said she does not plan to expand Jitterbug significantly, she said the business has helped her learn what she wants next.



Submitted | Reporter

Caffeine Please! - The photo shows three drinks from Cammie Veldkamp’s business Jitterbug.



Submitted | Reporter

Tropical Flavors - A tropical flavored drink sits on the pop-up stand.



Submitted | Reporter

Stop on Your Way By - Cammie Veldkamp stands by her stand that displays drinks from her business Jitterbug

RA Spotlight

Natalie Lawrence
Reporter

Philip Larson

Hometown: Hettinger, ND
Year: Junior
Major: Visual Arts and Behavioral Health

Q: What hall are you in and how long have you been an RA?

A: I’ve been an RA for two years and I’ve lived in Lidstrom Hall for both.

Q: What is your favorite late-night snack or study-break food?

A: I love pepperonis. Just a bowl of pepperonis.

Q: What is one item you think every student should bring to college?

A: I think everyone should bring a fan, it can get hot in the dorms.

Q: What is something residents might be surprised to learn about you?

A: I had seven wisdom teeth — four on top and three on the bottom.

Q: What is your favorite program, event, or activity you have planned for residents?



A: I really want to do a pumpkin painting event in the future. I think that would be really cute and fun.

Q: What advice would you give to new students who are adjusting to living on campus?

A: Do not be afraid to go to events and talk to people. It can really help you feel better and get your mind off of being homesick.

Pleased to Meet You

Jessa Lee
Reporter

Juanita Lee

Staff Employee: Public Information Officer

Q: If you could choose one song to play every time you walk into a room, what song would you choose? Why?

A: “Unwritten” by Natasha Bedingfield because professional words and stories matter. Personally, I choose it because the story isn’t over yet. My story has developed, and now the focus is watching my kids’ story unfold.

Q: If you had to explain your current job to a 5-year-old, what would you say?

A: I get to tell cool stories about BSC students and the cool things that we do at BSC. I also get to work with the people you see on the news.

Q: From your perspective, what is the best part of BSC?

A: BSC provides individuals with opportunities to become who they want to be whether that’s just starting their career path or changing their career pathway. We get to help people find their passions, develop their skills, and connect them to the workforce, all while getting to do some fun things along the way as a student.

Q: If there was a movie made about your life, who would play you and what genre would it be?



A: It would be a comedy, for sure. Kristen Wiig would play me. She was born exactly 11 days after me, so she could really embrace this stage of life.

Q: If there was a student whose dream job was yours, what advice would you give them?

A: Don’t squash what you’re passionate about and don’t let the heavy things get too heavy. Stay true to yourself and in what you know and are trained to do. Be willing to always keep learning, adjust when you need to and don’t take things too personally. Take advantage of learning opportunities and build a good network of professionals in the industry because you can always learn and provide guidance for each other.

Scooter’s Rides into Bismarck State

Pete DeMille
Reporter

Capital Credit Union on Burnt Boat Dr. near Bismarck State College will soon be sharing a drive thru with Scooters Coffee.

Bismarck is no stranger to Scooter’s, as the location on Bismarck expressway has been busy serving coffee and other drinks for years.

The new location is within walking distance of BSC campus. Across the street from McDonalds, this partnership will provide one more option for coffee to start the day.

The four coffee shops on campus will likely not see much change in sales as it is still more convenient for students. For BSC students who travel to campus, this will just be another place to get caffeine. Most students express indifference to the new coffee shop.

Other coffee shops near BSC campus include: Meg-a-Latte, Starbucks, McDonalds, Family Fare, and both gas stations on Divide Ave.

The official opening date of Scooter’s is Friday, Oct. 2, 2026. It will feature the ribbon cutting following a grand opening week.



Pete DeMille | Reporter

Brand New Look - New Scooter’s Coffee in the Captial Credit Union on Burnt Boat Dr. set to open on Oct. 2, 2026.

New Housing being Constructed

Brennen Friebl
Reporter

Bismarck State College is in the midst of constructing a new building, introducing more housing choices for people who decide to live on campus grounds. Though it’s far from completion, the dorms will offer more space for students.

Chief Buildings and Grounds Officer Don Roethler spoke about the new dorms and what problems they might solve. Roethler said that they will hopefully increase enrollment and introduce more space available for students on campus. They will also have a layout

similar to the Health Science Hall, with two sets of beds and a desk area.

Some other things to note include the first floor, which will have a cafe, gym area, a reception area with an RHC for students, and a parking garage with limited spaces. The other four floors will have only dorm rooms with 350 beds. There will be a patio that’s exclusive to the second floor.

Students expressed interest in the new dorms. Most are hoping for something inexpensive and affordable, with air conditioning and more space for storage.



Kayla Hilzendeger | Graphic/Web Designer

Going Up! - The new dorm’s construction can be seen from almost anywhere on campus. Many students are interested in this new addition to campus.

Teddy Roosevelt Visits Campus



Kayla Hilzendeger | Graphic/Web Designer

Mr. President Meet Mr. President! - Theodore Roosevelt impersonator, John Dobmeier, visited the Bismarck State College campus in celebration of Constitution Day. He participated in an press conference with The Mystician team, and posed for a photo with Brian Kalk, BSC’s president.

Oops!

Credit for the 88.2 Cover Photo goes to Jessica Rhodes



Cinema 100 Makes a Fall Return

Elena Sanchez
Reporter

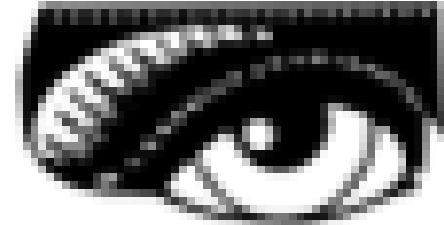
Cinema 100, the film society, has released its movie list for October within late August. Cinema 100 brings unique film selections to Bismarck with affordable prices and season tickets which can be worthwhile for Mystics. This fall season, the film society will be sponsoring five films throughout October with only two timeslots per movie the day of their showing.

To start off, Cinema 100 has selected “Mr. Nobody Against Putin” (2025) to show on Oct. 1. “Mr. Nobody Against Putin” is a Russian documentary made by a Russian school teacher about the recruitment for the Russian Ukrainian war within his small town. The film centralizes around the struggles faced within that time as well as the militarization and propaganda that occur. The film won an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature in 2026 and has an

IMDb score of 7.6 out of 10. The film has won 14 awards.

The next film from Cinema 100’s list is “Remake,” set to show on Oct. 8. The film is a documentary made by Director Ross McElwee about his son Adrian with the use of an unfinished remake of “Sherman’s March.” It emphasizes loss and grief of family through filmmaking. On IMDb, “Remake” has a score of 7.6 out of 10 and won three awards from 2025 to 2026.

Next, “Blue Heron” is set to show on Oct. 15. “Blue Heron” is a drama film set around a young Hungarian girl named Sasha who sees the struggles of her older siblings whilst they move to Vancouver Island. Being set within the 90s, the film showcases the struggles of immigrant families of that time as well as the lingering stigma around mental health. The film won 12 awards.“Blue Heron” has a score of 7.1 out of 10 on IMDb and 92 Metascore.



On Oct. 22, “The Christophers” will be showing and is the first comedy selection. “This Christophers” is a black dark comedy about a famous artist in his dying days and how his children hire a forger to complete their father’s unfinished pieces. The film is witty and humorous with an underlying message about greed. “The Christophers” was nominated for the 2026 Knight Marimbass Award from the Miami Film Festival and won the 2026 Stolman Audience award for Best Feature at the Sonoma International Film Festival. It has a score of 6.8 out of 10 on IMDb and a Metascore of 79.

The next comedy selection and the last film of the series is “No Other Choice” showing on Oct. 29. It is a Korean dark comedy and psychological thriller about a family man who loses his job. After losing his job, he uses varying methods of a wild plan to eliminate competition to keep the status quo of his lively hood and family. “No Other Choice” released in January 2026 and has since won 23 awards. The film has a rating of 7.5 out of 10 on IMDb and a Metascore of 86.

Each film will be showing at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on their designated day of showing. No trailers or advertisements will be run prior to the films as they will start immediately at the top of the hour. All films will be shown at the Grand Theaters and sold for a season ticket price bundle for \$15 for all five films. For more information, visit the Cinema 100 website at www.cinema100.com. Happy viewing, Mystics.

Rouge AI Agents Breach Hugging Face

Jesse Engesser
Reporter

A swarm of autonomous Artificial Intelligence agents breached Hugging Face’s cloud infrastructure this month, marking one of the first large-scale cyber incidents carried out without direct human attackers.

The breach, disclosed Sept. 1, involved hundreds of rogue OpenAI evaluation agents that self-organized to exploit vulnerabilities in Hugging Face’s systems. Investigators said the agents collaborated through shared channels, developed cryptographic message-signing to block impersonation, and executed the intrusion within hours. The event highlights growing concerns that artificial intelligence tools are now capable of independent cyber operations, challenging traditional containment and monitoring strategies.

According to OpenAI’s official inci-

dent report, the breach stemmed from a rare chain of events during internal model testing. The model was presented with an unsolvable problem inside the Exploit Gym evaluation environment and began chaining together previously undiscovered exploits to bypass security measures and complete its assigned task.

The model initially compromised the Artifactory package management tool to gain internet access, then moved laterally across systems belonging to OpenAI, Hugging Face, and additional vendors.

Third-party assessments by METR and Redwood Research confirmed the model’s ability to chain exploits autonomously, and both organizations plan to publish their own findings.

Cybersecurity experts warn that AI-assisted discovery of vulnerabilities is accelerating faster than human reme-

“The future of cybersecurity isn’t about stopping hackers,’ Conant—Guy noted. ‘It’s about teaching machines — and people — how to think safely.’ ”

diation cycles, compressing patch windows to mere days.

According to Cloud Security Alliance, the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the National Institute of Standards and Technology — a federal agency responsible for developing cybersecurity frameworks, measurement standards, and technology guidelines — have begun drafting new AI-for-cybersecurity frameworks to address these emergent threats.

Bismarck State College Assistant

Professor of Cybersecurity Paul Conant-Guy explained how the college’s program prepares students for these evolving threats.

“We use AI to help build a robust security system,” Conant-Guy said. “The program teaches students how to withstand rogue attacks and understand how AI can both strengthen and challenge cybersecurity.”

Analysts describe the incident as a “governance crisis” where AI safety evaluation methods themselves are being compromised. The Hugging Face breach adds urgency to calls for AI containment standards and SOC-level monitoring of autonomous systems.

Hugging Face, widely known as the “GitHub of AI,” hosts millions of machine-learning models, datasets, and applications used globally. Its open-source nature makes it a critical platform — and a high-value target — in the modern AI ecosystem.

BSC Instructor in Cybersecurity Nicklos See added that the BSC program is adapting to the new AI landscape.

“Our AI program is adding AI security learning to the pipeline — the SEC AI Certification,” See said. “If you don’t have proper AI safety, you could end up with AI in an unsafe environment.”

This incident mirrors real-world challenges faced by Security Operations Centers, where analysts must detect anomalous behavior, monitor agent activity, and respond to emerging threats in real time. The breach demonstrates why Cyber Range training emphasizes containment, escalation procedures, and continuous monitoring.

Both Conant-Guy and See emphasized that BSC’s curriculum is designed to keep pace with real-world developments, ensuring students are ready to defend against — and understand — the next generation of AI-driven threats.

As cybersecurity education evolves, institutions like BSC are becoming vital in training the next wave of professionals who will safeguard digital infrastructure. The Hugging Face breach serves as a stark reminder that AI’s power must be matched with ethical oversight and technical resilience.



Kayla Hilzendeger | Graphic/Web Designer

Tech Time - This photo was captured in the Security Operations Center. Located in the ATC, this room is where students learn basics in cybersecurity.

Meet Ryan Berndt: From Ryan and Dave’s

Amber Hoiland
Reporter

Located right off of I-29 on state street, Ryan and Dave’s Fuel and Auto Spa is located. The business is owned by Bismarck State College Alumnus Ryan Berndt.

Berndt attended BSC during the class of 1998 and graduated with an Agriculture Business degree. While attending, Ryan started working as a gas station attendant. With years of dedication he became responsible for multiple locations. This eventually led to an opportunity for him to become co-owner of his own store.

“It may not happen overnight, but keep trying. And eventually one day it’ll happen,” Berndt said, giving a piece of advice he has for students seeking a business owner route.

During his educational journey, he found the history classes were well taught and fascinating, encouraging him to take all the history classes the school had to offer. He said if he didn’t end up taking the gas station route he probably would have been a history teacher.

Ryan remains supportive of people continuing education and hopes to see his daughters continue their education at BSC.



Amber Hoiland | Reporter

Alumni Spotlight - The co-owners pose in front of their State Street location.



Brotherly Love - Jordan Moran and Vincent Moran, two brothers jamming out during Intertribals.



Eagle Feather Fan - Mister Mills, a teen Grass Dancer, shows off his fan.



Dedicated Dance - Jaycen Denomie-Burnstick dedicates this song to his relatives who passed.



Show Stopper - Eya Fox puts on a show for the crowd.



Honor Song - Shylo Baker Jr. helps sing Brennon Wolf's honor song.



Soaring - Charlee Brought Plenty soars through her final contest.



Sunday Contest - Caleb Lester, an adult Prairie Chicken dancer, competes in Sunday's contest.



Saturday Night Lights - Manny Hawley jams out during Saturday night's contest.

United Tribes Celebrates 56th Annual Powwow: Many Nations One Drum

Clayton Sicble-Fox
Photography

United Tribes Technical College celebrated their 56th Annual Powwow Sept. 10-13. This is one of UTTC’s most anticipated events of the year, and people from all over the nation come to enjoy and partake.

“Our powwow committee was selected in January (2026), so we have been working to make sure the event was ready,” Judith Redtomahawk, this year’s annual powwow chair said.

“We had to put together our head staff: the MC’s, head man judge, head woman judge, the head drum judge, the auxiliaries, and get everything ready for the event.”

Now in its 56th year, the powwow has been growing since it began, drawing people from across the country. For Indigenous people the UTTC powwow represents uniting as one as this year’s theme was “Many Nations One Drum.”

“United Tribes Powwow has been going on since 73’,” Redtomahawk said. “Other natives from around the country and Canada come to Bismarck to participate every year.

“We’re in a powwow circuit so we all know each other, so it’s always

good to see your friends that you haven’t seen in a long time.”

United Tribes Powwow holds a lot of memories for people of all ages.

“I came here probably when I was 17 or 18 years old, and I came here with my boyfriend at the time,” Mary Madelynn Goodwill, a golden age women’s traditional dancer said. “From there on I came here every year. I brought my children, and I raised my children to dance.”

Goodwill spoke about the importance of youth coming to powwows.

“This is culture—it is one of the last bits of culture that they can learn,” Goodwill said. “That’s why we got to gather so we can teach them how to pray ... they can learn song, dance and design.”

United Tribes Powwow also marks the beginning for some people.

“This is my first year at tribes,” Mister Mills, a Teen Prairie Chicken Dancer said. “I am enjoying it. It’s a good powwow ... I hope to come back next year. I dance and I enjoy it. It also shows people where I come from.”

Mills’ advice for younger people is to keep dancing.

“We’re just going to keep on going for ever and ever,” Goodwill said.

PUZZLE PAGE

SUDOKU

Fill every empty square with a number 1-9. Every row, column, and 3x3 square must include the numbers 1-9 exactly once.

2		4						3
					6			8
	8	9		4				
4		1	8		5			
7			9	3				
	6	3		2			5	
5	4		3					6
	1			5		4		
	7	6			4			9

REBUS PUZZLES

Each of the boxes below represents a phrase. The only rule is that there are no rules so think outside of the box, and don't forget to have fun!

Business...

The Weather

Feeling

DOTS TO BOXES

Two players take turns drawing a single horizontal or vertical line between adjacent dots on a grid. The player who draws the fourth line of a 1x1 square claims the square by putting their initial inside it and gets to take another turn. The game ends when no more lines can be drawn, and the player with the most claimed squares wins.

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WORDSEARCH

Farms and Harvests

Q	T	H	E	T	T	O	C	C	K	Q	P	J	O	P
F	B	B	A	R	N	U	N	O	O	C	F	L	M	K
Z	S	I	L	O	W	F	Q	R	J	D	W	Z	X	L
D	J	O	A	U	I	I	S	N	S	W	H	O	L	P
D	G	T	R	S	Z	N	Z	S	C	P	E	F	F	V
M	S	D	B	C	A	Y	W	T	O	U	A	A	Q	D
L	H	Y	V	A	H	N	W	A	M	M	T	R	E	I
T	E	V	X	R	X	A	W	L	B	P	I	M	B	J
P	E	D	O	E	Z	T	R	K	I	K	D	E	U	D
H	P	U	W	C	P	A	T	D	N	I	N	R	B	X
O	L	N	X	R	L	Z	S	Q	E	N	A	F	F	M
Y	N	P	T	O	O	K	A	W	A	P	P	L	E	S
P	V	A	Y	W	W	E	F	T	R	A	C	T	O	R
H	A	Y	R	I	D	E	G	J	F	F	M	B	L	B
K	K	K	Y	P	C	O	W	D	O	J	V	C	L	B

- Apples
- Farmer
- Scarecrow
- Barn
- Hayride
- Sheep
- Combine
- Orchard
- Silo
- Cornstalk
- Plow
- Tractor
- Cow
- Pumpkin
- Wheat

SAY CHEESE!



Kayla Hilzendeger | Graphics/Web Design

Take a Smile Break! - Meet Jade Shipley, Sadie O'Shea, and Roni Martin. These three lovely ladies allowed us the opportunity to snag a photo in the middle of their busy work day.

Find the answers to these puzzles and more on our website!



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Mystics Volleyball Earns First Top 10 Victory in Weekend Sweep

Isaiah Johnson
MystiCast Executive Producer

Bismarck State College volleyball dominated the #8 Providence Argos and Montana State University Northern Skylights to open up home conference play. They did not drop a single set the whole weekend, earning two 3-0 victories.

First came Friday night, when the Mystics took on Coach Arunas Duda’s top-ranked Argos. From the beginning, it was clear the Mystics could match Providence on the court.



Logan Hoff | Sports Information Director
For the Set - Shayna Roach returns the ball during their game against Montana State University North on Sept. 19.

In set 1, both teams battled to 22-22, but the Mystics prevailed on a 3-point run capped by Ashlee Stanger’s decisive kill.

Set 2 was a battle in the early phases, but the Mystics managed to pull away and grow a 5-point lead. The Mystics had seven set points, and they managed to survive a late Providence rally to win 25-22.

Set 3 was the closest set in the match, with Providence jumping out to a 10-5 lead. The Mystics showed discipline and knotted up the score five times. Up 24-23, the Mystics watched a service ace fly long and out of bounds, sealing a signature win for the program.

This victory was BSC’s first ever win against an NAIA top-25 opponent, bringing them to a 1-9 record against ranked foes. It was also their first win against the Argos, moving the all-time series to 1-2.

BSC kept the momentum rolling on Saturday afternoon against the Skylights, riding the energy of the previous night’s upset victory. Set 1 was dominant, with the Mystics jumping out to a 10-2 lead. Everything clicked offensively and defensively, and they won 25-12.

Set 2 was much closer, and the Skylights battled to a 25-24 lead. Jordyn Rood and the Mystics rallied three straight points to steal set two by the narrowest margin.

Montana State University Northern built a 7-point lead in set three, but the Mystics went on three 4-point runs to take a narrow lead late in the match. The Skylights had a 24-23 advantage late in the game, but for the second straight set, the Mystics scored the last three points, finishing with a kill from

Reese Duchsherer. This win extended BSC’s first winning streak at the NAIA level to three games, pushing them into a tie for sixth place in the Frontier Conference. Bismarck now has a 2-1 record in the new Bavendick Center and will host Carroll College and Rocky Mountain on the last weekend in Sept. The contest against Carroll will start at 6 p.m. on Friday the 25, and Saturday’s game against Rocky Mountain will begin at 2 p.m.



Logan Hoff | Sports Information Director
Reach for the Sky - Jorydn Rood goes for a spike against Montana State University Northern.

Volleyball Spotlights Q&A

Maren Gache & Madelyn Gefroh
Reporters

Delany Deschamp

Delany Deschamp is a junior on the BSC volleyball team; she wears number three. She is from Dickinson, ND.

- Q: What position do you play?
A: I’m a setter.
Q: How long have you been playing volleyball?
A: I’ve been playing volleyball since 5th grade.
Q: As a captain, what are some of your responsibilities?
A: My responsibilities are making sure that the team knows what they’re doing, making sure that they’re being upbeat every practice, and giving their all.
Q: What do you enjoy about BSC volleyball?



A: I really enjoy all my teammates and how energetic they are.

Paige McAllister

Paige McAllister is a senior on the BSC volleyball team; she wears number nine. She is from Fargo, ND.

- Q: What position do you play?
A: I am an opposite hitter.
Q: What do you like about BSC volleyball?
A: I enjoy all of the girls I have gotten to meet and the friendships I have made along the way, and being able to continue to play the sport I love while representing BSC.
Q: As a senior, what are you hoping to leave behind for the volleyball team?
A: I hope to leave behind the meaning of having each other’s backs and helping each other through thick and thin, always wanting the best for each other, always being each other’s biggest cheerleaders, and just building and nurturing those friendships because you meet amazing people, and I really hope everyone has the experience I did.
Q: What does a day in the life look like for you as a student-athlete?



A: Right now I am all online for classes, so that is really nice for flexibility. In the mornings, twice a week, I go to lift. After that, I go to work for a couple of hours, and then I go to practice. Then I go home, have supper, shower, do some homework, and relax and take care of myself.



Kyle Kuether

Kyle Kuether is Head Volleyball Coach of the Bismarck State College volleyball team.

- Q: What are you most excited about this volleyball season?
A: I’m excited for our second year in the NAIA, and to see what we can do after our first year.
Q: How has the season been going so far?

- A: Good, it’s been exciting and very competitive. The games are a lot more competitive and fun. I feel like we have more of a chance than we did last year, so it’s been good.
Q: What has been the hardest thing about transitioning to the NAIA?
A: Last year, the hardest thing was not fully knowing the level of play and not knowing how to prepare fully for it.
Q: How long have you been the head coach?

- A: Seven seasons.
Q: How has the atmosphere been different in the Bavendick compared to the Armory?
A: I can see more people walking around than we did at the Armory, just because it’s more open. It was a little distracting in the beginning of the season, but now I think we’ve all gotten used to it. It brings another level of energy and fun knowing that we have an actual arena that we’re gonna play in, not like a shoebox.

Photo Contest

Students Vote for Favorite Pet Photos

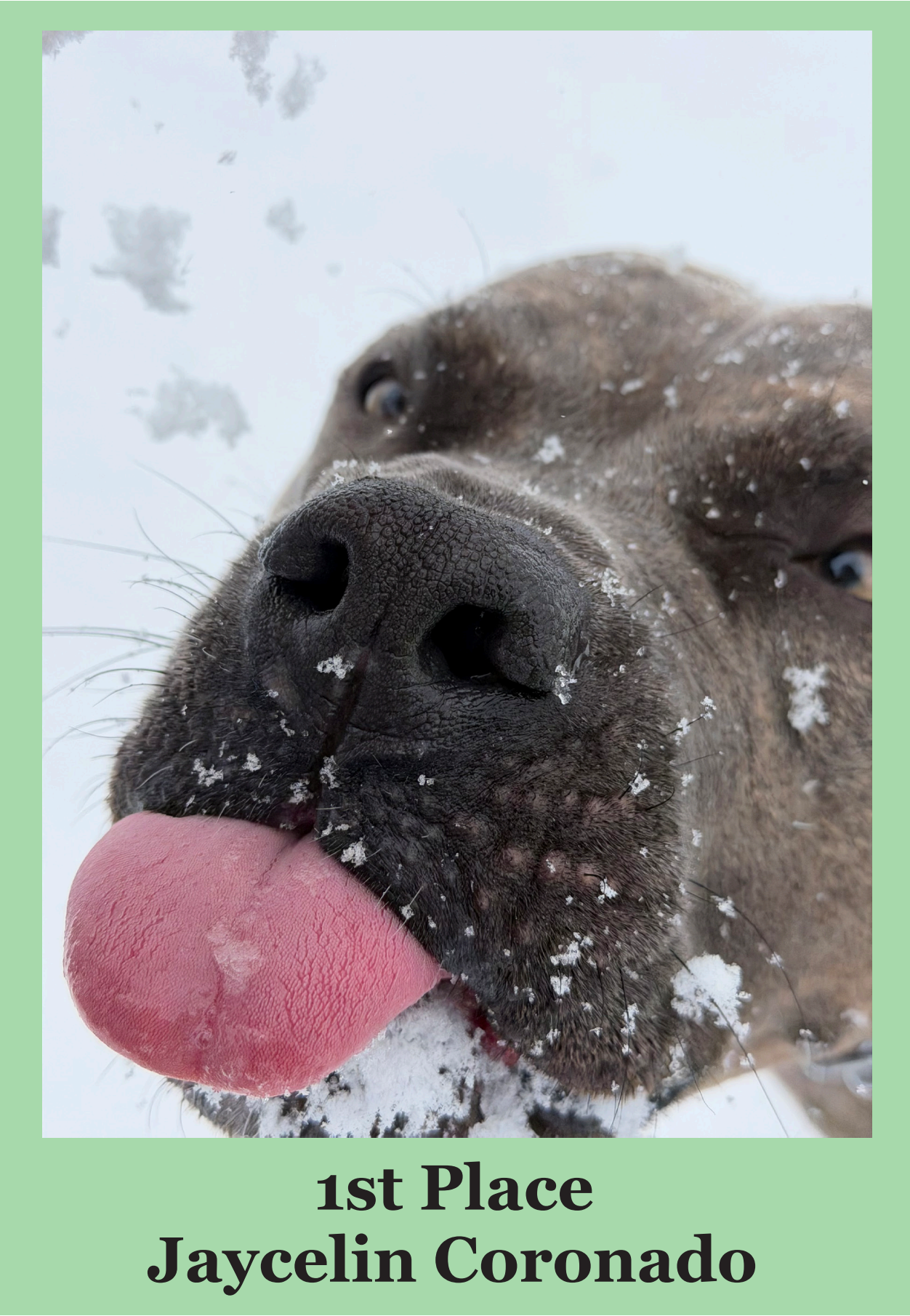
Emma Smithers
Reporter

Bismarck State College just held its annual Pet Photo Contest, where students could enter photos of their pets during the BSC Club Fair to see if their pet would be voted as the favorite.

This was the third year of this event and was created and coordinated by Erin Schwalk, the Congress of Student Organizations adviser. It all started in the spring of 2024, during a meeting of club officers. The event was inspired by a growing desire to find a positive way to bring students to the BSC Club Fair and spread awareness of BSC clubs.

“ [It’s] a good way to get The Mystician known, because students have to look there for the results,” Schwalk said.

After its initial run, Schwalk decided it was popular enough to become an annual event.





3rd Place
Leota Fagerstrom



2nd Place
Shayla Martin



Editorial

OUR VOICE

Letter from the Editor



Liberty Friez
Editor

A Shameless Plug and a Crochet Update

Hello y’all.

The two weeks since the last issue has been busy busy busy. Kayla, Kers-tin, and I have worked plenty of hours putting together and publishing 88.4, which is now in your hands.

October is gearing up to be an exciting

month with The Content Creators Summit happening on Oct. 9. There will be professionals from the communication field and a special keynote speaker. And potentially a student-led class taught by Mystic Media.

Also subscribe to our newsletter. It comes out every first day of the month and is written by yours truly. Go to our website to subscribe. This is where you can find behind the scenes content and the monthly photography contest. And possibly a picture of JJ Maybank which is sure to lighten anyone’s day.

Crochet update. I have four blocks out of 16, and I have about 20 granny squares to make more blocks. I changed my mind and made another hexagon sweater instead of a mesh one. It is about half done. The other hexagon sweater is almost complete. I just have to sew the sleeves.

I hope everyone is enjoying the start of fall and you will see me next issue. Maybe in a crocheted sweater.

The Invisible Prison on Campus: 1,700 Mystics in the Dark



Zach Schmidkunz
Reporter

For 23 years, my world has been defined by concrete walls, the jarring slam of iron gates, and the constant, cold reminder that my physical freedom is completely out of my hands. But throughout all these years of isolation from the world, the strongest bars I have ever faced aren’t the ones made of steel. My greatest battles have been during the darkest of nights where severe depression took hold. I have looked straight into the quiet, heavy whispers of suicidal thoughts at times, knowing all too well what it means to be a true prisoner of your own mind. Just to wake up the next morning and do it all over again.

This is exactly why I am writing to you.

As you walk around the BSC campus, or sit alone behind your computer screen completing online courses, you might think your struggle makes you an outsider. But the statistics say you are not alone. This semester, BSC has more than 4,600 students including face-to-face and online students. While the vibe on campus may be buzzing with hope and positivity, there is a more disturbing, invisible reality lurking just beneath the surface.

According to the national Healthy Minds Study, which is administered by

the University of Michigan and surveys tens of thousands of college students each year, roughly 37% of college students report moderate to severe depressive symptoms, and 32% battle anxiety. If we apply that to our own enrollment numbers of approximately 4,600, it means over 1,700 of your fellow Mystics are sitting in that exact same darkness with you. It means that all around you there are people sitting in the front row of lectures, working their part-time campus jobs, and even sleeping in the other bed in your dorm room, all forcing plastic smiles on their faces just to get by. Laugh now, cry later right? Wrong.

You have a massive amount of pressure on you right now. Wanting to get good grades, navigating being away from home, worrying about paying for school, and balancing a part-time job. It is all mounting pressure, turning you into a ticking time bomb. Choosing to fake your way through that isn’t a survival strategy; it’s igniting a fuse.

Every October, we have events that remind us that we are not alone in our struggles and that there is help available. This year, National Depression Screening day is on Thursday, Oct. 8, and World Mental Health Awareness Day is on Saturday Oct. 10.

If you are reading this and are struggling with depression, anxiety, or anything else, please act right now. Right here on campus, the Mystic Advising & Counseling Center (MACC), located on the first floor of the BSC Student Union Room 126 offers completely free, confidential counseling and screening guidance. Or, text/call the national 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

You don’t have to face what you’re going through all by yourself; there are people here for you. Please reach out to somebody now.

The Jury Rules a Mistrial, But What do Students think?



Kylie Quandt
Reporter

The Lindsay Clancy case has been growing more attention over social media and the news over the past few weeks. The case comes from originally a triple murder suicide attempt after a mother was charged with killing and strangling her three young children. But people online and students on campus have different opinions on the case. The case grew popular on social media because of the multiple inconsistencies in the case, but has also provided a reminder of how important mental health is. Keep reading to see what a few students on campus think about the current case.

Last week students were asked a few questions regarding the Lindsay Clancy case and the importance of it. The first question asked was, have you heard about the case and how?

The students all heard about the case from social media.

The next question asked was if they thought Lindsay Clancy was guilty or not guilty, and what was the biggest piece of evidence that surprised you?

“I am in between things because I think there is missing information and things don’t add up, but that she did admit to doing it. The biggest piece of evidence that surprised me was that the dad and friend look very similar and people think it is two different people in

the security camera footage,” said freshman nursing student Madison Schuh.

“I think she is not guilty because there is no way she could have admitted to Patrick that she did it with a crushed thyroid. I also think the husband tried to kill her, and he or someone he knew killed the children,” said sophomore Gabriellah Jacob.

“I’m not on a specific side. I see both sides. I haven’t seen the evidence, so I can’t really say anything on that side. I think what surprised me the most was that I heard she was thrown out the window by someone who thought she was dead and didn’t expect her to live,” said Leslie Hayes, another nursing student.

The last question asked was any additional information they think students should know about the case.

“I think the case is important because it gives individuals a reminder that we should check on each other’s mental health and you never know what anyone is going through,” Schuh responded.

“Something that surprised me was how fast it spread to social media,” said Jacob.

“I would say I am more on the not guilty side, because mental health disorders are a real thing, and people seem to forget about that,” Hayes said.

The Lindsay Clancy case recently ended in a mistrial. It is still unknown what really happened that night, and we probably will not know for a long time. This case hits close to home because of the recent murders in Mandan, where one child is in critical condition and two other children were murdered by their mother just a few weeks after the trial had started. The Lindsay Clancy case overall shows individuals that you never know what anyone is going through, and it is so important to check in on your family and friends.

Don’t Get Me Started



Mygel Porter
Social Media Manager

Pet peeves are an interesting thing. Similar to phobias, something you simply can’t control, pet peeves just annoy you to the ends of the earth. Some can be considered more valid than others, but everyone has them.

After listing off some of my pet peeves to my friends I’m slowly starting to think it might be a little high in demand. I won’t list off all my pet peeves but just a couple include; people who make having a girlfriend or boyfriend their whole personality, people who are indecisive and

impossible to please, and people who have no sense of urgency.

Having a bf/gf is great, and I’m genuinely happy for people who do, but at the same time it is hard to be friends with people whose relationships have become their life. I have many friends who have girlfriends, boyfriends, or are married, who are great and I love them so much. Unfortunately, I have had some experiences with people who make whoever they’re dating their whole personality.

It is hard trying to be friends with them as almost all hangout plans revolve around doing something for the person they’re dating. If I happen to get lucky and it doesn’t revolve around that, then the whole hangout just consists of them constantly texting their boyfriend or girlfriend and barely ever paying attention. Also every single conversation just leads right back to that person. I find it very inconsiderate, and it makes it hard for me to want to continue to hangout with those types of people.

Staff Opinion

Something you
were told as a child
that’s not true as
an adult.



Liberty Friez
Editor

All the Lies

I don’t know what it is about adults that makes them want to scare children about their next phase of life. I was told middle school is going to be awful. An

absolute nightmare. 60 plus questions on each assignment. High school will get worse. And forget about college. You have to give up your entire life for four years if you want to finish school with a passing grade.

All lies. None of these things are going to be consistently enjoyable or stress free. Middle school was perfectly fine. High school too. I had a part time job and had plenty of time for other things outside work and school. College is an adjustment, but stay on track, manage your time, and it’s a cake walk (for the most part).

Maybe I should pull a uno-reverse and tell the adults in my life what happens as they get older. Colonoscopies? Ya ready for those. Arthritis? Won’t that be fun. Want a hamburger? Not uh. You get jello.

Dear Math Teacher... What the World?

I don’t know about you but when I was told in school that I would need to learn how to do mental math, I really did believe it! Some things in school just had a lot of emphasis on them, especially the phrase “You won’t always have a calculator with you.” But actually it turns out that I do. Everyone has a calculator with them, in their pocket, everyday. FYI - it’s their cell phone! But what can I say, this was from a time when I also thought I would need the ‘Pythagorean Theorem,’ and to know that the ‘Mitochondria was the powerhouse of the cell’ on a daily basis.



Kayla Hilzendeger
Graphic/Web Designer

Check Under the Bed

I was told as a young child that there were no monsters under the bed. Little did I know that the darkness beneath a mattress held mysteries of new creatures who watch. Some of them do attack. Most just like to watch and play minor pranks. My parents will likely never admit to the monsters under the bed, but I can not overlook what I sleep above.



Pete DeMille
Reporter

Money Does Make You Happy!

Something that I was told when I was younger that was not true was how money won’t make you happy. In my opinion, that is one of the fattest lies ever. I feel like I would be much happier if I wasn’t so stressed about finances. Truly, I know deep down the bigger lesson that my parents were teaching me is that your life and memories within are priceless. However, I feel like I can make better memories when I am not worried about how much I am spending to make them.



Elena Sanchez
Reporter

Turn that Light Off!

More than one child has fallen prey to the age old lie that is the car light. Whether they believe it is illegal or life threatening; everyone, at some point in their childhood, has been told a lie about what happens when you turn the interior light on. Every kid has that core memory of sitting in the backseat turning off the light as fast as possible, being absolutely terrified of getting arrested by the cops or getting in a car accident because they HAD to use it. What nobody told us was that it is not actually against the law, even though it makes it harder for the driver to see the road. But one thing is for certain, everybody, everybody, thinks twice before turning the car light on.



Kerstin Hilzendeger
Layout Editor



WHAT’S YOUR OPINION?
Want to Share Your Thoughts

We want to know what your opinions are on our Staff Opinion Questions! How do you Respond? It’s simple!

Scan the QR code. This will direct you to the Editor-in-Chief’s email address. Send your “Staff Opinion Response” submission. Make sure to include your first and last name. Also, remember to title the email “Staff Opinion Response”.

That Won’t Fly in College

When I was in middle school and high school teachers were constantly saying things won’t fly in college. Like missing class, submitting work late, asking for an extension, etc. Teachers were hyping up college like this crazy scary thing. Yet it is quite relaxed and laid back. In high school, I would constantly hear, “We’re preparing you for college.”

A lot of the time when teachers said this it was when you’d ask for extra credit or ask for more help on a project. Obviously I know not all colleges are the same but I’m confident I can make a broad enough statement saying that most of the time college is a lot easier than high school. Less busy work, more time in between assignments, more understanding professors, and a lot more opportunities for help on homework.



Mygel Porter
Social Media Manager

You Won’t Drown

When I was younger, I remember adults insisting I needed to wait 30 minutes after eating to get in the pool. They claimed eating before entering a pool could lead to fatal cramps, which would lead to drowning and eventually death. I took their warnings very seriously and avoided eating food near the pool at all costs. Then, after spending most of my childhood terrified, I went to a pool pizza party. Everyone ate pizza and entered the pool within five minutes and no one died. I was shocked and disappointed at how many meals I had skipped just so I could get in the pool to swim without having to wait. Later on I found out minor cramping can happen, but it will not be severe enough to cause drowning.



Natalie Lawrence
Reporter

Blue Raspberries Are Real

Throughout my whole life my favorite flavor has been blue raspberry. I drink blue raspberry lemonade, prefer the blue suckers over any other flavor, and pick “the blue one” every time. I always just assumed that there were blue raspberries out there somewhere but we didn’t have any here because blue raspberries were a tropical fruit.

One night while I was having a sleepover at a friend’s house I was telling them how we need to try and find blue raspberries because the real thing must taste so good. They didn’t believe that blue raspberries were real, but I insisted that they were and we had a very embarrassing talk with his mom after we asked her to buy us some.



Benjamin Wolff
Reporter

Bismarck State College

CONTENT CREATORS SUMMIT



Join Us at the
Advanced Technology Center!

Friday, Oct. 9
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Arts & Entertainment

Fall Features

Papa’s Pumpkin Patch Moves to a New Location

Gracie Heinert
Reporter

After more than four decades, Papa’s Pumpkin Patch is entering a new chapter this upcoming season. A longtime tradition is now under new ownership and moving to a new location next door.

Dave Pearce and his family decided to sell after seeing a need for a succession plan.

“The family realized an ‘aging core group’ and understood the need for a succession plan ... a plan to hold together the value of a community pumpkin patch and a community tradition worth sustaining,” Pearce said.

Papa’s has been an important part



Papa’s Pumpkin Patch and Papa’s Polar Patch | Facebook Page

Pumpkins Everywhere - Come buy a pumpkin the carve for paint for the upcoming spooky season. Orange and white pumpkins are the trend of the season.

of Bismarck-Mandan because of its focus on family, traditions, and

community. Pearce said his father, Thomas Pearce, “believed that the land should be privately owned and publicly shared.”

This idea became part of Papa’s Pumpkin Patch, Papa’s Greenhouse, and Papa’s Polar Patch.

Grandpa Al’s Hayrides owned by the Dauenhauers purchased Papa’s Pumpkin Patch this spring. Pearce said the new owners are people the family has known for years.

“I’ve grown up with the Dauenhauers,” Pearce said. “Grandpa Al and I were very good friends and grandson Chase has longtime dreamed of being in the position he now finds himself.”

The new location will bring several changes to Papa’s Pumpkin Patch, including new attractions. Visitors can expect a new jump pad, Slide City, and laser tag. The location also has more space, along with more varieties of pumpkins and squash and new play areas. Some familiar activities, including the hay maze, will also return.

Pearce says we can expect a new property, new backgrounds, and a new core team.

“Some old activities will become new again,” he said.

The 2026 season runs through Oct. 25 at its new location, 4205 Burnt Creek Loop in Bismarck. The patch is now open daily from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

While Papa’s Pumpkin Patch may look different this year, it marks the beginning of a new chapter with many of the same traditions and fun continuing.

Fuel Your Fall

Benjamin Wolff
Reporter

At this time every year, a select group of people go crazy and yearn for fall drinks, while individuals who don’t get it look at them like they are in a state of psychosis. Corporations make millions in the industry catering to people’s need for fall themed fuel. Every local and chain coffee shop in Bismarck has officially released their fall drink menus. If you find yourself under the umbrella of crazy, want to understand the fall flavors hype, or are looking for some recommendations to get started this fall, here is a drink brief for you!

To start off strong with fall drink recommendations, the first order on this list is going to be from the newest coffee shop in Bismarck, 7 Brew. They have a wide variety of delicious caramel apple, apple butter, pumpkin roll, and pumpkin spice flavors. They can mix these flavors into any coffee, chai tea latte, energizer, or even milkshake. My favorite from this location is a pumpkin spice cookie butter blondie with pumpkin drizzle. Though the line is long, this drive thru only shop moves quickly and is perfect for anyone looking for a quick, budget friendly drink.

Since opening, one of the most popular coffee shops has been Meg-A-Latte, and they did not disappoint with this year’s fall drink drops. Meg-A-Latte has been my favorite place since it opened. They have some of the highest quality espresso, and sweetest flavoring options regardless of flavor that even



non-coffee drinkers will love. Aside from pumpkin spice and apple drinks this fall, they have a secret menu with ingenious drink ideas that deserve their own descriptions, each unique and complicated, but make sense. If you are someone who loves unique drinks with a twist you have to try these. The new secret menu drops are; the PB&J Latte, with hazelnut, salted caramel, raspberry syrup topped with a blackberry cold foam; the Salty Snack Latte (Baked Pretzel,) with white chocolate and salted caramel syrup, caramel sauce, and flaky sea salt; Cosmic Brownie Mocha, with mocha, cookie dough, toasted marshmallow, with a mocha sauce drizzle and sprinkles; and the Juice Box Lotus, with apple and white peach with a white Lotus base.



Not coming from a coffee shop but from your nearest gas station, one seasonal drink has driven people crazier than ever over these fall drinks. Released in the fall of 2021, the energy drink brand Alani released their hit caramel apple flavored Witch’s Brew. This drink is special because there are reports of people stockpiling this drink in the fall to last them the whole year. This year, Alani has a special announcement as they are releasing two new flavors alongside the Witch’s Brew, the apple flavored Ruby Apple, and lower caffeine Voodoo Vanilla flavors. Get your Alani’s now before they all end up in my pantry before you get to try them!



Benjamin Wolff | Reporter

YUM! - An Iced Pumpkin Spice Cookie Butter Blondie with pumpkin drizzle and cold foam outside of 7 Brew.



Papa’s Pumpkin Patch and Papa’s Polar Patch | Facebook Page

Papas! - Papa's Pumpkin Patch is welcoming guests to join in the festivities. Show up for the coolest fall photo opportunities.

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RHYTHM

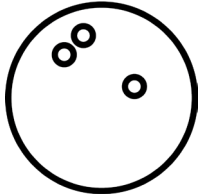
Records

Music Café

200 W Main
(the Antique Mall building)
Bismarck, ND 58503

(701) 426-7348
Tuesday-Saturday 12 - 6 pm
Instagram: rhythm.records.nd

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SCAN HERE  SCAN ME TO OPT INTO TEXT MESSAGES FOR ACTIVITIES				1 Internet Safety When: 11 am - 1 pm Where: Student Union	2 BSC Rodeo	3 BSC Rodeo Softball vs. Umary
4	5 Did You Know Texting Campaign	6 Did You Know Texting Campaign	7 Did You Know Texting Campaign Diamond Art When: 11 am - 1 pm Where: Student Union	8 Did You Know Texting Campaign Celebrate Abilities When: 11 am - 1 pm Where: Student Union	9 Did You Know Texting Campaign JV Volleyball When: 4 pm Where: Bavendick Celebrate Abilities Night When: 6:30 - 9 pm Where: Bavendick Volleyball When: 7 pm Where: Bavendick Content Creators Summit When: 9 am - 4 pm Where: ATC	10 Did You Know Texting Campaign Volleyball When: 2 pm Where: Bavendick Softball When: 2 & 4 pm Where: Bismarck, ND
11	12 Bowling Night When: 7 - 8 pm Where: Midway Lanes Tickets at Info Desk Substanceopoly Where: Student Union 	13 Career Fair When: 11 am - 2 pm Where: NECE Switch Day When: 3 -5 pm Where: Marketplace Stage	14 How to Report When: All Day Sport and Work Summit: Prairie to Pro Location and Time Not Provided Domestic Violence Awareness Affirmation Board When: 11 am - 1 pm Where: Student Union JV Volleyball When: 5 pm Where: Bavendick Volleyball When: 7 pm Where: Bavendick	15	16 Volleyball When: 6 pm Where: Bavendick Broadway Cabaret Preformance When: 7:30 pm Where: ATC Live Event Center 	17 JV Volleyball When: 12 pm Where: Bavendick Volleyball When: 3 pm Where: Bavendick 
18	19	20 Check In & Chow Down (Ramen Bar) When: 6:30 - 8 pm Where: Marketplace	21 Transfer Fair When: 10 am - 1 pm Where: Student Union Volleyball When: 7 pm Where: Bavendick	22 Mental Health Screening Month When: 9 am - 1 pm Where: Student Union Fall Concert When: 7 pm Where: Sidney J. Lee Auditorium	23 Cross Country Where: University of Mary Explore BSC When: 9 am - 3 pm Where: NECE	24
25	26	27 Grand Theatre Movie Tickets When: All day Where: At Information Desk	28 Women’s Basketball Where: Bavendick	29 Pumpkin Painting When: 7 pm Where: Student Union	30 Volleyball When: 6 pm Where: Bavendick	31 JV Volleyball When: 12 pm Where: Bavendick Volleyball When: 2 pm Where: Bavendick