

— THE — Mystician

Volume 87 | Issue 10
February 5, 2026

[N E W S] P A P E R



Mystic Win - Women's basketball head coach Jason Harris breaks down Bismarck State's huddle in their victory over Dickinson State.

Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Mystics Take Back Wins in the New Year

Garrett Froelich
Columnist

The Mystics basketball teams have made a comeback this past month, with the women's team claiming four consecutive wins since the time of this publication. The men's team took their first win on Jan. 10 against

Bellevue University, and have seen close-scoring games since then. These wins may be a nice change of pace for Mystics fans after a rough start to the basketball season.

Earlier in the season, the transition to NAIA had gone as expected for the Mystics. Almost every sport has seen growing pains entering into this higher level

of competition, and basketball has been no different.

Both the men's and women's games in the 2025 part of the season saw losses, with the exception of a lone women's win against Rocky Mountain that took place in the Armory on Nov. 21. The women held a 1-10 record as of New Year's Eve while the men had an 0-13 record at that same point.

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MYSTIC MEDIA

SHENANIGANS



Mystic Media Staff

Kayden Schmitcke
Co-Editor

Sophia Fafard
Co-Editor

Jaxon Miller
The MYX
Production Manager

Mygel Porter
Social Media
Manager

Clayton Sicble-Fox
Photographer

Paysha Rex
Sports Editor

Isaiah Johnson
MystiCast
Executive Producer

Liberty Friez
Content Editor

Kerstin Hilzendeger
Graphic Designer

Kayla Hilzendeger
Photographer

Garrett Froelich
Columnist

Michael Huravitch
Reporter

Kade Warren
Reporter

Alondra Vidal
Reporter

Elena Sanchez
Reporter

Natalie Lawrence
Reporter

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Kayden Schmitcke & Sophia Fafard
THE MYSTICIAN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu
Room 125, BSC Armory

karen Bauer
THE MYSTICIAN ADVISER
karen.bauer@bismarckstate.edu
Room 111, BSC Armory

Neurodivergence Challenges Stigmas in Psychology

Pete DeMille
Reporter

The terms neurodivergent and neurotypical are thrown around on social media, but are not used by psychology professionals. Both words have definitions that are based on subjective aspects of psychology. Neurotypical is defined as the people who think the way most people do, such as those who do not have conditions like ADHD, autism, dyslexia, and others. Neurodivergent was coined to group people with learning or mental disorders. This can help

reduce the stigma of using the term ‘disorder’ and thus lead to more open conversations.

“The science is continuing to progress, and by no means do we know everything about how the brain works,” said Assistant Professor of Psychology Benjamin Winegard at Bismarck State College.

Humanity has come far from the days of mental asylums and padded cells, but lacks a perfect understanding of mental health. But with an increase of knowledge, definitions can be refined

to give a more complete diagnosis and a more effective treatment of all conditions. Neurodivergent is still on the table because it simplifies grouping of non-normal thinkers.

“I prefer to use the terms that go along with the DSM,” said Theresa Felderman, a Professor of Psychology at BSC.

The DSM is the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. This is the book that is used by professional psychologists. It outlines terms, definitions, and treatment guides for neurocognitive and neurodevelopmental conditions. The DSM 5 is the most recent version, and it does not use the term neurotypical or neurodivergent at all. The focus of the DSM 5 is more on the specific diagnosis. They are more of the severe and visible cases that are used as a baseline for the behaviors of each. It is much easier to see the traits and actions that are on the extreme side of the scale. The DSM also helps professionals diagnose and treat people from all parts of the spectrum.

“The intent of the term neurodivergent is to lessen the stigma,” Felderman said.

For those outside of clinical psychology, a single word to classify people who think differently makes it simpler. The grouping of all of those disorders is a starting point for people to know that they may have to do things differently when interacting with those affected by neurodivergent brains. The broad definition is more useful outside of the clinical world. Within clinical psychology, the diagnosis needs to be more specific to help treat the individual. It makes more sense that broad definitions would remain out of the science aspect of psychology, but be used by people who may not know the scope covered by the term.

The changes of definitions are shown in the DSM 5 vs. DSM 4. This also points to the ever-changing scope of mental and behavioral health. One of the updates to the DSM 5 is that it gives more

variability to the diagnosis to include those differences. As humanity continues to learn about how people think, future DSM will grow on the definitions and will help progress education of psychology. The definitions adapting are also one reason more people, especially kids, are being diagnosed with conditions such as autism or ADHD. Using the groups and labels allows a starting point to know the best treatment for an individual.

The terms neurodivergent and neurotypical can start to show that there are differences in each brain and also pulls non-professionals closer to the definitions and intent of the DSM 5.

Autism Spectrum Disorder was previously classified as autism, high-functioning, or Asperger. The current definition creates a spectrum reliant on the level of guidance needed for individuals to live a more normal life. Some do need assistance 24 hours a day while others just need to speak with a clinical therapist on occasion.

“These traits, there’s a continuum. All of them are continua,” Winegard said.

Much like autism, the development of understanding will show spectrums in all types of diagnosis. With this information, a diagnosis may no longer be something so stigmatized.

“We all have behavioral health that we have to be aware of,” Felderman said.

A greater understanding of mental and behavioral health goes right alongside physical health. It is not healthy to only work one muscle group while neglecting the others. Likewise, it is not healthy to overlook the issues that are not physical. By further exploration of the brain and human behavior, it opens doors that will lead to solutions for people of all mindsets. Individuals do not need to fit into a label or be strictly outside the bounds of another label to benefit from behavioral development.



Paysha Rex | Sports Editor

Energy Club Makes a Difference in the Community

Jace Groseclose
Reporter

The Bismarck State College’s Energy Club is more than just a club for the trade. One of the main focuses of the club is to give back to the community. Assistant Teaching Professor of Electrical Lineworker and Energy Club Adviser Jeff Oster has been running the club for around seven years and he could not be more proud of it. The club was around when Oster attended BSC in 1982.

Oster’s goal with the club is not to just teach about the trade; he wants to give back to the community, build relationships, and make money for the club while getting the school’s name out there and showing what it does for the community.

The Energy Club has helped at motocross events and with picking up trash along the roads, wrapping and giving gifts to children in need, and hosting cookouts. Another focus of Oster’s is for the club members to form strong relationships with one another.

“It’s a rural trade when you are out on those poles. But a lot of these companies will come in and ask, ‘how well do they [work] in a group in school,’” said Oster.

Oster emphasizes working in different groups and switching those groups up.



The club works with four person crews and switches crews every week. This system allows those in the club to become comfortable with their fellow members.

Students involved in the trade and want more time to give back to the community can do so by joining the Energy Club.

If you would like to join or have any questions, feel free to contact the Brad Anderson at 701-224-5559 and Jeff Oster at 701-224-5560.

Pleased to Meet You

Jaxon Miller
The MYX Production Manager

David Lewellyn
Associate Professor Of Visual Arts

Q: Where are you from?

A: Valley City

Q: What is a favorite piece that you have made personally?

A: It’s a piece called Divergence and it was back when I was an undergrad at NDSU. It was one of the very first pieces I did, kind of in response to studying Pollock. It was also when I kind of discovered convergent and divergent thinking. And discovered that I’m very much a divergent thinker.

Q: What is your favorite piece that a student has made?

A: Um, that’s really tough because over

the years, I have had students that will be better at painting, they were better before they walked in the door and not that the word better is even comparable, it’s apples and oranges, but I’ve had some really amazing students also start from scratch and become quite incredible in their own regard.

Q: What is your favorite form of art?

A: I don’t have a favorite there either, because I don’t like getting bottlenecked. In the world of art, and if you follow people on Instagram or the socials that you have, and if you follow someone long enough, you’re going to see them a lot of times change their own genre because they just get sick of doing the same thing over and over.



Jaxon Miller | The MYX Production Manager

Figments Receives College Media Association Pinnacle Awards

Elena Sanchez
Reporter

Bismarck State College won a few awards from the 2025 College Media Association Awards that celebrates creativity, passion, and student-led excellence. With the hard work of the Mystic Media team, BSC won first place for Literary Magazine of the Year, Honorable Mention for News Multimedia Package, and Honorable Mention for Literary Magazine Cover.

The College Media Association, better known as CMA, is described as a “non-profit organization and the leading voice

for collegiate media and its adviser” on the CMA website and hosts national competitions surrounding college media. Every year, the Mystic Media team decides whether or not to participate nationally and make a grand effort to make a collective project to submit.

Last year, the Mystic Media team participated in the competition with Figments of Imagination, the literary magazine, as the one-all-be-all. Multiple students submitted work to Figments, including art, photography, poems, short-stories, and essays. With so many submissions, the team spent countless hours organizing, designing, and

adapting to create the newest Figments volume. Paysha Rex, a graphic design senior, was the one behind the majority of the design work for Figments.

“For one graphic design student to tackle on this much work was a very challenging thing to do,” Rex said. “We needed a certain amount of pages to put into Figments, so that was a challenge.”

However, Rex was not the only one to work on Figments. She received help from others on the staff team as well as fellow design students from her class. Using everything she learned, she will be helping and teaching the next design lead that will work on the

Figments staff.

“I’m actually like more so passing the baton to the next senior that’s coming into this,” Rex said. “She’s going to do such a great job and I offered as much help as I possibly can.”

This year, the Figments staff team aims for higher with the creativity offered from other Mystics. Figments submissions are currently available online via email to reach all students, staff, and faculty. Submissions will be available for entry until March 13, 2026.



Figments Group Photos - From Left to Right (Front): Michael Huravitch, Sophia Fafard, Paysha Rex, Katie Eide, Kayden Schmitcke (Back) Shane Biberdorf, Isaiah Johnson, Mygel Porter, Jaxon Miller, Tinashe Makuve, Pamela Torres.

Cole Bernhardt | Photographer

For Whom the Bell Tolls...It Still Tolls for BSC

Liberty Friez
Content Editor

Ding! Ding! What’s that? It’s the bell telling students to get to class. Students grab their backpacks and laptops and race to class to the tune of “America the Beautiful.”

Those who have been on Bismarck State College’s campus for any time longer than an hour have undoubtedly heard the noon bells. While seemingly

insignificant, they actually play an interesting role in the college’s history and culture.

In 1992, BSC purchased a bell system known as a carillon—an instrument consisting of 23 bells arranged chromatically.

The purchase and its purpose were covered in a 1992 article of The Mystician. Funded by the BSC Foundation, the bell

was dedicated to Thomas and Margaret Jack. With its installation, BSC joined a long standing tradition shared by many esteemed university campuses of having an official bell ringing in the hours.

Currently, the carillon is located at the top of Schafer Hall above the BSC’s Tree of Learning.

At noon, the bells are followed by a

song. The bell’s current system is set up with a variety of preloaded songs in bell arrangements hooked up to a keyboard. The songs preloaded are a mix of patriotic, religious, holiday, classical and contemporary music.

The carillon sounds on the hour between 7 a.m and 7 p.m., continuing to mark time and campus life just as it has for decades.



Kerstin Hilzendeger | Graphic Designer

Student Government Association Highlights and Upcoming Initiative

Paysha Rex
Sports Editor

The Student Government Association started the year off by hosting Beep Bingo for a Homecoming event. In November, they put on the sixth Annual Feed the Need Taco Run and raised \$2,625 and 2,317 individual items. Currently, with the brutal winter, SGA has organized a Winter Clothing Drive to stock up the Clothing Pantry in the Student Union.

The February SGA newsletter will be released soon and will feature upcoming events and updates. Several projects are currently underway, including garnering interest from students in creating a mural on the retaining wall outside the student union. Through tabling events, SGA has found that there is an interest

on campus and have started the process of creating a timeline on bringing it to fruition. SGA has worked on installing a new SGA vinyl piece on the office window and reviving the On Wednesdays We Wear Green movement on campus. New hats featuring both the OWWWG and SGA logos have been ordered. In tandem with this, SGA has ordered \$500 worth of hats to hand out around campus for those that might not have the resources, and another 100 green #OWWWG beanies to promote school spirit and OWWWG.

The Clothing and Food Pantry has seen strong success this year, with Senator Ayden Olsen participating in a promotional video by Project Care to

talk about SGA’s involvement with the clothing pantry and our winter clothes. In the new business, member attendance at North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) events has recently increased, and planning is underway for the upcoming NDSA meeting in Bismarck. Additionally, SGA continues its monthly tabling efforts, with a current focus on promoting the Clothing Pantry and its available winter and formal clothing. SGA will be bringing back their Dress For Success Tables, promoting free clothing for job interviews, career fairs, and entering the work force.

Student Recognized for FBLA Involvement

Sophia Fafard
Co-Editor

Bismarck State College Student Alexis Ritzman received recognition for her involvement in the Future Business Leaders of America club on Dec. 10, 2025, at the Advanced Technology Center in the Live Event Venue. Ritzman was named the Outstanding Business Education Student for Region V from the Association for Career and Technical Education. CTE Director and Executive Officer Wayde Sick presented the award to Ritzman as a small audience attended the award ceremony.

Ritzman’s dedication and success in FBLA competitions contributed to her award, but her involvement in FBLA did not start until college, when her friend Medora Ellingson convinced her to join the club at BSC.

“My friend, Medora. She was in it for just a few years in high school,” Ritzman said. “When she came to BSC, she joined the chapter and she was the only member, and she convinced me to do it too. And so I’ve been doing it freely since my freshman year of college.”

Since then, Ritzman has attended FBLA competitions all over the United States. On Aug. 8, 2024, Ritzman competed in the FBLA National Leadership Confer-

ence in Orlando, Fla., and placed 4th in the Emerging Business Issues category. In June 2025, Ritzman placed 1st in the Emerging Business Issues category at the NLC in Dallas, Texas. Now, Ritzman is serving as Vice President of the North Dakota FBLA State Office and continues her role as FBLA Chapter President at BSC. These experiences with FBLA have allowed Ritzman to grow as a student and leader.

“It’s helped me take on more responsibility and grow as a person—with leadership skills, so it’s been cool,” Ritzman said. “I’ve made a lot of good friends, and I love my officer team.”

Not only has Ritzman connected with fellow business students through her involvement, but the club advisers have helped support Ritzman. BSC Professor of Cybersecurity and FBLA Co-Adviser Lynette Borjeson Painter was the one to suggest Ritzman apply for the ACTE award.

“I would not have gotten or, like, considered even applying for [the award] if it wasn’t for Lynette Painter,” Ritzman said.

Painter supported Ritzman at the award ceremony and reached out to others, encouraging them to attend.

“Alexis is deserving of the award, and it

recognizes her leadership, both at BSC and at the state level with the state of North Dakota FBLA,” Painter said.

Ritzman is set to complete her Bachelor’s in Finance, but is unsure where the future will take her after graduating. As she dives into her last semester, she continues to balance homework and FBLA. Ritzman stresses the importance of clubs like FBLA and encourages people to join.

“I think that if you’re in a business program, FBLA can look really good on your application for jobs,” she said. “People don’t realize that. I mean, here, it’s not terrible, but if you go to a big city, your resume has to be top tier. [FBLA] can open job opportunities for you.”

FBLA continues to have monthly meetings with Ritzman as Chapter President. The club prepares for the upcoming national competition in Las Vegas, Nev. from June 6-8.



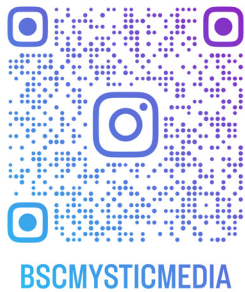
Awards and Recognition - (From Left to Right) FBLA Co-Adviser Lynette Borjeson Painter, BSC Interim President Dan Leingang, Award Recipient Alexis Ritzman, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Alicia Uhde, and CTE Director and Executive Officer Wayde Sick



Accepting Awards - Ritzman poses for photo after winning 1st in the Emerging Business Issues category. Ritzman competed at the NLC competition for FBLA in Dallas, Texas

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The Mystician



Next issue 87.11 on Febuary 19



MysticCast

The MYX



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Campus Directory

Campus Police Safety & Security
Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday
Location: Student Union Lower Level Room 120
Phone: 911 - Emergency
701-223-9111 - Non-Emergency
701-224-2700 - Office

Mystic Advising & Counseling Center (MACC)
Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Thursday | 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friday
Location: Student Union Lower Level
Phone: 701-224-5752

Bismarck State College Library
Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Monday - Thursday | 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday
Location: Skogen Hall
Phone: 701-224-5450

Bismarck State College Bookstore
Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Thursday | 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friday
Location: Student Union
Phone: 701-224-5453

Pass the Spotlight

A reporter and photographer hit the streets of Mandan, letting businesses guide their path. Each stop was recommended by the last, creating a unique business-to-business map of the city’s hidden gems and local favorites.

Sophia Fafard
Co-Editor

Copper Dog Cafe is more than just your regular coffee shop. Located in downtown Mandan, Copper Dog Waffles and Coffee provides a warm and friendly environment for everyone to enjoy. This cafe offers a spacious area and amiable service for students looking for a place to study or visit with their friends. Not only that, but dogs are welcome as well.

Copper Dog features a warm aesthetic, with the soft buzz of voices from sit-in customers and natural light spilling in through the windows. There is a clean, rustic feel to the cafe. The cafe’s merchandise is easily available to customers, including clothing, mugs, and stickers with Copper Dog branding. Another feature is a mini gym located in the back of the cafe, which offers gymnastics programs for children. Along with that, one area is reserved for kids’ birthday celebrations. A map full of pins located on one of the walls showcases where customers have traveled from. Through their warm comradery and shop design, the Copper Dog Cafe makes it a point to welcome those from the surrounding area and beyond, sharing their love of coffee, waffles, and community.

Mandan High Schooler Brooklyn Seefeldt is an employee at the cafe. Her favorite part about the Copper Dog Cafe is the community that

supports the business and how welcoming her coworkers are. “We all get along as coworkers,” Seefeldt said. “And it’s just a fun place [for customers] to visit and hang out.”

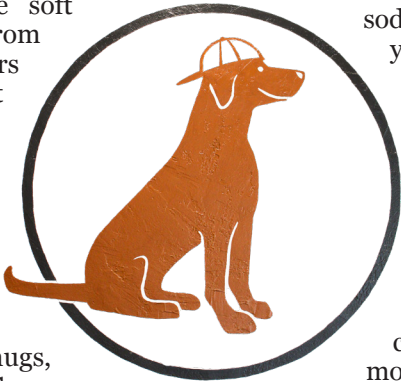
Copper Dog Cafe offers beverage flights, where customers choose from a selection of drinks served in small portions, allowing them to sample a variety of flavors. Seefeldt recommended that customers try a beverage flight.

“We have coffee, Italian soda, and lemonade, so you could choose from either [category]. You get three choices of three different drinks that we have.”

Apart from the wide variety of beverages offered, which ranges from custom coffee to monthly specials, the menu includes custom made waffles. These waffle options vary from deliciously sweet to cozy and snug. Some featured waffles include the Sandlot S’more, the Chicken and Waffle, and even the Stroopwaffle, a Dutch delicacy that pairs well with coffee.

To learn more about Copper Dog Cafe, find them on Instagram @copperdogcafe or at their address at 218 West Main Street, Mandan.

Copper Dog Cafe was the first stop on the Mandan business journey. Seefeldt recommended one of her favorite places to visit in Mandan for the next stop—Revive Nutrition. Look out for the next local study spotlight in the Mystician.



Kayden Schmitcke | Co-Editor
Delicious Iced Coffee - Copper Dog offers decorative iced coffees to customer



Kayden Schmitcke | Co-Editor
Around the World - Customers can mark down where they are visiting from on a map in the café



Kayden Schmitcke | Co-Editor
On Brand - Aside from other things, Cooper Dog offers ground coffee as well as merch



Kayden Schmitcke | Co-Editor
Leaders in Conversation - BSC Head Rodeo Coach Jon Peek (far left) and program leader Kelly Timberman (far right) at the World Champion Mindset Bootcamp.

Theatre Set to Perform “Frozen” in the Spring

Natalie Lawrence
Reporter

Bismarck State College Theatre is bringing “Frozen” to campus this Spring. The magic of Arendelle will be brought to life under the direction of Daniel Walstad, with music directed by Brittany Bearsheart. The show will feature scenic design by BSC alum and Broadway designer Jack Golden and lighting design and technical directing by Associate Professor of Technical Theatre

Dean Bellin. The production will star Kat Elrod as Elsa and Schatzy Mosbrucker as Anna, along with Max Wild as Hans and Isaac Peterchuk as Kristoff. Performances will take place at the Live Event Venue in the Advanced Technology Center, 1220 Schaffer Street, on March 20, 21, 27, and 28 at 7:30 p.m. and matinee performances March 21, 22, 28, and 29 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and can be bought online or in person at the box office located in the ATC. They

will also be sold for \$15 at the door or only \$5 with a BSC student ID. There will also be a short film festival on May 6 and 7 in the ATC. This event will display short plays directed entirely by students. More information will be released closer to the dates.

Valentine's Day

Men's Ensemble

Crazy Little Thing Called Love
Queen



Can't Help Falling in Love
Elvis Presley



Make someone's Valentine's Day memorable this year. The big day is right around the corner, so let's warm someone's heart this winter. The Bismarck State College Men's Ensemble will be presenting Valentine Serenades on Friday, Feb. 13. The ensemble would love to surprise someone on campus and will even go out into the community of Bismarck/Mandan to serenade someone special.

These serenades are a great gift for anyone—what a great way to make someone feel special. Students could even have that someone special meet them at the student union, or the ensemble could surprise them in the community. If interested in serenading someone special, such as a co-worker, friend, or your sweetheart, please email Associate Professor of Music Dawn Hagerott at dawn.hagerott@bismarckstate.edu. The ensemble is available on campus all day on Friday, Feb. 13 and in the community until 6 p.m. The serenade will include a fresh long stem red rose and one love song from the BSC Men's Ensemble for \$30 (see below). Serenades are first come, first served, and there are two songs to choose from this year:

"Crazy Little Thing Called Love", an upbeat song by Queen, sung a cappella by the BSC Men's Ensemble.

"Can't Help Falling in Love", slow ballad by Elvis Presley, sung a cappella by the BSC Men's Ensemble.

Hope to see you on Friday, Feb. 13 for Valentine's Day!



Submitted



Journalism is NOT Dead

Future of Local News - Kayden Schmitcke and Sophia Fafard wear their "Local News" sweatshirt given to them after being a part of a year long committee. The Future of Local News committee was built to help strengthen newspapers across the state and create awareness of the need for local news.

Representatives from North Dakota Newspaper Association, North Dakota Cooperative, GS Publishing, North Dakota Monitor, Prairie Public Broadcasting, North Dakota Public Information Officer Association, Agency MABU, North Dakota Living, Teton Times, Dickinson Press, Buffalo's Fire, Dakota Media Access, America's Newspapers, and North Dakota Department of Instruction were involved in the committee.

The students gave insight on the younger generation's thoughts on keeping newspapers alive. They helped create a survey for college student journalists and filmed a video that will be shared with other media outlets of local news and its importance. Stay tuned for future articles on their work and involvement with the committee.

We're Just Getting Started

Kelsey Riggs
Reference & Instructional Librarian

Welcome back everyone! I hope your winter break was exactly what you needed and you are starting off 2026 right!

Flood Update

As you may have noticed, the high hopes we had of opening the library shelves back up by the time classes started again were dashed. However, as of Jan. 20, the last book was put back on the shelves! Now comes the pruning. We librarians will be going through the shelves, making sure the books are truly in the correct order and evaluating those that are no longer in good condition. In addition to replacing some of the books, we will also be shelving brand new ones!

Until we are sure that everything is in order (no pun intended), the open and movable stacks are still closed. Keep an eye out, though, for the announcement for when they are open for browsing again. To request or make suggestions for a book or author, you can tell us in person, email us, or even fill out the form on the Blackboard Library – Students non-term class portal.

Events & Activities

As for the events that started the year, we hope students enjoyed them! Whether it was the January "Books & Brew," where the library gave out coupons good at any of the campus Beans for each book you checked out from me, or the "Financial Wellness Week," where we discussed different strategies and several available resources in managing your financial realities.

"Financial Wellness Week" ties closely to the "Money Smart Mystics Challenge," which all students can participate in via Blackboard. With every five activities you complete, the library emails you a \$10 coupon for the BSC bookstore. For those of you who have received a coupon, make sure you use it before the end of the school year!

Another current challenge open in the library's Blackboard course is the "Library Love Challenge." Similar to the "Money Smart Mystics Challenge," if you complete four activities you are eligible for prizes. Some of the activities include reading a book written by a famous librarian, reading a romance, and checking out a game from the library.

We have so much happening already at the library, and the semester has barely started!

Obituary

Jimmy



Jim (Jimmy, Jimelton, Jimothy) died on the Fafard Farm on Jan. 19, 2026 after multiple seizures, though

he was surrounded by his fellow cats and Yvan Fafard, who was home at the time. Jimmy was born some time in September of 2025 along with his brother, Bob, and another unnamed sibling, who died after a cold night in the Fafard Farm Barn. Jimmy's mother, Emerald, raised Jimmy and Bob in the Fafard Farm Barn until moving into the Fafard Steel Shed, where Jimmy and Bob were found by the farm owners, the Fafards.

Jimmy was a shy, scared kitten in his early years. He was much smaller than his brother, Bob, and was a scruffy black and white short-haired kitten. Jimmy had unique wiry whiskers and round, curious eyes. Although Jimmy was scared of people, he began to get comfortable after being brought into the Fafard Farm House at the end of November.

Later, Jimmy became well-loved by the Fafard family. After Bob

was adopted, Jimmy became comfortable around others. He played with house cats Autumn, Arlo, and Eddie, and loved to cuddle by the fireplace. Jimmy became fast friends with Arlo, which stood out to the family since Arlo was very picky and usually was not friends with other cats. Arlo took a shine to Jimmy, becoming like a mother to him. Jimmy had a distinct, soothing purr whenever he was pet. Although he experienced health problems the weeks leading up to his death, Jimmy continued to cuddle and play with other cats. He never lost his personality.

Jimmy is survived by his brother Bob and his mother Emerald. There is no service pending for Jimmy, although he will be remembered fondly by the Fafard family.

Puzzle Page

Sudoku

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

#22261

Difficulty: moderate

What’s That Word?

Match the correct definition to the word!

1)Tacit__

2)Echolalia__

3)Petrichor__

4)Quixotic__

- A.Exceedingly idealistic, unrealistic, and impractical.
- B.Understood or implied without being stated.
- C.Repetition of words just spoken by another person, occurring in the early stage of language development.
- D.A pleasant smell that frequently accompanies rain after a long period of warm, dry weather.

One Word Movie Titles

Word Search

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

interstellar

spartacus

happiness

ambulance

scarface

vertigo

anora

barbie

room

ratatouille

challengers

tangerine

magnolia

twister

mercy

drive

cloud

dune

adaptation

inception

footloose

chronicle

burning

silence

dredd

tenet

heat

akira

cure

cats

mud

Answers on BSCmysticmedia.com

Valentine’s Day Trivia

What is the most common flower given on Valentine’s Day?

1. Lilies
2. Daffodils
3. White Roses
4. Red Roses

What year was the oldest Valentines Day poem written?

1. 1244
2. 1415
3. 1853
4. 1912

Who made the first Heart Shaped chocolates?

1. Richard Cadbury
2. Milton S. Hershey
3. Michele Ferrero
4. Jacques Torres

In East Asia, what is the holiday celebrated exactly one month after Valentines Day?

1. Single’s Awareness Day
2. White Day
3. Moon Cake Festival
4. Blue Day

SAY CHEESE!



Andrew Mantz and Peg Knudson in the bookstore (left to right)



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Cheering Loud - Thomiah Poor Bear and Adiea Erickson leapt out of their seats celebrating a scored three point shot.

Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Take Back

Cont. 1

The transition to each new year marks a beginning and an end. As much as it signifies the passage of time, it also represents something bigger; it’s a chance to try again. The Mystics were given that opportunity right out of the gate in 2026 with a four game homestand.

The women’s team came into the new year with a ranked win thrown on top of a pile of struggles. Most games have resulted in blow-out losses. The worst game of 2025 was 41 point loss to University of Mary that preceded the homestand on New Year’s Eve. The Homestand included match-ups against two ranked opponents and two non-ranked ones. It went as good as it possibly could have been expected to go with alternating losses. Losses to their ranked adversaries in Montana Tech and Dakota State, and wins against Montana Western and Bellevue.

Each game saw Bismarck State College Senior Kennedy Stormer lead the team in scoring. As the Mystics Women’s Basketball Head Coach and Athletic Director Jason Harris’s eldest daughter, Stormer has led the team and the Frontier Conference in scoring this season, averaging 21.5 points per game.

“I know she was probably a little surprised when I gave her a call,” Harris said about asking his daughter Kennedy Stormer to join the Mystics this season.

Coach Harris needed experience on this team with the transition to a four-year school, so he called on Stormer to help this team make the jump. They now are in the playoff position on a four game winning streak as of Jan. 27.

The men must have forgotten to switch over their calendars, because nothing seemed to change. Four straight games at home to start the new year led to resolutions not just getting broken, but smashed into a million pieces, getting chewed up, and getting shot out from where they came. But on Jan. 10, the fourth and final game of the homestand, fans in attendance finally had something to cheer about...a win.

With a score of 83-73, the men finally found their first win in the NAIA. Even the guy directing the stream was overjoyed, because he had not seen the men play a half competitive game all season long. Only one out of fifteen losses came with a deficit of less than ten.

The team has been led by newcomer Jah Gulley, with the performance of the season for the Mystics.



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Setting up - David Shilling takes a deep breath to gain composure before shooting his free throw.

Gulley has had 26 points while shooting 5-6 from 3-point, with his only miss coming on a foul that turned into yet another three points.

“I think you used the right word; electric,” Gulley said about his performance before the Jan. 22 game against Dickinson State.

Gulley’s impact has been a noticeable change in pace for the Mystics since his arrival after Christmas.

“I think if we would’ve had him in the first semester, we’d have probably won maybe three to four more games,” said Rice on Gully’s impact.

Rice referred to Gulley “as a guy that’s gonna get after it” and “a point guard with an IQ.”

Now sitting with a record of 1-15, the men finally have the monkey off their back and may get to play some carefree ball the rest of the way as they look to build off the season so far. At the same time, the women look to continue building more momentum towards the finish line.

Kevin Rice Talks Season Updates

Bryson Mohs
Reporter

The Bismarck State College men’s basketball program continues to strengthen its foundation under the leadership of head coach Kevin Rice, who is now entering his fourth season at the helm. Rice’s extensive playing and coaching background has shaped the direction of the program as the Mystics work to rise within the Frontier Conference.

Rice, a San Antonio, Texas native, built his basketball career through determination and versatility. After starting at the high school level, he competed at Midland College and West Texas (JUCO) before finishing his collegiate career at Utah State University. He went on to play professionally for the IBA Dakota Wizards, competing in both the IBA and CBA, while also spending summers playing in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela. His professional career later extended overseas, including two seasons in Turkey and one in Israel.

Following an early retirement from playing, Rice transitioned into coaching. He returned to the Dakota Wizards as a coach in the NBA Development League, then spent four years as head coach at United Tribes, followed by five years as an assistant at Midland College and one season as an assistant at BSC. Now in his fourth year leading BSC, Rice continues to focus on building a competitive roster capable of contending in the conference.

Joining him on the staff is assistant coach Andrew Duncan, whose coaching experience spans multiple countries and levels of development. Duncan, originally from Kingston, Jamaica, played high school basketball at Kingston College High School, known as The Purples. In 2000 he moved to Leicestershire, England, where he attended West Nottinghamshire Junior College and continued playing.

While in England, Duncan also expanded his coaching experience, working with youth basketball programs for four years and earning a Level 2 Coaching Award from the England Basketball Association.

Duncan’s coaching career in the United States began at St. Mary’s High School from 2010 to 2013. After a brief break, he returned to the sidelines at Shiloh Christian, where he contributed to a state championship in 2016. From 2016 to 2020, he coached freshmen girls’ basketball at Legacy High School in Bismarck, leading the program to the 2020 WDA freshmen tournament title. Duncan returned to Shiloh Christian for the 2020 to 2021 season as an assistant girls’ coach, helping the Skyhawks place third at the 2022 Class B state tournament.

Together, Rice and Duncan bring decades of playing and coaching experience across high school, collegiate, professional, national, and international levels, positioning BSC to make an impact in the Frontier Conference.



Cole Bernhardt | Photographer

Coach’s Spotlight - Head Coach of the Mystic Men’s Basketball team.

Stutzreim Set to Coach Football for the Mystics

Michael Huravitch
Reporter

In November of 2025, Bismarck State College announced the return of football to Mystics athletics after a 40 year hiatus. Chris Stutzreim will be coaching the team going into the 2027 season. Stutzreim has coached at William Penn University, University of South Dakota, Rocky Mountain College, and Southwestern Oklahoma State. He has coached for fifteen years, seven of those years as a head coach, and now, he has found a new home as the head coach at BSC.

“Introduce yourself, say hi. I don’t care if you’re a student, faculty member, say hi so I can introduce myself. I really want to get to know people, because it’s about relationships for me,” Stutzreim said. He went on to say that he loves it here at BSC and everybody has been incredibly helpful.

Though the season does not start until 2027, there is still a lot to do to prepare for the upcoming season.

“I just had a four hour meeting with BSN and Adidas; that’s who we go through for uniforms,” Stutzreim said. Stutzreim added that he’ll have some other coaches on staff with him full-time. Now, he has been focused on recruiting. He is bringing in a class of about thirty freshmen for the 2026 fall semester.

“Recruiting is kind of like shaving. You gotta do a little bit everyday, so it doesn’t get out of control,” Stutzreim said. As he starts recruiting players, he seeks out local talent first.

“My first week on the job, I reached out to all the Bismarck area high schools—their head coaches. We will always start local first and then expand from there.”

Stutzreim went into further detail about how he does recruiting. When recruiting players, he looks for character, accountability, relentlessness, and discipline. As Stutzreim preps for the reason, he shares his excitement with the rest of BSC.

“We’re not just building football with football, we’re building football with everybody at BSC,”



Kayla Hilzendeger | Photographer

Coach Talk - Head Football Coach Chris Strutzreim discusses upcoming football season with reporter Michael Huravitch

Stutzreim said.

Stuzreim went on to say that it is all about relationships. Building relationships with the community, the players, and the students.

Stutzreim said that he understands it will take time to build, but wants to keep the energy and excitement from the announcement alive. He believes that the energy and excitement will transfer over to the field.

He encourages students to look forward to supporting the team and showing up for the games.

Though Stutzreim is still settling in, he said he loves it in Bismarck. He’s been having fun trying different restaurants, and is excited to be a part of the community.

NFL Playoffs Review And Superbowl Predictions

Michael Huravitch
Reporter

The NFL has been crazy going into 2026. This is the first time the Chiefs have missed the playoffs since 2014, the Steelers spoiled the Raven’s playoff hopes, and the Panthers fought their way to a playoff spot. With no Mahomes this year, many fans felt that the AFC was a toss up. Let’s take a look at what happened in the AFC first.

Josh Allen and the Bills faced the Jaguars. The Bills were the underdogs heading into the game, but that didn’t stop Allen. He was 28-35 passing, finishing the game with 273 passing yards, a passing touchdown, and a rushing touchdown that put the Bills up late in the game. The Bills defense managed to pick off two of Trevor Lawrence’s passes. The Bills executed when it mattered and managed to leave Jacksonville with the win. They moved on to face the Broncos in the divisional round. Bo Nix stole the show with three TD passes. Nix threw a clutch touchdown pass to Marvin Mims late in the 4th quarter to put Denver up three, but Bills kicker Matt Prater hit a 50-yard field goal that sent the game to overtime. Broncos kicker Will Lutz hit a 23-yard field goal ending the game 33-30, and Denver heading to the AFC Championship game.

The Texans came into Pittsburg on a nine-game winning streak. Houston’s defense embarrassed the Steelers to keep their ten game winning streak alive. Texan’s receiver Christian Kirk finished with 144 receiving yards and a touchdown catch. Their QB C.J. Stroud helped to move the Texans on to the divisional round.

The Patriots knocked off Justin Herbert and the Chargers in a low scoring game of 16-3. Herbert, who has struggled in the playoffs before, was sacked six times, fumbled the ball twice, and finished with only 159 passing yards. The Patriots defense looked good against a banged-up Chargers O-Line, but Drake Maye showed he can hang with the big dogs. Maye finished with 17 completions out of 29 attempts, 268 passing yards, 66 rushing yards, a passing touchdown, and one interception. Maye and the Patriots did enough to move on to face the Texans.

The game looked like it might be a high scoring game with Maye and Stroud both having touchdown passes early, but as the game went on, the Texans offense gave the game away. The main focus was Stroud, who threw a pick-six to Patriots DB Marcus Jones. Stroud finished the game with four interceptions, and the Patriots won 28-16.

The Patriots met the Broncos in the AFC championship. Unfortunately, Nix broke his ankle on one of the last plays in the divisional win for the Broncos and this

diminished their chance of beating the Patriots. The Patriots are a well-balanced team and won the AFC Championship game to advance to the Super Bowl.

The NFC looked a bit different this year. The Lions made the NFC Championship last year but missed the playoffs this year. The Buccaneers started strong but had a rough second half of the season and ended up missing the playoff. The Panthers had a rough first half but a strong second half. Carolina ended up winning the NFC South and punched their ticket to the playoffs.

The Rams took on the Panthers in the Wild Card round. The Rams struck early with two touchdowns from Puka Nacua, but the Panthers answered back. Chubba Hubbard rushed for a touchdown, then Carolina’s defense held the Rams to a field goal, and Bryce Young took off for a rushing touchdown with 30 seconds left in the half. Each team scored a field goal in the third quarter. Bryce Young and the Panthers put up a fight against the Rams that many thought drastically out-matched them; however, it still wasn’t enough to get the win. With only 38 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Ram’s Matthew Stafford threw the touchdown to beat the Panthers 34-31.

The defending Super Bowl champions, the Philadelphia Eagles faced the San Francisco 49ers. The 49ers had dealt with key injuries the whole season. Losing Nick Bosa and Fred Warner early on, they managed to remain competitive enough to make the playoffs. Their quarterback Brock Purdy started the game strong and threw for the first touchdown of the game. The Eagles tight end Dallas Goedert rushed for a touchdown, to keep the game tied in the first quarter. In the second, the Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts threw his only touchdown pass of the game to Goedert. That would be the Eagles last touchdown of the game, and they only managed to hit two field goals for the rest of the game. The 49ers scored two more touchdowns and won the game 23-19.

Now this is where I have to talk about my pain and misery. The Green Bay Packers faced the Bears at Soldier Field in Chicago. The Packers were playing short-handed because late in the season, they lost starting tight end Tucker Kraft, superstar edge rusher Micah Parsons, offensive tackle Zach Tom, and center Elgton Jenkins late. The Bears started the game scoring a field goal, but the Packers took the lead with a touchdown pass from quarterback Jordan Love. During the second quarter, Love threw two more touchdown passes, which put the Packers 21-3 entering the second half. The Bears stopped the bleeding and held the Packers scoreless, and the fourth quarter is where things fell apart for Green Bay. The Bears scored a field goal early, then their running back D’Andre Swift rushed for a touchdown, cutting the lead to five points. The

Packers answered back when Love threw another touchdown to receiver Matthew Golden. The Packers remained scoreless as Bears quarterback Caleb Williams showed up in the fourth quarter. Williams threw his first touchdown of the game, then quickly followed it by throwing a pass to tight end Colsten Loveland for a 2-point conversion. The Bears cut the lead to three with a little over four minutes left in the game. The Packers offense was stagnant and couldn’t manage to score. With one minute and 43 seconds left in the game, Williams made a twenty-five yard touchdown pass to receiver D.J. Moore. Love rallied his team, marched down the field, and scored a touchdown, but it was too little too late. Despite Love finishing 24-46 for 323 yards and four touchdown passes, it didn’t matter. The Chicago Bears won their first playoff game since 2011, which made me a very sad Packers fan.

The Bears moved on to the Divisional Round to face the Rams. Running back Kyren Williams scored the first touchdown giving the Rams the lead. Caleb Williams threw for a touchdown early in the second quarter, then the Bears and Rams both hit a field goal to tie the game heading into the second half. Neither team scored in the third quarter. Kyren Williams ran for another touchdown, but with only 18 seconds in the game Caleb Williams threw a pass to tight end Cole Kmet. Rams kicker Harrison Mevis hit the game-winning field goal to send the Rams to the NFC Championship.

The 49ers headed to Seattle to take on the Seahawks. Rashid Shaheed returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown to put the Seahawks up immediately. The Seahawks hit a field goal, and Seattle quarterback Sam Darnold threw a touchdown. The 49ers were scoreless for the first quarter but managed two field goals to start the second. Those would be the last points the 49ers would score. The Seahawks won the game 41-6 and advanced to the NFC Championship.

With a winning season, the Seahawks had the advantage and beat the Rams to claim the NFC Championship and a chance at the Super Bowl.

The Super Bowl match-up is the New England Patriots versus the Seattle Seahawks. I love Drake Maye, and I think the Patriots have a shot to win, but I don’t see it. The Patriots receiving core isn’t enough for Drake Maye to overcome this elite Seattle defense. The Patriots defense could give the Seahawks offense a hard time, but I’m more confident in Seattle. For the final score, I think it’ll be somewhere around 24 to 13. I think the Seattle Seahawks will overcome the New England Patriots and become Super Bowl LX Champions.

Indoor Men's and Women's Track and Field



Pacing the 4x8 - Djiby Diallo follows close behind a Dickinson State athlete to pace for a fast time.

Paysha Rex | Sports Editor



Speeding Past - Keaton Saastad and Jekori Dahlen in two different teams for the 4x4 race.

Paysha Rex | Sports Editor



On Your Marks - Nicholas Pegors gets ready for the 4x4 relay.

Paysha Rex | Sports Editor



Strong Shot - Jasmine Nash completes her last throw for shotput.

Paysha Rex | Sports Editor



High five for Luck - Coach Hammerschmidt wishes Macy Crane and other members of the 4x8 luck before the race.

Paysha Rex | Sports Editor

BSC Fight Song

Stand up and cheer,
let’s show the mighty Mystics we’re here.
Show your might,
we’re gonna win this game tonight.
Fight! Fight! Fight!
Fearless are we,
we’re gonna gain a victory.
You gotta go, you gotta fight
You gotta win with green and white.



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photography
Leap for Success - Natalie Decouteau lines up for a mid-range jumpshot.

Baseball

Date	Location
2/21	Hesston, K.S.
2/22	Hesston, K.S.
2/27	Yankton, S.D.
2/28	Yankton, S.D.
3/7	Sioux City, I.A.
3/8	Sioux City, I.A.
3/17	Mitchell, S.D.

Men’s Basketball

Date	Location
1/30	Bismarck, N.D.
1/31	Bismarck, N.D.
2/6	Dillon, M.T.
2/7	Butte, M.T.
2/13	Bismarck, N.D.
2/14	Bismarck, N.D.
2/20	Bellevue, N.E.
2/21	Madison, S.D.

Men’s Wrestling

Date	Location
1/31	Dickinson, N.D.
2/7	Moorhead, M.N.
2/20	Okaloosa, I.A.
3/5	Wichita, K.S.

Softball

Date	Location
2/6	Jamestown, N.D.
2/13	Sioux City, I.A.
2/14	Sioux City, I.A.
2/21	Jamestown, N.D.
2/22	Jamestown, N.D.
2/25	Minot, N.D.

Women’s Basketball

Date	Location
1/30	Bismarck, N.D.
1/31	Bismarck, N.D.
2/1	Grand Forks, N.D.
2/6	Dillon, M.T.
2/7	Butte, M.T.
2/13	Bismarck, N.D.
2/14	Bismarck, N.D.
2/20	Bellevue, N.E.
2/21	Madison, S.D.

Women’s Wrestling

Date	Location
2/4	Bismarck, N.D.
2/7	Des Moines, I.A.
2/15	Bismarck, N.D.
2/21	Jamestown, N.D.
2/28	Oskaloosa, I.A.
3/13	Park City, K.S.

Editorial

OUR VOICE

Letter from the Editors



Sophia Fafard & Kayden Schmitcke
Co-Editors

The new year is supposed to bring new hopes and aspirations, a fresh start or maybe a new chapter for those around you. The start of the semester has just begun, and students are eager to finish strong for the long awaited spring break. Bismarck State College has been staying busy with the Barendick Center almost complete and ready to open this month. The Student Government Association is working on their Legacy Project, a mural that students will have the opportunity to work on. A new football

coach and athletics director stepped foot on campus and they are ready to contribute to BSC’s athletic legacy. Not only that, but Mystic Media is back in action. All facets of the team are hard at work, whether it be those working in radio, video, or print. This is the first Spring Semester issue of the Mystician, and it contains tons of fun and interesting stories ranging from campus news, a movie look ahead, and sports updates and stats. As with the new year comes fresh faces, so keep a look out for some awesome stories from our new staff members. This year brings new hopes and aspirations, and we aspire to bring you the best possible work we can do. Read the Mystician, go to campus events, and balance work and study time. Enjoy your Spring Semester Mystics! We’ll be keeping you in the loop in the meantime. P.S. Our photo section, Say Cheese, is always looking for submissions. Why not submit photos of you and your friends? Just find the QR code and send in some pics!

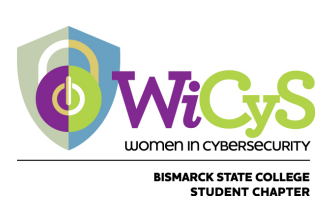
JOIN A CLUB

Cyber Club & WiCyS Club

Bismarck State College students are eligible to join two cybersecurity clubs this year. These are WiCyS and Cyber Club. Both clubs are open to all BSC students, regardless of degree, and both clubs meet monthly. WiCyS club members participate in online training activities designed to promote and encourage new persons in the field of cybersecurity and cyber-adjacent fields, such as Artificial Intelligence. Meetings are monthly and take place at the Advanced Technology Center in Room 210. The meetings are virtual and in-person. WiCyS will meet from 7 p.m. to 7:50 p.m. The WiCyS club adviser is Lynette Borjeson Painter. For any questions, contact her at 701-224-5755.

CyberClub is another cybersecurity opportunity. In CyberClub, members prepare for and train to compete in cyber competitions around the region and nation. Meetings are monthly and take place at the ATC in Room 210. Meetings are virtual and in-person, and the club will meet from 6 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. Club advisers include Painter and Deborah Mantz. Contact Painter at her previously mentioned number or Mantz at 701-224-2407 for any questions.

Meeting Dates for
February 10, 2026
March 3, 2026
April 14, 2026



New Year, New Movies: What to Watch in 2026



Jaxon Miller
The MYX Producer

With 2025 now in the past, a new year of movies is here to look forward to. Will they be as good as last year’s line up? We’ll have to wait and see. This year offers a mix of superhero movies, horror movies, and big-budget blockbusters. Superhero fans of both sides, Marvel and DC, have got two movies each (so far) to anticipate. Starting with Marvel, a new Spider-Man movie starring Tom Holland is slated to come out on July 31. “Spider-Man: Brand New Day’s” plot is being kept mostly secret, with the only hint we have being Peter Parker having to focus more on his day to day life and leaving Spider-Man behind. The other massive Marvel movie is our return to the group that started it all, “Avengers: Domsday.” With no plot yet confirmed, the only thing we have to go on are the actors and name. “Avengers: Domsday’s” main villain will be Dr. Doom, played by a returning Robert Downey Jr. The movie will include many teams including The Avengers, Fantastic Four, and the recently announced X-Men and Wakandans. DC’s movies coming later this year are “Supergirl” and “Clayface.” “Supergirl” releases June 26 and will follow Kara Zor-El, or Supergirl, played by Milly Alcock as we follow her origin story before she travels to Earth. “Clayface” is expected to release on Sept. 11 and the movie follows Matt Hagen as he transforms into Clayface, a monster who can shape his body into any form. Superhero movies can be good, but there is more to wait for other than



them this year. One of the biggest blockbusters coming out is Christopher Nolan’s take on an epic most people probably read in an English class at some point, “The Odyssey.” Matt Damon plays the title role of Odysseus as he travels home to Ithaca after the Trojan War and encounters mythological creatures and gods on his travels. The cast is starstudded, with recognizable names such as Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Robert Pattinson, Zendaya, Mia Goth, Anne Hathaway, Jon Bernthal, and many more. Christopher Nolan’s last release was a massive hit with 2023’s “Oppenheimer” and was praised by critics and moviegoers alike. Moviegoers who like getting scared also have plenty of movies to get their horror fix. “28 Years Later: The Bone Temple” will just have been released at the time this comes out and is the sequel to 2025’s “28 Years Later.” The seventh sequel to the Scream franchise returns with Matthew Lillard in the

cast reprising his role as Stu Macher from the first movie. Anyone interested in horror video games has “Return to Silent Hill” and “Resident Evil” to wait for later this year, with “Return To Silent Hill” coming out on Jan. 23 and “Resident Evil” set to release in September. Finally, we have some “unique” movies that don’t fit into any of the criteria above. Numerous video game movies are coming out this year, including “The Super Mario Galaxy Movie,” “Mortal Kom-bat 2,” and “Street Fighter.” For fans of biopics, “Michael,” a movie based around the life of Michael Jackson, is soon to be released. And finally, the third part of the Dune series, “Dune: Part Three,” is set to release on Dec. 18, 2026. With many movies set to release this year, there’s a little something for everyone. With the wide spectrum of genres, ranging from superhero, horror, and even video games, theaters should be packed this year.

Ag Club Advisor: Marko Davinic, 701-224-5409	701-224-5755, and Debbie Mantz, 701-224-2407	2580 and Sean Thorenson, 701-224-5564
Amateur Radio Club Advisor: Mike Holman, 701-224-5591	DECA Advisor: Nicole Morrison, 701-224-2611	HOSA - Future Health Professionals Advisor: Mikey Wegner, 701-224-2664
Art Club Advisor: Andrea Fagerstrom, 701-224-5520	Drama Club Advisor: Dean Bellin, 701-224-5627	LGBT+ Club Advisor: Erin Price, 701-224-5449
Bitcoin Research Club Advisor: Nicklos See, 701-224-5528	Energy Club Advisors: Brad Anderson, 701-224-5559 and Jeff Oster, 701-224-5560	MESA Gaming Club Advisors: Joshua Kern, 701-224-5602 and Kelsey Riggs, 701-224-5451
Country Dance Club Advisor: Rebecca Knutson, 701-224-2491	FBLA Collegiate Advisor: Steve Wangler, 701-224-2620	Mystic Catholics Advisor: Marcus Fries, 701-224-5492
CRU Advisor: Mark Voigt, 701-224-2507	FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Advisors: Kyle Kuether, 701-224-2583 and Madison Kastrow	Mystic Media Advisor: Karen Bauer, 701-224-5522
Cultural Exchange Club Advisors: Kelsey Menge, 701-224-5446 and Sheri Omlid, 701-224-5422	Graphic Design and Communications Club (GDCC) Advisors: Jason Lueder, 701-224-	Student Nurses Organization (SNO) Advisor: Lakin Grahl, 701-224-2473 and Kelli Kuether, 701-224-5495
CyberClub/WiCys Advisors: Lynette Borjeson-Painter,		

Staff Opinion

What is the MOST overrated sport?



Liberty Friez
Content Editor

Sweat, Screams, and an Inflated Sense of Self Importance

All sports are over-rated. There is not a single one that is more or less overrated. I mean the credit, attention, and money sports receive does not make sense to me. Sure, they can be fun, but not that fun. Most of the time it's just a bunch of sweaty dudes chasing a ball while people scream and cheer on the sideline. It's not that serious.

What I also don't get is people who let the outcome of a sports game dictate their emotions. I know people like that and they are not enjoyable to be around. Safe to say, I'm not a fan of sports.



Alondra Vidal
Reporter

I enjoy every sport, but there is one that I believe is overrated worldwide. Football might be seen as overrated in the

Men Acting like Girls

U.S. and underrated in other countries. However, soccer is overrated everywhere. Lots of boys play soccer, from Europe to Latin America. It has a high demand, which means if you have money you could get in sometimes. That's why most soccer games aren't that good because the players got in because of their money. The good players are in the smallest town of

Brazil. Don't get me started on the field. They are worse than women. They are drama queens. Every time they get touched or pushed, they throw themselves and roll dramatically, overreacting and putting a whole play on because this would make the other team get a yellow card. They're so delicate.



Kade Warren
Reporter

Soccer is the most watched sport in the world. Every four years, the World Cup pulls over one and a half billion viewers. Compared to

Overrated and Underhated

arguably the greatest sport to watch, American Football, which only pulls over 150 million viewers during the superbowl (which happens every year). Soccer is the most overrated sport specifically because of the rules. Why limit the human body to just its feet (besides the goalie, but he probably burns less calories than the people watching from home). And every game is the

same, it's not like any western sport with timeouts and breaks. For example, in football, the coach can call a timeout so he can change the play or decide to punt/kick the ball. In soccer, there are no timeouts or changes of play; they run one play and one strategy, kick the ball, and somehow, that makes it the most popular.

Style Over Substance

leyball in high school felt like a clique you could only get into if you were friends with the coach, who was usually more often than not an angry middle aged white woman or a girl in her early twenties who couldn't leave high school just yet.

This is why I think volleyball is overrated. After a discouraging experience with it in high school, volleyball instantly became my least favorite sport to watch. Thankfully, the Mystics

Volleyball Team has helped shift my perception and most of my biases are based on my high school experience, not necessarily college. Still, I think the obsession for club volleyball and how some girls gate keep the sport makes it more overrated than other sports. Not to mention the sport is based more on skill than athletic endurance, which is why, at the high school level, volleyball is style over substance.



Sophia Fafard
Co-Editor

Volleyball. A fun sport, but exclusive to those who play in club teams and dedicate their high school years only to volleyball. Although normal athletes can play at the rec or intramural level, vol-



Paysha Rex
Sports Editor

Race Walking: Because Running Was Too Obvious

Cross-country isn't an Olympic sport, but it is a high school and college sport. Want to know what is an Olympic sport? It's race walking. Yes. Fast walking. It is an Olympic event where technique is all in the hips, like you are auditioning for a salsa competition.

I do have respect for race walkers; I know those athletes are just

as disciplined. But let's say you saw someone doing that down your street, you'd assume they were either late for bingo or extremely committed to their FitBit goals. I appreciate the sport. I just don't understand how running long distances is not viewed as highly as someone trying to speed through like they want to be first in line at school.



Garrett Froelich
Columnist

Ugh. Football.

SNORE!!! I'm a pissy baseball fan surrounded by mouth breathers. Football is panem et circenses (bread and circuses). We all pack into the colosseum to eat our food, drink our beer, and watch a violent sport to distract ourselves for three hours. Americans try to tell ourselves we are the most civilized culture on the planet and look down on other's ways of life, yet we still love our gladiator fights. Not to mention UFC and boxing having the culture of meat heads it does also.



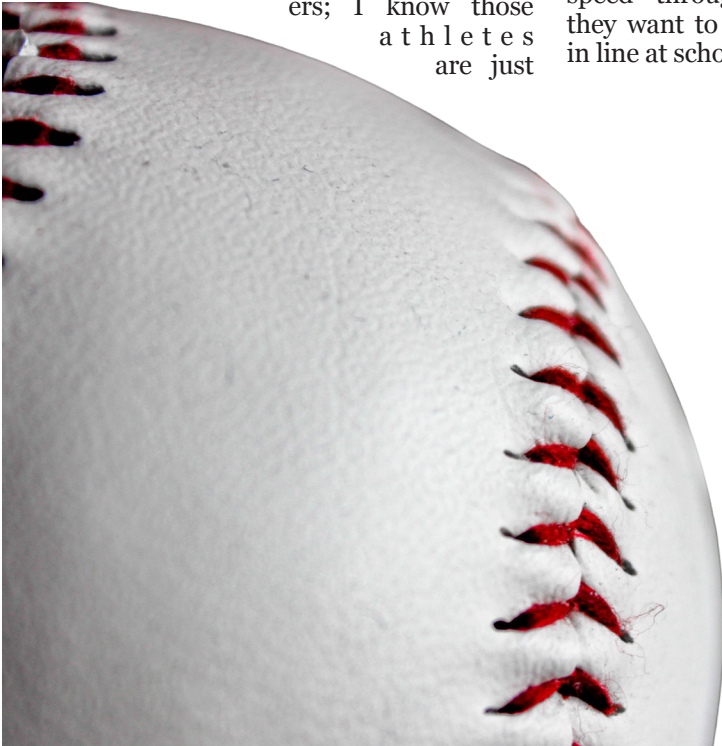
Michael Huravitch
Reporter

I never really understood hockey. I tried it when I was younger, and I understand there's skill to it, but I never understood why people like it so much. Even when I'd go to games during high school, it was just to hang-out in the

Hockey is Boring

student section. The game is so slow, usually the final score is something like 3-1. From my point of view, it's just dudes skating around with mainly nothing happening. Sure other sports aren't always high scoring, but with a sport like basketball, you'll see each team score frequently. Even a low-scoring basketball game ends up

being something like 82-72. Even when I've watched hockey games with a friend or family member playing, it's just so boring. I've tried playing a lot of sports and soccer was a close second, but it had to be hockey for me. Sorry hockey lovers, but to me it's overrated.





Mygel Porter
Social Media Manager

Why would anyone want to sit down watching someone hit a ball a few hundred meters away, then spend the next several minutes walking over

Who Even Watches This?

to it to do it again? Don't get me started on the people that pay to watch that in person. Golf is extremely overrated and is one, if not, the most boring sport. There is genuinely nothing to enjoy in the sport of golf. If people want to see nice scenery and be outside, there's plenty of walking paths for that. I simply don't understand the appeal to either pay to watch or buy all this expensive equipment to play.

A lot of people try to defend it by saying you have to be buzzed/drunk to enjoy it with friends, which unironically destroys the whole argument of golf being fun. I can get into this tangent another day, but if you have to be drunk to have fun doing something, whatever you're doing is not fun.



Isaiah Johnson
MystiCast Executive Producer

Dull and Drab

Soccer is unbelievably overrated. Now, before you come after me with your picket signs and arguments that it should actually be called "football," let me clarify my position a bit. I appreciate that soccer is so accessible to people all across the globe.

All you need is a ball and some space. It's fantastic that millions of people have discovered the joy of sports through playing soccer. However, soccer is an absolutely terrible sport for professional coverage. There is very little action to speak of,

and the game timer does the opposite of increasing tension throughout the game. I prefer watching a curling match ten times more than any soccer match. Curling really needs more recognition.



Jaxon Miller
The MYX Producer

Football Kinda Sucks

one of the most overrated sports ever. I mean, watching people tackle each other CAN be fun, but when that's one of the only things happening in the sport? That's when it gets old fast. Also, some of the fans are the craziest people I have ever heard of, I mean have you SEEN Philadelphia after the Super Bowl? People get way too

into it. These people treat players that can throw and tackle good like greek gods. I'll admit, football has its place and the Super Bowl is pretty cool. I can't get into it at all, especially when fans are insane and a lot

of games are all the same with the same teams going to the Super Bowl year after year.



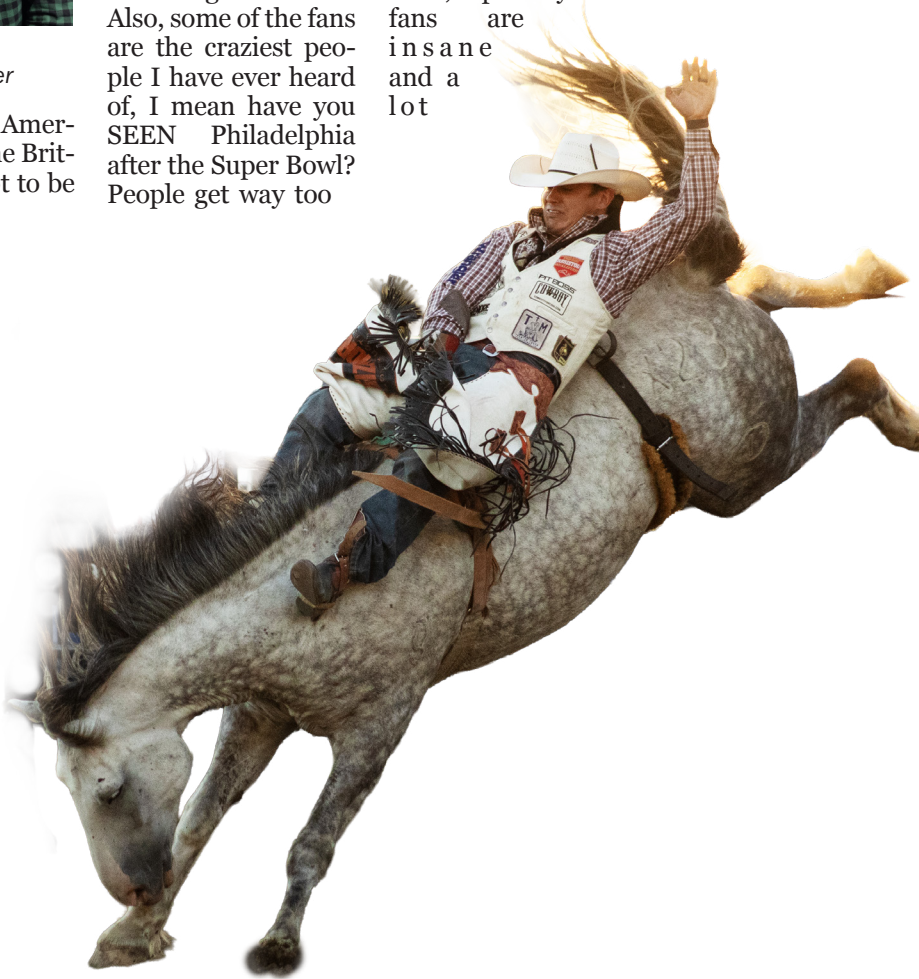
Kerstin Hilzendeger
Graphic Designer

I think the most overrated sport is football. While yes, it is one of the most fun sports to watch, it is a little odd for a few different reasons.

Football is So Overrated

The first reason is that football games can last for three hours or more, but only have an hour of active game time. A game consists of four 15 minute quarters, and the remainder of the three hours consists of timeouts, commercial breaks, clock stoppages, and a 12 minute halftime. When you actually take a look at it, football is a very slow-paced game. It is also overrated because of the fan culture. Many

people take the games too seriously, take a team's wins or losses to heart, or they make their favorite team their entire personality. I agree, it is a fun sport to watch, but I think we all need to treat it a little less seriously.



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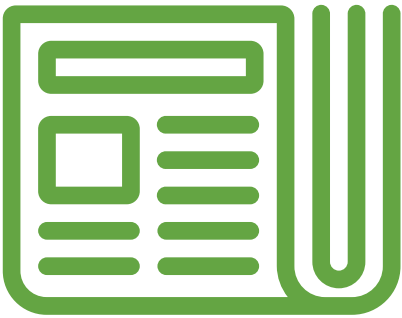
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BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE STUDENT PRODUCTIONS

February 2026

We are excited to share with you all the fantastic events and activities happening on campus. February is quite a busy month, with Money Smart Mystics Events, Vinterfest, and Toast Tuesdays every Tuesday as usual. Everything listed here is FREE for you as a student!

Be sure to check out the community events as well—though they might not always be free or hosted by Bismarck State College, they are great opportunities to engage with the wider community. For more details about events, check out the events page on the BSC website.

Don't forget to show your support for our athletes—cheer them on and be part of the excitement! Check out both basketball and wrestling matches this month at the Armory. Enjoy all the activities, and make the most of your time here at BSC!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>1</div> <div>BookTalk at BSC The Book of Doors When: 1 - 3 p.m. Where: BSC Library Skogen Hall, Room 204</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Groundhog Day</div> <div></div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Art Against Addiction When: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Where: Student Union</div> <div>Mystics Women's Wrestling When: 7 p.m. Where: BSC Armory</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Vinterfest Winter Olympics When: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Where: BSC NECE Auditorium, Room 304</div> <div></div> <div>Mystician 87.10</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Vinterfest E-Sports Tournament When: 10 a.m. Where: Student Union Lower Level, Gate City Room</div> <div>Vinterfest USA vs Finland Livestream When: 9:45 a.m. - 12 p.m. Where: ATC Live Event Venue</div>
<div>8</div> <div>2026 Superbowl Watch Party When: 4 p.m. Where: ATC Live Event Venue</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Money Smart Mystics Exhibition When: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Where: Student Union</div> <div></div>	<div>10</div> <div>Tactical Tuesday: Money Smart Mystics When: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Where: Student Union</div> <div>Capital Career Fair When: 3 - 6 p.m. Where: Bismarck Event Center</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Confessions of a Shopaholic When: 12 p.m. Where: NECE Auditorium</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Cakepops and Card Making When: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Where: Student Union</div> <div></div>	<div>13</div> <div>Mystics Women's Basketball vs Mayville State When: 5 p.m. Where: BSC Armory</div> <div>Mystics Men's Basketball vs Mayville State When: 7 p.m. Where: BSC Armory</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Mystics Women's Basketball vs Valley City State When: 5 p.m. Where: BSC Armory</div> <div>Mystics Men's Basketball vs Valley City State When: 7 p.m. Where: BSC Armory</div> <div>Valentine's Day</div>
<div>15</div> <div>Mystics Women's Wrestling When: 7 p.m. Where: BSC Armory</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Females in Robotics When: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Where: ATC West Flex Lab</div> <div>President's Day</div> <div>No Classes</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Know the Code Trivia When: 5 - 6:30 p.m. Where: Mystic Marketplace</div> <div>Vinterfest Cool Runnings Showing When: 3 - 4:45 p.m. Where: ATC Live Event Venue</div> <div>Mystics Men's Wrestling When: 7 p.m. Where: BSC Armory</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div> <div></div> <div>Mystician 87.11</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>
<div>22</div> <div></div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div></div>

Art Gallery Opens in Skogen Hall

Clayton Sicble-Fox
Photographer

This semester in the Gannon Gallery, on the second floor of Skogen Hall, there will be four different art exhibits, ranging from individual artists to student led shows. The exhibit will showcase a variety of art forms.

Assistant Professor of Visual Art and Gallery Organizer Andrea Fagerstrom shared the upcoming art

show exhibits.

Coming up first from Jan. 12 through Feb. 11 is the “Cut Away; Reduction Relief Prints” by the artist Eric A. Johnson. A reception with Eric will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 4 to 6 p.m.

The list below provides the schedule so far.

Artists: Molly McLain & Dakota Good House
Dates: Feb. 25 – April 2
Reception:
Title: Visual Art Student Exhibition

Artists: BSC Visual Art Students
Dates: April 13 – May 8
Reception: Wednesday, April 22, 4 to 6 p.m.
Title: Century High School Exhibition
Artists: Century High School Visual Art Students
Dates: May 13 – 17
Reception: Wednesday, May 13, 4 to 6 p.m.
For more information, contact Fagerstrom at andrea.fagerstrom@bismarckstate.edu.