

Homecoming 2025: Bringing Home the Crown

Sophia Fafard

Co-editor

Bismarck State College's homecoming was a week of nonstop celebration and fun. With eight homecoming nominees, voting began on Sept. 29 and ended on Oct. 3. The nominees included Mygel Porter, Hannah Nelson, Logan Fix, Aisha Zaffino, Jaxon Schaefer, Reese Miller, Logan Harmel, and Jordyn Heidrich. With students on the edge of their seats in anticipation, the homecoming royalty was finally announced on Oct. 4 at the Mystics Stampede Rodeo in Mandan. Jaxon Schaefer was elected Homecoming King, and Aisha

Zaffino was elected Homecoming Queen. The homecoming royalty was not the only part of homecoming week though, as a variety of events were scattered throughout the week to raise the homecoming hype.

Monday kicked off with the Traveling Pizza Wars in the Student Union. Here, students tried out different kinds of pizza from local pizza places, including Craftcade, Nardello's, and Bruno's. Sales at the bookstore and coffee shop were available too.

The next day offered a variety of events. The Party on Schafer took place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Axe throwing, free snacks, and pie your professor were a few of the activities along Schafer. Later that day, Know the Code Trivia ramped up in the Student Union, offering popcorn, sodas, and free prizes to students.

On Wednesday, students could let loose with a game of laser tag and laser archery between Lidstrom and Swensen Hall at 7 p.m. Next, Thursday saw the Alcohol Awareness Rally from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event offered lotus drinks, trivia games, and spikeball to students. Later that day, Beep Bingo kicked off in the Student Union parking lot. Organized by the Student Government Association, Beep Bingo acted as a fundraiser for the group. Participants See Homecoming | 3



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MYSTICSHENANIGANS



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YOU ARE INVITED! SAVE THE DATE: Friday, Nov. 14, 2025

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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.

Homecoming

Cont.

could win prizes from this event, if they were lucky.

Friday may have been the busiest day of homecoming week. BSC Family Weekend started up on Friday, and a Scavenger Hunt from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. saw students seeking clues throughout campus. At the same time, face painting and yard games were busy with students at the Student Union. The Mystics Baseball team also played a double header that day at the Haaland field at 2 p.m. Later that day, the Mystics Stampede Rodeo kicked off at 6 p.m., as well as the Mystics Volleyball game at the BSC Armory.

Lastly, Saturday wrapped up the homecoming week with a tailgating party at the Mystics Stampede Rodeo. This year, the homecoming royalty was announced at the rodeo. Schaefer and Zaffino were announced as homecoming royalty and celebrated as the final piece

to homecoming week. Both shared some fun facts about themselves and how they felt about winning homecoming this year. Congrats to all the homecoming nominees and the winners of the homecoming royalty!

Jaxon Schaefer

Hometown: Carrington Major: AGRI Business Favorite Hobby: Ice Fishing

Favorite Food: Tiramisu, the best dessert in the world. Favorite Song: "Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue" by Toby Keith because it's patriotic.

Favorite Part of Becoming Homecoming King: People calling me king.

Aisha Zaffino

Hometown: Beulah Major: Finance

Favorite Hobby: Track, because I love working towards a goal and seeing myself improve.

Favorite Food: All kinds of berries because they are a yummy snack and are really good for you.

Favorite Song: "Won't Start Now" by Seph Schlueter because Jesus is king!

Favorite Part of Becoming Homecoming Queen: That I got to represent the BSC track team well.

Halloween Haunts

Avery Kudrna Reporter

Halloween is creeping up quickly, and Bismarck is brewing up plenty of thrills to get us in the spooky spirit. Whether chasing chills in haunted houses, picking the perfect pumpkin, or uncovering eerie tales on ghost tours, there's something hauntingly fun for everyone this October.

Anyone craving a fright this fall can head over to the Haunted Fort at Abraham Lincoln State Park. Located just outside of Mandan, N.D. and a short drive from Bismarck, the fort, a timeless haunted house, has been giving North Dakota scares for 23 years. The haunted fort will be in operation every Friday and Saturday of October as well

as November 1. Doors creak open at 7 p.m. and there are several time slots available throughout the night, with the last one being at 11 p.m. October 31 and November 1 will be the haunted fort's "Darkness Unleashed" event, a special event designed to give the ultimate nightmarish experience. Tickets start at \$18 online. If eager to skip the line, and dive straight into the horror, fast passes are also available.

"The Haunted Fort is more than North Dakota's premier horror attraction — it's a homegrown legend powered by local creativity." Matt Schanandore, Executive Director of the Haunted Fort, said.

Another adventure awaits in downtown Bismarck. URL Radio presents a haunted history tour of downtown Bismarck that explores the history of the city. The tour explores historical events that happened right here in Bismarck, such as, gunfights, stabbings, gambling, prohibition, and more. The tours are presented Fridays and Saturdays in October at 7:15 p.m. and 8 p.m. The tour starts and ends at URL Radio, located at 305 E Broadway. Tickets must be purchased online before the tour, tickets cost \$15. These tours are open to a nyone aged 10.

Need to pick the perfect pumpkin? Look no further than Papa's Pumpkin Patch! Located at 5001 Fernwood Drive, Bismarck, N.D., Papa's has been around since 1983 and has been offering not only pumpkins and produce, but also entertainment. Papa's Pumpkin Patch is open daily from 12-7 p.m. Admission

to Papa's is \$8 per person, besides on Thursdays where tickets are half price (\$4 per person). Children two and under get in for free. There are some activities that require an additional purchase of tickets, however there are also plenty of free activities throughout Papa's Pumpkin Patch. Some ticketed activities include pony rides, hay rides, train rides, and mini golf. Some free activities include hay bale mazes, touchstone nature trail, corn cribs, swings, tire climbing pile, and more! If looking to pick some produce, Papa's is estimated to bring in about 25-30,000 pumpkins, gourds, decorative corn and related harvest items. Papa's will only be open until mid October.

Halloween Movie Favorites

Avah Stein

Reporter

With the month of October now here, Halloween movies are a go-to for movie nights. Whether they are scary or silly movies, everyone has their favorite spooky season flicks.

There are many things to do during the month of October, such as going to the pumpkin patch, visiting haunted houses, apple picking, and more, but another activity is watching Halloween movies. There is even an activity called "31 Days of Halloween", where people watch one Halloween movie a day for the whole month of October.

A question that usually pops up when the Halloween month is upon us is whether horror movies are qualified as Halloween movies. Or are they just horror?

Benjamin John Wolff is a third year student at Bismarck State College. He said his top three Halloween movies are, "The Autopsy of Jane Doe", "Scary Movie 2", and "Nightmare Before Christmas". Wolff said horror movies are Halloween movies as well.

"Yes, horror movies are Halloween movies. I put horror movies in my top three halloween movies," Wolff said.

Ella Luhmann is a second year student at BSC. She agrees that horror movies are Halloween movies and that they go together.

"My top three Halloween movies are "A Quiet Place", "Quiet Place 2", and "Us", Luhmann said.

Clayton Sicble-Fox and Dexter Yohan are both freshmen at BSC. They both agreed that the top three Halloween movies are "Halloween 2", "The Ring", and "Trick or Treat".

"Horror movies are Halloween movies because that's the whole theme of Halloween," Sicble-Fox and Yohan agreed together.

The collective group of people all agreed that horror movies are Halloween movies.



Avah Stein | Reporter

Spooky Face - BSC students, Benjamin Wolff and Ella Luhmann were asked to make their best spooky face.

Pleased to Meet You



Jaxon Miller
The MYX Production Manager

Zahn Gisinger Bassist and Lead Singer of Harsh Light

Q: What made you get into playing bass and singing?

A: I've always had a large interest in the arts my whole life. I started playing bass because I was like, dang, I think I want to sing for a band, but I didn't think I'd be good enough just to be a singer. So I was like, you know, maybe I'll pick up an instrument and give that a try. I started playing bass at like 12 or 13 and then a few years later I started getting professional lessons.

Q: What made you start Harsh Light?

A: I really wanted to pursue being in a band because I've just been really into music my whole life. So I was trying out

for bands. I was trying to start them with my friends. I was really trying to push for it at like 16. I was actively trying to pursue it with friends and it never really worked out, because with your friends you can't really. They don't want to lock in, you know, because it's like trying to do a group project with them. So then I was complaining to the owner of Guitar Lot, which is where I used to get lessons, he was like, "well, I know a drummer and a guitarist that you could start something with." So we met up and my guitarist is Cade and then my drummer is Logan. We just clicked and we've been writing music and hanging out and been best friends ever since.

Q: What kind of music shaped your sound as Harsh Light?

A: A lot of Riot Grrrl music, some 90s

punk too. I really love the Distillers and I guess a big one with my inspiration is Babes in Toyland and like Bikini Kill. Also things like 80s punk, like Dead Kennedys or even The Ramones. My guitarist is really inspired by Metallica and a lot of thrash metal. So a lot of people compare his stuff to that. So he loves thrash metal and hair metal. And then my drummer has a background in jazz music and progressive rock.

Q: Would You Like To Throw Out Any Performances You Guys Are Playing Soon?

A: Yeah. October 25 is our next performance. We have a big blowout Halloween show at Rhythm Records at 7 p.m. It's going to be five bands trying to make it huge.

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Paysha Rex | Sports Editor

FULL HOUSE - Students explore jobs and make connections at the Career Fair

CAREER FAIR ATC



Paysha Rex | Sports Editor



Paysha Rex | Sports Editor

SAYING HELLO - Glendive Medical Center employees interact with students

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Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

TAKE DOWN! - Mystic Cowboy wrestles steer to the ground as dirt flies

 $\ensuremath{\mathbf{RIDING}}$ $\ensuremath{\mathbf{TO}}$ $\ensuremath{\mathbf{VICTORY}}$ - The Women's Rodeo team takes top team finish

RODEO STAMPEDE



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Editorial

OUR VOICE

Letter from the Editors



Kayden Schmitcke & Sophia Fafard Co-Editors

Hey there! Sophia and I are recollecting on nostalgic pieces of our childhood. Movies and TV shows are a never ending list, with shows such as Magic School Bus, Arthur, Power Rangers, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Air Bud, Astro Boy,

and She-Ra (Sophia watched A LOT of She-Ra). These movies shaped fond childhood memories. We both talked about Power Rangers, and ironically we both did the exact same thing when watching the shows; we tried to copy the fight moves of the Power Rangers and use them against our siblings.

Other sources of nostalgia include books like Dork Diaries, Hatchet, Judy Blume, Magic Treehouse, and Pete the Cat. For Sophia, the Dear Canada Diaries are a specific part of her childhood nostalgia. Nonetheless, all of these books incite memories of library visits, reading with the family, and many moments of fun and laughter.

Another prominent nostalgic piece are snacks like Danimale's yogurts, Push-Up Pops, Dunkaroos, Poprockets, Smarties (Rockets in Canada), Pringle sticks, Ritz crackers with cheese dip, Airheads, Animal Crackers, Fruit Rollups, and Bug Juice. All of these snacks were addicting as a kid, but now...we're not sure if we'd find them addicting. We'd love to try them again though! Just not in the vast quantities we wished for as children.

It's always a fun time to go down memory lane, and we encourage you to think back on your own childhood. What were some of your favorite TV shows? Books? Maybe even snacks? Did any of the things listed resonate with you? Take some time to look back, take in, and appreciate what you might've forgotten. And who knows? Maybe you'll rediscover a part of yourself by reflecting on your childhood!

Letter from the President



Dr. Dan LeingangBSC Interim President

Dear MysticNation,

lege this fall.

It's hard to believe we've already reached the midpoint of the semester! Midterm means the leaves are changing, the coffee lines are a little longer, and we're all finding our stride. It's also a perfect time to pause and recognize the incredible energy that surrounds Bismarck State Col-

Every day, I see our campus buzzing with creativity, competitions, social interactions and community spirit. There's something truly special happening here, and it's because of YOU. It's our students, faculty, and staff who make BSC such an extraordinary place to learn, work, grow and

As we look ahead to the second half of the semester, I invite everyone to get involved and show your Mystic pride. The curtain opens on the first BSC Theatre production in our new Live Event Venue and runs late October through early November. "Hello, Dolly!" promises to be a true celebration of talent. Get your tickets now! Our student-athletes are competing strong and representing BSC across the region. There's always room for one more Mystics fan in the stands! The BSC band and choir members are preparing for upcoming concerts, and our Student Life teams continue to host activities designed to connect and celebrate what it means to be part of this college community. Take advantage of these opportunities to be involved!

Your presence and participation at these events matter. When you show up cheering from the stands, applauding from the audience, or volunteering behind the scenes, you strengthen MysticNation.

Let's finish this semester strong. Keep pushing toward your goals, supporting one another, and embracing every experience... all the way to the finish line!

Go Mystics! **Dr. Dan Leingang**BSC Interim President

The Beauty of a Well-Designed Board Game



Isaiah Johnson MystiCast Executive Producer

Board games are phenomenal. Anyone who knows me knows that I jump

at any opportunity to gather a group of friends and match wits over a strategic board game. I am generally tolerant of a wide variety of board games, but strategy games really shine. The Settlers of Catan, Ark Nova, Terraforming Mars, Splendor, and the 1979 Dune board game are all fantastic, but one game stands above the rest. That game is Dominion.

Dominion, created by Donald X. Vaccarino, is a deckbuilding game where each player starts with a hand of 10 cards: 7 coppers and 3 estates. Through a series of tactical decisions, each player must strengthen their deck by adding action cards from the 10 available supply piles or purchasing the always available treasure cards. The game ends when 3 kingdom supply piles are empty

or when all the Provinces (high-scoring victory point cards) run out.

The concept is straightforward, but high-level execution is not. Every game, the 10 kingdom supply piles are randomized, creating countless opportunities for strategic variance. Also, since the game's release in 2008, Vaccarino has released sixteen expansions, guaranteeing the uniqueness of every single game of Dominion.

On Discord, this game has an active worldwide community of the best Dominion players, who compete online in leagues and tournaments with regularity. Something about this game has captured the interest of so many.

Social Norms: Mystic Media Staff

Sophia Fafard

Co-Editor

I am not sure if this is truly a social norm, but from what I've experienced, it seems to be one. When I was a hockey referee, it seemed like the norm to be mean to the refs, even if they were young and upcoming refs. I would ref kids games and parents would get worked up about little Timmy falling over after running into the boards. "That should be a penalty!" They would shout, their eyes red with anger. And I would think in what world is a kid running into the boards on his own accord a penalty? This is U9 hockey, for crying out loud!

I see it also at the professional level. Boy, would I hate to be a sports referee at the professional level. It's like a sick culture, how people tear apart referees. I can understand that, sometimes, there are unfair referees out there. But sometimes, referees are just trying their best and make a mistake from time to time. I do not think fans or players should hate on referees all the time and blame referees for their own mistakes. Sports are sports. Losing sucks, so don't lose. And if a referee is bad, deal with it. Just play a better, smarter game, and you'll probably earn the referee's respect out there on the field/ice/court, even if they are a homer referee.

So. Make it a social norm to be kinder and more understanding, especially for younger and upcoming referees or veteran referees who may need a second to take in a play that just happened.



My Dinner In The City: Short Story

Garrett Froelich *Columnist*

I was sitting in my favorite bar alone, like I do most nights now. Only occasionally speaking with the bartenders, and then some of the other regulars who will go out of their way to say hi and ask what's new which I have nothing new or if I do I already told one person and forgot it's importance to me.

It was open-mic night and I loved going on these nights because I could sit and drink, while nodding my head along silently. There is a line in a song that I heard recently not here, but it goes

"They gain a peace, but they lose one too".

It's not a transcendent thought or anything. I have heard words like this before. I have heard more poetic ways of saying this same thought, but its simplicity and bluntness hit me hard.

I have never learned to find peace within myself well, if at all. Trying to find peace in other people doesn't work either. When it does work, it is the greatest thing in the universe. I realized at some point during my last relationship that I crave love, companionship, and all of the other relationship catch-phrases; but the only thing that mattered to me was getting to my peace. All I knew was that I found a consistent way of calming my mind in her and I couldn't actually find it in myself. I am feeling peace inside myself more than ever now though. A little late, but at least it is happening even if I'm training that through drinking and being in the moment that way. The line before that one in the song is.

"When people change".

I agree with that, but will change it to "when people change to one another". I'm not supposed to be dwelling on it, but I am.

Ah! A child! Aw, that's sweet her parents brought her in here to listen to the music. I miss nights out like that with my parents. They were always so exciting even though we would just go to dinner, but one time we did end up listening to music.

It was still light out when we got there, and one of my favorite parts of going to dinner was the transition from it being light out when we got there to being dark when we left. It was fall. I remember leaves being everywhere—there are a lot of trees downtown where we ate. My allergies, if I have any, are always the worst in the fall—my nose is itchy now. I was with my mother and father—this was before my sister was born. Once she was born, we stopped going out as much. It was my mother's birthday, and she wanted to go to her favorite restaurant Bobby's. It was a beautiful old building with warm lighting, and all of the servers wore button-up shirts with ties.

I miss the incandescent lights from that time. Still I go on walks or when I drive at night and that warm light of lamps catches my eye every single time. There is a house near where I live that has disgusting LED's

as their only light. It looks like autopsies get performed in the living room... anyways

The hostess knew my parents by name, and they were all very happy to see each other— they always were.

I would think all the time about the life my parents were living when I wasn't around. I idolized them. Everywhere we went, people would light up when my parents walked through the door, and they were always laughing.

On this night the mood seemed even cheerier than ever, the hostess–I think her name was Viv–hugged my mom saying

"You look like you could still be in college girl! I wish I looked like you when I was thirty." Viv was maybe forty— you can never tell how old people are when you're young.

My parents met and got married in college and had me when they were twenty-four. Looking back I could tell they weren't ready for kids because I was always home alone with our neighbor Sady. She was in high school, and I had the biggest crush on her.

Viv led us to our table. We would always walk through the bar, and the bartender would always shout some quote from a movie at my dad. I never learned his name.

We sat down, and I ordered my Shirley Temple like I always did. They'd put the cherry through a tiny plastic sword, and my dad always drank Manhattans. He would have three or four throughout dinner and then drive home.

I loved going to dinner with my parents, but the thing I loved most was the ride home after. I'd lean my head against the window and watch as the lights went by. My mom never wanted me to roll down the window, but occasionally she would let me.

My mom can sometimes be a difficult person. She's not crazy or anything, but she has a tendency to over-react and complains about almost everything.

One time at dinner she was looking for her lipstick in her purse after we were done eating. She searched and searched for maybe five minutes muttering curse words to herself. Finally my dad told her to forget about it, but she erupted. She threw her bag down onto the table and said "You know that I need it!".

I later found out that she was a smoker and that she was actually looking for her cigarettes and couldn't find them. I asked her why she tried to hide it for so long.

She said "Because it's disgusting and I wish I never started,"

She went on saying that she started when she was twelve. Some friends and she would all steal one of their parents' cigarettes once a week and they'd meet in this secluded grove and smoke their cigarettes and listen to her friend Mary's walkman. They'd take turns listening to it.

My mom grew up pretty poor. She grew up in a trailer and shared a room with her two sisters growing up.

Our food came out, and I had chosen a cheeseburger because my parents wouldn't let me get a steak. The food came so quickly my dad only had one Manhattan. He asked Viv for another. It was a great dinner.

My mom and dad were in such good moods, and I remember laughing non-stop. I was high on the laughter

My dad was a very funny guy. He would make faces, do voices, and it felt like he always knew what would crack my mom and me up. I should have known my mom was a smoker sooner because she had this really wheezy cough. My mom ordered creme brûlée for dessert, and Dad and I got one to share. We paid and Viv gave my mom a hug again and said goodbye.

We walked out, and it was pretty cold. We walked down the street, and I heard faint music in front of us. We got closer and it was a band playing in the park. They were playing some Beatles song I don't remember which one right now, I stopped and watched for a second. My mom could see how interested I was; so she asked if I wanted to go watch. We stood on the lawn, because all the seating was taken and we didn't have lawn chairs. I really was into the music but it was so late that I got too tired to stay awake. I fell asleep in her arms listening to the music, the next thing I remember is being placed into the car by my dad. My dad must have had too much to drink while I slept, because my mom was in the driver's seat. I stayed awake for a few minutes longer to see the lights on all the buildings and streets and fell asleep. I woke up the next morning with the smell of the restaurant still in my scratchy nose.

I haven't seen either of my parents in two years. I moved to Maine when I was twenty-two and they got divorced when my sister graduated high school. I just haven't felt a need to go see them since. I pay for my sister to come visit a few times a year-she is living with my mom while she goes to college. Our mom came with her the first time, but she's been busy with work and dating a guy named Mike, of course it's a name like that. Why can't his name be Henry or something like that. Mike smacks your mom's butt in front of you and doesn't help with any chores. My dad and I talk pretty often, and he talks about coming to see me, but never follows up on it. I tell them I'm too busy with work to come home for the holidays, but my sister said they know I'm lying about that. I guess I'll have to go home soon.

Caffeinated Conundrum

Alondra Vidal Reporter

The sun rises, and a truck driver grabs his usual cup of steaming coffee to stay awake for the long drive ahead. But when night falls, the same driver reaches for something stronger: a glowing can of energy drink promising "maximum power."

Every day, over 90% of Americans rely on caffeine to keep going. Coffee is the old-school study buddy, and energy drinks are the new hype friend. After asking college students which one they would prefer, 76% of them said energy drinks. Neither option is really the best choice to rely on for energy.

My dad doesn't drink coffee, but he sees his coworkers enjoying it every morning. The comforting smell is hard to resist, prompting him to join in. Coffee has been around since it was discovered in Ethiopia in the 9th century. Legend has it that a man named Kaldi noticed his goats became energetic after eating certain red berries, which turned out to be coffee beans. Some groups, such as agricultural students and teachers, tend to consume more coffee. It's also more expensive than energy drinks; for instance, a 16-oz cold brew at Starbucks costs about \$4.16 to \$5.07 and contains 95 to 200 mg of caffeine. A 16-oz Red Bull, on the other hand, is priced around \$3.68 to \$3.98 and has 50 to 150 mg of



Kayden Schmitcke | Co-Editor

Purely Caffeinated - A studio shot.

caffeine (depending on the brand). Marketing is vital for energy drinks, with brands like Monster and Red Bull using attractive packaging and catchy slogans to appeal to young adults. Many enjoy the taste or have made energy drinks a daily habit. At Bismarck State College, zingers are popular for their vibrant flavors, and I particularly like the coconut Red Bull with syrup and cream.

The truth is, none of these drinks are good for you. Did you know that caffeine doesn't provide energy? It simply blocks the signal that tells your brain, "I'm exhausted." Caffeine tricks your brain into thinking it isn't tired. In fact, your body can feel even more tired afterward

because it has been "running on fake energy," and the fatigue returns once the effects wear off. Many people become accustomed to caffeine, turning it into an addiction where they feel the need to consume coffee or energy drinks just to stay awake and keep their day moving. This can significantly impact your sleep, as caffeine can remain in your system for up to 10 hours. So, that coffee you had at 3 p.m. might be the reason you can't sleep at midnight. There have been cases of caffeine overdose, such as the tragic incident involving Davis Cripe, who rapidly consumed a large amount of energy drinks.

The main focus of this paper is not

about which drink is more preferable, but rather about how you can produce your own energy without spending much. First, it's essential to start developing good habits. Make an effort to improve your sleep quality, find a balanced lifestyle, eliminate distractions, and focus on your tasks. Instead of relying on coffee and energy drinks, consider replacing them with fruits. They contain natural sugars that are beneficial for your body and provide numerous health benefits beyond just energy. It's also important to cut down on junk food, which often has high sugar content and is usually fast food. Aim for balanced meals that include items like eggs, oatmeal, nuts, and yogurt. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, you know why. Additionally, incorporate some physical activity into your routine and allow sunlight to touch your face. Managing your stress levels is vital; excessive stress can drain your energy. Techniques such as deep breathing, listening to music, or taking short breaks can help you maintain your energy levels naturally.

Both coffee and energy drinks might give you a quick boost, but real energy doesn't come from a can or cup. It comes from how you treat your body. The key point is to understand that caffeine may be more harmful than helpful. Just like the truck driver switching from coffee to energy drinks, many of us buy energy instead of creating it.

Conference Highlights AI Ethics in Healthcare

Olivia Grote

Reporter

On Tuesday, Sept. 23, Nick Dobrzelecki, MBA, BSN, delivered a presentation at Bismarck State College on the ethical considerations surrounding the use of artificial intelligence in the healthcare field. His presentation was a part of an ongoing initiative by the college's Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI 100) class to bring speakers well-versed in the technology to campus.

Dobrezelecki's presentation brought attention to the confidentiality concerns involved with storing the data of a business's staff, candidates, and clientele. The presentation also explored the benefits of AI and the ways it is currently being incorporated into the healthcare interview process—a step which Dobrzelecki said he expects to help tackle shortages of healthcare workers by expediting the hiring procedure.

The presentation also recognized AI's potential to be implemented during the candidate-screening stage, for instance, in the case of collecting and interpreting ocular psychometric data. Dobrzelecki said the AI will be able to flag potential candidates for body language that suggests they are lying during the interview or may have an underlying mental illness.

He noted that this raises questions over how long to retain that data and whether or not the data will be linked to someone's personally identifiable information. His company is currently working to build diverse AI avatars of a wide range of ethnic groups to make the process feel more human and put candidates at ease.

Dobrzelecki said that his biggest concern in the future of AI is that humans will overrely on the technology and jump on the bandwagon without having a good reason to do so.

"AI's just a tool," he said. Companies should ask themselves, "is this something we need to do?"

A registered nurse, Dobrzelecki's background combines healthcare work with technology. He began his career by working in the army for four years, and in 2008, he founded a remote coding company called Daymarck. His experience with that company led to

his working with software engineering, cybersecurity, and, by 2018, artificial intelligence. In 2022, he co-founded The Learnery with the plan to integrate the company with AI capabilities. The Learnery is a subsidiary of the Titan Health Corporation, an organization that "plans to solve the challenges of fragmented healthcare around the world."

Dobrzelecki highlighted that the issue of ethical AI usage won't disappear with the present.

"There are ethical and moral issues that we haven't even probably thought about yet that we're going to have to come across," he warned.

Dobrzelecki is the first of four speakers BSC's Introduction to Artificial Intelligence class (AI 100) is hosting on campus. The others will present on various days through October and November, each with their own topic and unique perspective to bring to the table for the benefit of BSC students.

The Native American Cultural Art of Bismarck

Kaden Solemsaas

Reporter

We have an abundance of cultural art here in Bismarck. Not many people are aware of its existence, and even those who are aware may not understand the importance in indigenous culture.

Holly Young is an Native American artist in Bismarck that specializes in cultural art. She is well known and acquainted in the indigenous art scene.

"I am a full time and self taught Dakota artist. I currently practice cultural contemporary art which includes beadwork, ledger art, doll making, quillwork amongst other things," Young said.

Young takes incredible pride in her work, while also understanding its importance to her community.

"It's of the utmost importance to myself as it helps me in many ways, emotionally, mentally, spiritually," Young said. "It also is important to be a voice of my community, to instill pride to other Native American artists and just to do something that brings me joy while being able to survive off of it as well."

Young said she recognized that cultural art is not fully appreciated, and that there are misconceptions in the world of Native American art.

"I don't think the importance of cultural art is

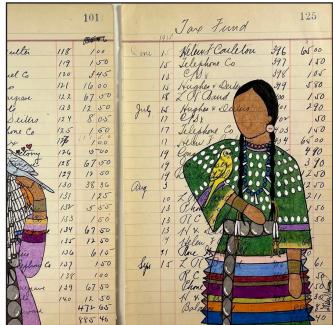
recognized or fully understood yet, but we are definitely on the path in that direction. Native American art is perceived as antiquated and old, as if it comes from a vanishing or vanished people," Young said, "Absolutely wrong, we are still alive, thriving and telling our stories through our art. So our art is not recognized as it should be."

Young said that the world of Native American art is widely underrepresented and underappreciated, but that solutions are out there.

"Listen and pay attention. Create opportunities to invite Native artists in, and teach it in schools like you would any other subject," Young said.

Although the world of Native American art may be underappreciated, Young said there is still hope to introduce it properly to the world while improving Native American lives in the process.

Holly Young can be found and contacted on Instagram under holly_young_artist, where she has over 16 thousand followers.



Holly Young | Submitted

Artwork - Ledger drawings, a specific type of indigenous art.

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 Both Clubs:

November 4, 2025 December 9, 2025 January 13, 2026 February 10, 2026 March 3, 2026 April 14, 2026

Meeting Update

CyberClub held its regular meeting on October 14, 2025, at 6 pm in the ATC 210 Conference room. CyberClub/WiCyS members attended online and on campus.

The guest speaker was Kyle Emmel, Senior Information Security Officer who presented Cyber Threat Intelligence and You.

Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) is the formal process of analyzing cyber threats and turning them into actionable insights for decision makers. In this talk, Cyber Threat Intelligence and You, Kyle covered the basics of CTI, the different types of intelligence, and how it's used both here in North Dakota and beyond. The goal is to give anyone interested in cybersecurity a clear understanding of what CTI is and what CTI roles look like in the field.

Kyle Emmel is a Senior Information Security Officer in NDIT Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC), where he works to strengthen organizational security posture through policy development, risk assessments, and regulatory alignment. Prior to his current role, Kyle worked in Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI), where he focused on identifying emerging threats, analyzing adversary tactics, and translating intelligence into actionable defense strategies.

Special thank you to Tony Aukland, MBA, Technology Outreach Director for North Dakota Information Technology (NDIT) and adjunct Cybersecurity instructor for BSC.



Submitted

Cyber Club - Front row (I-r) Nelly Matanda, Sebastian Meza, Michael Cramer, Katelyn Pfliger, Dylan Bahm. Second row (I-r) Kyle Emmel, presenter, NDIT, Tony Aukland, ND IT. Online Jesse Engesser, Patton Assel, Michael Noble

November meeting

Join BSC CyberClub and NDIT for a panel discussion on how to market yourself when applying for cybersecurity positions. Experts from NDIT will give insights into what they look for when reviewing applications, scoring pre-screening questions, and what they remember most about candidates they've hired...or didn't hire.

Josh Kadrmas, Tom Orluck, and Chase Beard are members of the Governance, Risk, Compliance division within the NDIT Cybersecurity section.

Josh is a Sr. Manager, has 18 years of experience with the State of North Dakota, and has interviewed hundreds of candidates for various cyber positions. Tom is a Sr. Cyber Risk Analyst, has 15 years of experience with the State of North Dakota, and has been on multiple interview panels.

Chase is an intern and began with NDIT in May 2025. Chase is also a student at BSC. Chase will give insights into how he approached applying for an NDIT internship and what tips he has after recently going through the process.

 $BSCATHLETICS \cdot BSCATHLETICS \cdot BSCA$

BSC ATHLETICS

 $BSCATHLETICS \cdot BSCATHLETICS \cdot BSCA$

Mystics Stampede to Victory

Garrett Froelich

Columnist

The second annual Bismarck State College Mystic Stampede Rodeo has come and gone once again, and with the dust settling at the Dale Pahlke Arena in Mandan, Oct. 3 and 4 proved to be an epic weekend for the Mystics.

"Home-field advantage is a priceless variable," BSC Rodeo Head Coach Jon Peek said. "Your stock doesn't have to travel and you get to stay in your own bed."

Competing at home can be an advantage for rodeo teams, and so can the excitement of homecoming week.

"There is a great vibe from the BSC community and the athletes," Peek said. "It's homecoming week and Rodeo is fortunate to be part of the celebration."

Following the Blue Hawk Stampede, where the men took second and the women took seventh, the Mystics' success was at an all-time high at the Mystic Stampede, with both the men and women taking 1st overall.

The men earned honors with a 1st place finish in tie-down roping from Kale Hanson. Tyler Hanson, Weston Klatt, Daylon Danks, and Grady Larson all finished in the top ten of tie down. Danks added in with the aid of Cael Hilzendeger a 2nd place finish in team roping.

The Mystics also found success in steer wrestling with Parker Sandstrom taking 2nd, and Hilzendeger, Larson, and Hanson placing in the top ten.

In bareback riding, Trevor Andrews and Elijah Ramos took 3rd and 4th respectively, with Ty Brenna taking 8th in saddle bronc riding.

"Taking first felt really good and set me up good going into the last rodeo of the fall," Kale Hanson said on taking first in tie-down roping. "I didn't draw very good in the short round so I really had to score him out, go out and rope him, and



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Hanging On - Trevor Andrews takes 3rd in bareback riding.

keep my composure."

On the team's success Hanson said, "It was really exciting knowing that we went into the rodeo competing to win first and coming out with that goal. Having all the fans and just the team coming together to get the trophy on both men's and women's teams."

The rodeo program is still in its infancy and the Mystics have found relatively consistent success in its first two years against schools as big as Nebraska. Rodeo may be a niche sport even around this neck of the woods, but it's hard to argue the impressiveness of the talent that has been on display here at BSC.

For the women, Addison Salverson took 3rd in breakaway roping and was also part of three Mystics who placed in the top five for barrel racing, with Salverson taking 5th, Megan Marone 2nd, and Gabi Irving 4th. Cale Redlin assisted with an 8th place finish in goat tying. All of this added up to a 1st place overall performance for the women as well. Salverson was given all-around honors for her performance.

BSC rodeo traveled to Iowa on Oct 10 for the last rodeo of the fall.

Mystics Secure Their First Frontier Conference Victory

Isaiah Johnson

Mysticast Executive Producer

The Bismarck State College volleyball team (3-13, 1-10) defeated Rocky Mountain College (1-15, 0-11) on Saturday afternoon to secure its first win in Frontier Conference play. This historic win was a rebound for the Mystics after falling to Carroll College (12-7, 7-4) on Friday night.

BSC came out swinging, burying the Battlin' Bears 25-16 in the first set. Rocky Mountain rebounded in the second set, flipping the script on the Mystics with a 25-18 set victory. Coach Kyle Kuether rallied his squad, and the Mystics won the final two sets 25-17 and 25-20. The crowd was involved throughout the entire match, roaring with

cheers after a kill from Summer Thomas closed out the match.

The Mystics effectively spread the ball around throughout the match, with 5 players landing 7 kills or more. Chelsa Krom and McKenna Brendel spearheaded the attack, each landing 9 kills with .333 and .304 hitting percentages respectively. Reese Duchsherer contributed 12 kills and 15 digs, and Kate Zimmer orchestrated the offense with 23 assists. Summer Thomas led the Mystics defensively with 5 blocks, and Piper Harris led all players with 18 digs. BSC has shown steady growth defensively over the last few weeks.



Mygel Porter | Social Media Manager



Mygel Porter | Social Media Manager

Serving Strong - Athlete Delaney Deschamp attacks the court with a serve.

Fall Ball Comes to a Close

Connor Grabow

Reporter

With a loss in their final game against Valley City, Bismarck State College baseball has officially put a wrap on their fall season. They went 3-3 in conference during the fall season, and this record carries to the upcoming spring season. Even with the preseason feel, these games matter.

BSC carries a very young team this year, with 30 combined freshmen and sophomores.

"I think ... especially this year with how young we are. We only have the six upperclassmen. I think that takes a lot of the pressure out of it for us," BSC Baseball Coach Jaden Scott said. "There's pressure in building the program up and getting it where it needs to be. But as far as playing the game, it's 'go do our thing and see what happens.'

This year's team finds themselves in uncharted territory with the change in conference involving a lack of expectation, leaving room for interpretation regarding what is successful.

Freshman outfielder Reese Andres said, "I think we played better than everyone thought."

While playing up could be means to justify losses, it works just as well to catch opponents by surprise.

"I think we take it as an advantage when teams overlook us. We trust the kind of team we have and we play as if it were any other game," returning player Isaac Mitchell said.

A change in conference also brings a change in level of play.

"I feel it's a bit more challenging to get hitters out," Mitchell said.

The short fall season has ended, leaving a long winter break to improve and develop the primarily young team, allowing Coach Scott to set a goal for the offseason.

"Just a broad term—get better—I mean, we have so much time to develop," Scott said.

While these games can be considered a success, the team must quickly change focus as their next game isn't for another five months.

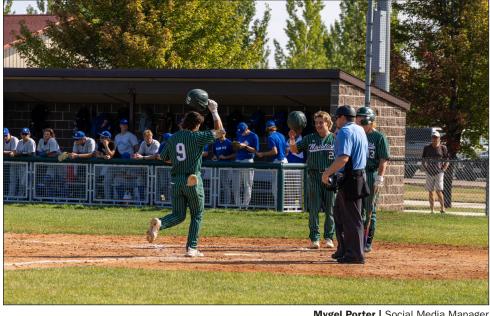
"We have a great strength coach—Coach Murphy who works us hard in the weight room," Andres said.

The season is long, the winter is longer. The season has only just kicked off.

"I think we proved this fall that we belong," Mitchell

said. "We played up to the competition and handled ourselves well. Obviously, there are things to work on but the team is ready-and ready to prove ourselves even more."

Date	Location	W/L	BSC	OP
9/16	Haaland Field	w	7	6
9/16	Haaland Field	L	2	4
9/24	Bismarck Municipal Ballpark	w	13	6
10/3	Haaland Field	L	4	12
10/3	Haaland Field	w	14	8
10/8	Charlie Brown Memorial Field	L	1	6



Mygel Porter | Social Media Manager



Mygel Porter | Social Media Manager

Cheers - Pacey Phillips joins teammates Tate Mart and Kaeden Wilcox.

Watching Each Play - The Mystic Baseball team observes the game.

Esports Team Welcomes Conference Change

Pete DeMille

Reporter

Online games fill streaming platforms with near unlimited opportunity for anyone who wants to rise above casual play. Gaming on computers is a growing means of social interaction and entertainment.

Bismarck State College has an esports team that plays Valorant, Rocket League, and League of Legends. Students from BSC represent the school for online matches. These student athletes are stepping up to a new conference of play with better match placement

Last year, the BSC Rocket League team won the title in their National Junior College Athletics Association Esports division. This year is a first in competition. BSC Esports switched from the NJCAAE to the National Esports Collegiate Conference. This change in opponents is welcomed openly by Coach David "coachDSP" St. Peter who teaches at the BSC Career Academy.

'Before, we were playing against junior colleges only. Now we are going up against colleges and universities you've heard of," St. Peter said.

Coach Lance Geving, BSC Digital Media Developer, said he agrees with this optimism of team members and coaches for better competition.

The NJCAAE allowed teams to choose one of three competitive brackets. Some coaches placed teams in the bracket based on the skill level of the players. Others used the loose standards of the open class bracket to place mixed teams for easy victory. Top tier play was more fair because only the best teams were part of those divisions. Gaps in player ability and rank were small at top matches, but were greater the lower in the ranks teams were.

"The loose standards set for lower level play is unfair and cost many victories for Mystic teams," St. Peter said. Several players on the team agreed that some opponents were unbeatable.

The NECC rankings differ greatly and were explained as filling the best teams into divisions and adding as many divisions as needed to support all teams in the conference. The rankings used in competitive play are in place to set matchups for players. Ranked games are intended to have players face others who are similar in skill level. Matches will be more fair going forward with NECC choosing the groupings of colleges around the country.

"The new brackets are more fair," JV Rocket League player Max Anderson said. "We've got a pretty good JV team. Bep is high ranked."

BSC esports teams will now have a more level playing field. Both coaches, St. Peter and Geving, said they look forward to more success for players.

"It's my last season, so I'm just trying to make it worth it." Noah Giese, JV Rocket League captain for the Mystics, said.

September launched the season with qualifiers.

The Mystics Valorant team consists of Sean "Skirtie" Purdy, Logan "Reign" King, Dat "Mag" Nguyen, Aryana "Penguin" Kingsley, Garrett "gdcomplex" Byerley, and Ethan "Ethan_McD9992 McDonald.

The first Valorant game ended in a loss for the Mystics as they were taken down 2-0 by the Kansas State Wildcats. The week after, another team from Kansas, the Kansas Jayhawks, pulled a hard fought victory from under the feet of BSC. There were some good runs, but bad plays kept the Mystics from seeing victory. The losing streak continued with a 2-0 loss to University of Texas at El Paso in week three.

Varsity Rocket League is led by Gran "Risser" Risser. Jackson "PacoJ1" Torres, and Wesley "RedWizard2U" Partlow play alongside Risser. RedWizard2U was previously featured in The Mystician.

Noah "Doctor Bepper" Giese leads the JV Rocket League team with Max "Itsameboa" Anderson, and Joseph "Its_Woopa" Hildenbrand at his side.

The Rocket League preseason game was a victory over Concordia St. Paul at the wire. The first week of season play for the same Rocket League team on Sept. 24 was a rematch with Concordia St. Paul from pre-season qualifying. The Mystics were not able to repeat a win. Condordia St. Paul beat BSC 4 to 2. A few hours after the varsity team played, JV Rocket League took home a victory against Mayville State. Week two of conference play brought victories for both varsity and JV teams, beating Minot State University and University of Texas at El Paso respectively. The JV team lost their week three matchup to the University of Montana Grizzlies. Varsity team played Lakeland University.

BSC League of Legends team takes the Lanes with Brock "FBPlayer_7272" Delaplane, Aaden "Frieren" Frederick, Matthew "robloxninjarobot" Marohi, Dat "Mag" Nguyen, Jack "GoldenZEclipse" Woeste, Bernnie "Penumbra Zone" Francois, and Greysen "Concrete Burrito" Martinez.

Mystics League of Legends lost to Nebraska Omaha on Sept. 25. It was 2 to 0 in a best of three match up. Week two brought a win by default for BSC when Weber State forfeited as the match was ready to start.

Games are played weekly and streamed on Twitch. tv/bismarckstate_mystics. For up to date information, find Mystic esports on X @Esports_BSC and Instagram @BSC.esports. The Mystics play Valorant on Monday, Rocket League on Wednesday, and League of Legends on Thursday. Some live streams are played on the TV outside the Gate City Bank Esports Room in the lower level of the Student Union.

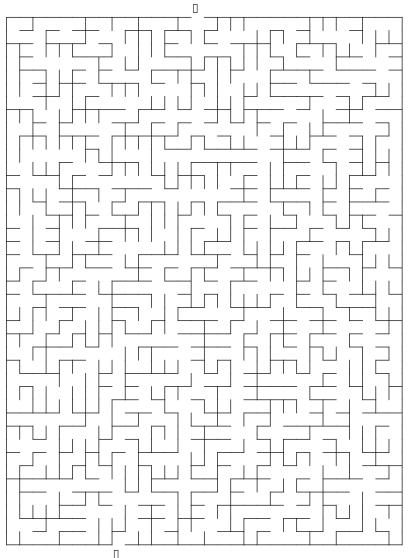


Mygel Porter | Social Media Manager

Car Soccer - Rocket League Players Risser, PacoJ1, and RedWizard2U During Week 2 of play.

Puzzle Page Maze Pots to Boxes

Start



Finish



Mygel Porter | Social Media Manager BSC Tour - John Schafer, Deklan Wollschlager, Brayden Vesey pose for a photo

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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Sudoku

Easy

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

SHOW OFF YOUR SMILE!

Are you interested in showing off your wonderful smile? The Mystic Media crew is here to help. If you submit a photo, you may appear in the Mystician Newspaper under the "Say Cheese!" column.

How do you submit your photo? It's simple!

Scan the QR code. This will direct you to the Editorin-Chief's email address. Send your "Say Cheese!" submission. Make sure to include the first and last name of everyone in the photo. Also, remember to title the email "Say Cheese!". Keep that smile shining, everyone!



November 2025

We're excited to share with you all the fantastic events and activities happening on campus. 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 BSC,

they're great opportunities to engage with the wider community. For more details about any event, just scan the QR code provided to view all BSC happenings.

Community event links are available at the bottom of the page for your convenience. And don't forget to show

your support for our athletes—cheer them on and be part of the excitement! Enjoy all the activities and make the most of your time here at BSC!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		The second secon				BSC Theatre Presents Hello Dolly Time: 7:30 p.m. Where: ATC Live Event Venue Mystics Volleyball vs Mayville State University Time: 2 p.m. Where: BSC Armory
BSC Theatre Presents Hello Dolly Time: 2:30 p.m. Where: ATC Live Event Venue	3	Toast Tuesday When: 9:30 a.m 10:30 a.m. Where: Foundation House Great Room	Gratitude Attitude Time: 11 a.m 1 p.m. Where: Student Union Canvas & Connection Time: 2:45 p.m 3:45 p.m. Where: Alumni Room, Student Union	Patriotic Concert Time: 7 p.m. Where: Sidney J. Lee Auditorium Mystician 87.8	7	8
9	10	Mystics Men's Basketball vs Trinity Bible College Time: 6 p.m. Where: BSC Armory	12	13	Content Creator's Summit Time: 8:30 a.m 4:30 p.m. Where: NECE and ATC	15
Mystics Men's Wrestling vs University of Mary Time: 7 p.m. Where: BSC Armory	Look out for the next episode of MystiCast	Voice Studio Recital Time: 6:30 p.m. Where: Leach Music Center Room 177 Thankful for Health: Cannabis Prevention Time: 11 a.m 1 p.m. Where: Student Union Toast Tuesday When: 9:30 a.m 10:30 a.m. Where: Schafer Hall	Canvas & Connection Time: 2:45 p.m 3:45 p.m. Where: Alumni Room, Student Union	Mystics Women's Wrestling vs University of Jamestown Time: 7 p.m. Where: BSC Armory Mystician 87.9	Mystics Women's Basketball vs Rocky Mountain College Time: 5 p.m. Where: BSC Armory Mystics Men's Basketball vs Rocky Mountain College Time: 7 p.m. Where: BSC Armory	Mystics Women's Basketball vs Carroll College Time: 5 p.m. Where: BSC Armory Mystics Men's Basketball vs Carroll College Time: 7 p.m. Where: BSC Armory
23/30	24	Toast Tuesday When: 9:30 a.m 10:30 a.m. Where: NECE 2nd Floor Foyer	26	Thanksgiving	28	29