

# THE MYSTICIAN

[ N E W S J P A P E R ]

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SGA UPDATE  
PAGE 3

TOMATO SOUP  
RECIPE & REVIEW  
PAGE 5

MYSTIC  
BASKETBALL  
SNEAK PEEK  
PAGE 7

COMEDY  
CORNER  
CHECK OUT  
PAGE 22

IRIE TOWNSEND SIGNS THE BEAM  
PHOTO CREDIT: KAIA LEHMAN

# BSC MAKES HISTORY

## Polytechnic beam signing.

BY ROBERT MECHALEY III  
ALUMNI REPORTER

On a foggy January morning in the Robert Kuntz Building garage, Cybersecurity students, members of the Multicultural Club and Mass Communication students were given white markers two at a time. Sitting in front of a Bismarck State College backdrop was a steel beam adorned

with names. This was an opportunity for these students to add theirs.

The steel beam is intended to be the final one installed for the Polytechnic Facility, which is under construction on campus. To memorialize the progress being made, students, staff and faculty were invited to write their names on the beam. While some did add their own names, Veronica Bohrer, a BSC alumna, chose to add someone else's name.

"I like the idea of having my daughter's name on there —she's due in January," Bohrer said.

The new Polytechnic Facility broke ground in November 2022 and has been under construction

since. According to promotional materials for the beam signing, this is a chance for students to become a part of history—the final beam with all of its signatures will be visible in the new building.

"I've only been here for one and a half years," Kexin Zhou, a second year student said. "I'm very excited to have my name stay in that new building."

The wider student population was invited to sign their names on Jan. 29 and 30, when they could also submit their names to win winter-themed BSC swag bags from the school in a drawing. The BSC Polytechnic Facility's grand opening is scheduled for May 2025.

# CAMPUS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

## MAC & CHEESE BOWL

FEB. 1 | 11AM-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## BASKETBALL

FEB. 5 | 5:30PM-7:30PM  
BSC ARMORY

## COCOA & CANVAS

FEB. 5 | 6PM-8PM  
STUDENT UNION

## CHILI & CINNAMON ROLLS

FEB. 6 | 11AM-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## LIFE IS LIKE A FRUIT

### BASKET

FEB. 7 | 10AM-2PM  
STUDENT UNION

## I LOVE POPCORN

FEB. 9 | 11AM-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## TIE DYE TEES

FEB. 12 | 11AM-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

FEB. 13 | 6PM-8PM  
HERITAGE CENTER

## SELF CARE DAY

FEB. 14 | 11AM-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## BASKETBALL

FEB. 15 | 5:30PM-9:30PM  
BSC ARMORY

## BASKETBALL FOOD DRIVE

FEB. 15 | 5:30PM-10PM  
BSC ARMORY

## BASKETBALL

FEB. 18 | 1PM-5PM  
BSC ARMORY

## BASKETBALL

FEB. 19 | 5:30PM-9:30PM  
BSC ARMORY

## CONSENT FRIES

FEB. 21 | 1AM-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## BASKETBALL

FEB. 25 | 5:30PM-10PM  
BSC ARMORY

## MOVIE & POPCORN NIGHT

FEB. 27 | 7PM-9PM  
MYSTIC MARKETPLACE

## CAPITAL CAREER FAIR

FEB. 27 | 2PM-6PM  
BISMARCK EVENT CENTER

## WELCOME BACK CHIPS & DIP

MAR. 12 | 11AM-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## TRIVIA NIGHT

MAR. 12 | 6PM-8PM  
STUDENT UNION

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

MAR. 12 | 11AM-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## CONSENT TANKS

MAR. 13 | 11AM-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## CLOVE COOKIE DECOR

MAR. 14 | 11AM-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## MYSTIC MEDIA STAFF

- Kaia Lehman . . . . . The Mystician Editor-In-Chief
- Levon Schulz . . . . . MystiCast Executive Producer
- Jayden Fajardo . . . . . Mystic Media Coordinator
- Emily Tryon . . . . . The MYX Production Manager
- Alix Dobler . . . . . Mystic Media Crew
- Alex Sanabria . . . . . Mystic Media Crew
- Ariana González Rodriguez . . . . . Mystic Media Crew
- Caleb Herr . . . . . Mystic Media Crew
- Irie Townsend . . . . . Mystic Media Crew
- Mina Good Eagle . . . . . Reporter
- Shane Biberdorf . . . . . Reporter
- Cody Eisenbeis . . . . . Photographer/Reporter
- Chloe Erickson . . . . . Photographer
- Brandon Hagerott . . . . . Graphic Designer
- Malea Bates . . . . . Graphic Designer
- Robert Mechaley III . . . . . Alumni Reporter
- karen Bauer . . . . . Mystician Adviser

## SAY CHEESE!



LEVON SCHULZ, IRIE TOWNSEND AND WARREN MURMON  
PHOTO CREDIT: BRANDON HAGEROTT

### Want to be in The Mystician?

Submit your photos to [bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu) for a chance to be featured on one of our pages!

**CONTACT: KAIA LEHMAN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
EMAIL: [bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu)

# BSC STUDENT GOVERNMENT UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

BY ARIANA GONZÁLEZ RODRIGUEZ  
MYSTIC MEDIA REPORTER

The former President of the Student Government Association (SGA), Christopher Torres, was charged with attempted murder as well as discharge of a firearm within city limits and taken into custody around 1 a.m. on Dec. 10. The preliminary hearing for this case, which was originally scheduled for Jan. 17, has been rescheduled for March 25.

This situation had left the SGA without a president. Gracie Muggli, a Medical Laboratory Technician major and former SGA vice president, has since taken over the presidential role.

“When the current president doesn’t return the next semester, the vice president automatically becomes the new president,” Muggli said. “Before I was vice president, I was the Communication Committee chairwoman. SGA has 3 committees, Communications, Finance, and Student Affairs.”

The SGA has since been moving forward with their goals for the semester.

“We had a great vote last semester regarding the new Human

Performance Center, and I only hope we can continue to represent the student body,” Muggli said. “I wish that students will continue to reach out and share their opinions with us as that’s what our voice is for.”

Moving forward, the SGA plans to implement a variety of improvements to the Bismarck State College campus, such as updates to the charging stations around campus, building improvements and making sure the campus is safe for students.

“We’ve had a fun year,” Kaylyn Bondy, Vice President of Student Affairs, said. “SGA involves themselves with others on campus, making sure that we are able to allow students to enjoy all the different areas.”

The SGA can currently be found in their new office space in the Student Union near the Student & Residence Life area. For any questions or concerns, they can be reached at [bsc.sga@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:bsc.sga@bismarckstate.edu)

“We always look for recommendations,” Heather Sheehan, Director of Student & Residence Life as well as SGA adviser, said.



SGA PRESIDENT GRACIE MUGGLI  
PHOTO CREDIT: SUBMITTED

## BSC FOUNDATION DISCUSSES SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BY ROBERT MECHALEY III  
ALUMNI REPORTER

Scholarships play a pivotal role in allowing students to gain a higher education experience, and the Bismarck State College Foundation will be giving away more than \$1-million in scholarships this year. The biggest hurdle outside of qualifying for them is filling out a form on the official BSC website that takes 10 minutes.

“Students oftentimes think scholarships are for only good grades,” Cory Wrolstad, the BSC Foundation development manager said. “A lot of our donors are more focused probably on what fields of study, the students are in. Their donors are passionate about the fields they were in, or their parents were in. Or even a lot of times from the communities, a lot of donors give based on students coming from their small town or their specific high school.”

The BSC Foundation is tasked

by the school with distributing gifts and donations toward new programs, scholarships, buildings and more. Outside of distributing these gifts for school and student growth, the BSC Foundation involves themselves in assisting students in need of necessities on Giving Hearts Day.

“A huge fundraising effort across the state of North Dakota and Minnesota where on one day, hundreds of organizations are out there for donors to give to, and the Bismarck State College Foundation is one of those that participated,” Wrolstad said. “All proceeds raised for Giving Hearts Day this year will be going towards the student emergency food pantry, which is a very high need for students.”

The student emergency food pantry is not the only avenue for students with financial

struggles to receive assistance from the school. If a student encounters a personal emergency such as stolen textbooks or their car broken into, Project Care is an option available to them.

“Project Care is something most people probably have never heard of, but it really is to help students in emergency situations,” Wrolstad said. “Students are referred to the Foundation through either an adviser, a counselor or a faculty or staff member that knows of this specific scenario that the student has been going through.”

Students can apply for scholarships to Bismarck State College by visiting [www.bismarckstate.edu/scholarships](http://www.bismarckstate.edu/scholarships). More information on Giving Hearts Day can be found at <https://app.giving-heartday.org/>.

YOUR **FUTURE** IN  
**RADIO** STARTS  
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**JOIN  
THE MYX  
TODAY!**

NEW SHOWS  
EVERY  
MONTH



**Contact**

karen Bauer | 701.224.5522  
[karen.bauer@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:karen.bauer@bismarckstate.edu)

# LETTERS FROM THE EDITORS

## A Few Words Of Wisdom From Our Lead Staff.

**KAIJA**



THE MYSTICIAN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hello my beautiful friends, welcome back with another issue of The Mystician.

I am so glad to be back for spring semester—I was starting to get stir-crazy at home. That's probably just me though, I am a chronic workaholic.

As many of you have heard, SGA will be under new leadership due to circumstances regarding former President Torres. We at The Mystician are dedicated to reporting on all issues regarding the students and presenting the information in a factual and unbiased manner.

We have some new faces this semester here at Mystic Media as well. We have a new MystiCast Executive Producer, Levon Schulz, as well as a new Mystic Media Coordinator, Jayden Fajardo.

I'm excited to work with our staff this coming semester, and I can't wait to see what productions we come up with.

Spring semester is off to a great start already, but I do have a few reminders as always. 1. Call your mom—she wants to talk to you. 2. Drive safely, there are so many crazies out there, especially in Bismarck. And as always, stay out of jail, stay out of the morgue, and stay out of the paper. Enough said.

Later Dudes,

**LEVON**



MYSTICAST EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

My name is Levon Schulz. Last semester, I completed my digital broadcasting certificate. Now, in my third semester, I am doing my best to add skills that can help me go forward in the digital media and film making space.

To me, there is nothing better than the video making process from start to finish. The grind of writing, shooting, then editing always pays off when you show something you are proud of.

I am excited to take on the role of executive producer for MystiCast. It is my main goal to display a creative and fresh spin on MystiCast.

Making videos is a highly collaborative task, and I hope the shows we make reflect our quirks and creativity. Every week we upload a Mystic Media Minute that informs students about upcoming events on campus.

**EMILY**



THE MYX PRODUCTION MANAGER

Hello everyone—my name is Emily Tryon. I am The MYX Production Manager and a student at Bismarck State College (BSC). I help out around the on campus radio station The MYX. I have a second job on campus. I help with filming the athletic games that we have on campus. I also write the column Student On the Street (S.O.S.) for The Mystician.

You can listen to my podcasts or shows. Check out Empty Space and Into The Space Ship along with the other DJs we have this semester like DJ Quick Draw, Chuck and Azel on the free app in the app store.

I come from a small town named Hazen, N.D. My family lived on a country property, though I am

not much of a country person. I am a sophomore at BSC working on my associates degree in Mass Communication.

Once I graduate I plan on getting a job as a DJ or an audio board operator. I used to love listening to talk shows on the radio on the way to school. Not only has the radio been a big part of my life but so has music. I can't wake up properly in the morning unless I have music playing in the background. It's the only way I can get in the zone.

If students are interested in the radio I am always looking for a guest for Empty Space. People can find me at the Armory or walking around with my service dog.

**JAYDEN**



MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

Hello, this is a letter from your new Mystic Media Coordinator! My name is Jayden Fajardo, I am a sophomore here at BSC currently doing my generals, but I plan on double majoring in business and political science with a minor in Spanish. I have interests in music and fashion, specifically street wear. You can spot me in the halls because I usually wear a fitted hat and a nice pair of shoes. I also am DJ Fajita, host of DJ Fajitas Hype Hour on BSC's radio The Myx. You can check out the times for my show on the Mystic Media website!

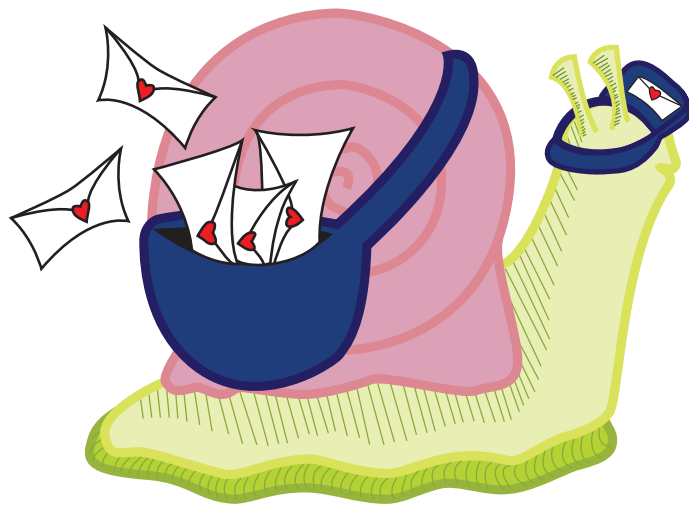
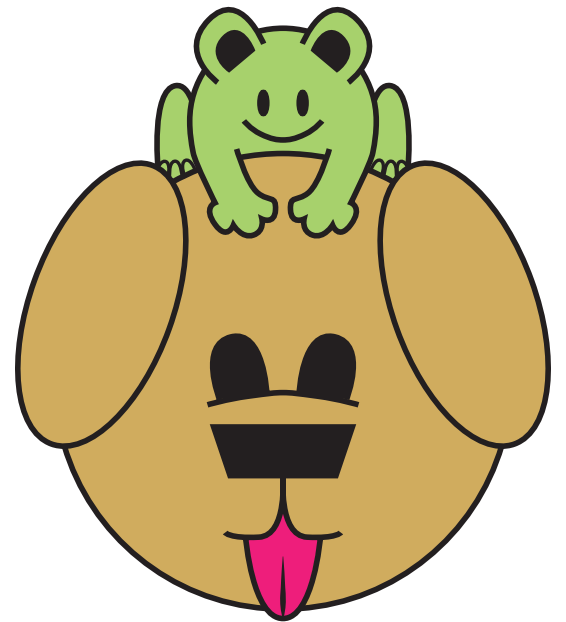
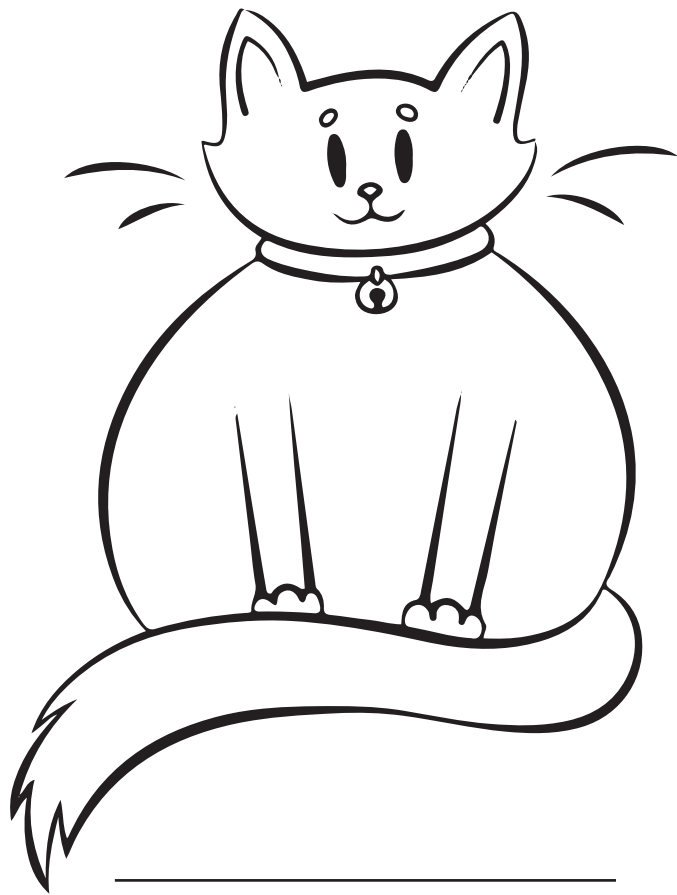
As your new coordinator I am currently revamp-

ing the Mystic Media website, so it is updated with the new staff and some awesome new content, so I encourage you to check out the website. Additionally, I also encourage you to check out the Mystic Media socials as there is some good stuff coming in the next few weeks! Overall, I am excited to be the new Mystic Media Coordinator and remember to check out the Mystic Media website and socials!

# STAFF EDITORIAL

The Mystician crew was asked to come up with Hink Pinks riddles. Hink Pinks are riddles with answers that are a pair of rhyming words with the same number of syllables.

S  
K  
N  
P  
K  
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I  
T



A chicken's first choice

A four wheel aquatic bird

Heavy Sleeping Area

A Married Rodent

A Light Red Beverage

## ANSWERS

- Chick Pick
- Duck Truck
- Frog Dog
- Fat Cat
- Pink Drink
- Mouse Spouse
- Lead Bed
- Snail Mail

### MYSTIC MEDIA MISSION STATEMENT AND DISCLAIMER

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to the students. We, as the student based forum of journalism on the Bismarck State College campus, provide content that is information, 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.

# SOUP SATISFIES WINTER CRAVINGS

BY KAIA LEHMAN

THE MYSTICIAN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

While normally I would be complaining to everyone I meet about the horrendously cold weather we have been having in Bismarck lately, there's one thing I love about cold weather. It's soup season. Whenever I'm having a bad day, I know that I can come home and eat a grilled cheese sandwich and tomato soup that will solve all of my problems. Okay, maybe not all of them, but it will ease the pain of North Dakota weather trying to freeze the life out of me, while simultaneously sucking all of the water out of my skin. Not only is it soup season but apparently it is also humidifier season, guess I missed the memo there.

Tomato soup is one of my favorite comfort foods. Eating tomato soup brings me back to a time in life where my only responsibility was to go to school and not make my brother angry. While I may have been unsuccessful in the second part, tomato soup reminds me of cold winter days, watching movies with my family and a sense of home.

Moving away from home has been an adjustment on my part. Although, by making these comfort foods, it helps the time apart from family that much easier. This is a recipe I crafted myself and I can officially say it is the best tomato



TOMATO SOUP FINAL PRODUCT  
PHOTO CREDIT: KAIA LEHMAN

soup I have ever had, but it is a bit peppery. The recipe calls for simple ingredients and is super easy to make after a long day at work. Plus it makes your kitchen smell extra comforting. The recipe took me about an hour to make, most of that time includes baking the veggies. The soup stores well and goes best with a grilled cheese sandwich.

#### Ingredients

5 Roma tomatoes  
1 half yellow onion  
2 cloves of garlic (this is a loose suggestion)  
½ red pepper  
1 ½ cup chicken stock (or veggie broth)  
Cream to serve (optional)  
Olive oil

#### Seasonings (optional)

Preheat Oven to 425 degrees F  
Cut the tomatoes, onions, garlic and pepper into quarters and place on a baking sheet  
Drizzle with olive oil and add any seasonings if you so choose  
Bake for 25 minutes or until browned (to add more flavor broil the tops for an additional

2 minutes)

Let the veggies cool  
Blend veggies until smooth  
Add veggies and chicken stock to a pot or slow cooker, stir until well combined.  
Serve hot and top with cream and Parmesan cheese if desired.  
Enjoy!

# STUDENTS ON THE STREETS

## What's your favorite childhood memory of elementary school?

BY EMILY TRYON | MYSTIC MEDIA REPORTER



**Ena Alagic**

**Year:** Freshmen

**Major:** Criminal Justice and Generals

"I had a very small class, probably 20 kids or less. So what we would all do is we would all get together and play keep away. [For context: the American game also known as 'Monkey

in the Middle,' where two or more children pass a ball while the player(s) in the middle try to intercept it.] It would always be boys against girls. We would spend our whole recess doing that one game.

I always remembered it was really fun just to play those games. Just have fun and not fight. I think we started fourth grade. It was when we all started getting connected. I went to a Mandan elementary school. It was Custer Elementary. It was just a very small school. One hallway long of class rooms. I had the same class through kindergarten...

I don't talk with anyone anymore, I keep in contact sometimes but it was fond memories. Elementary was definitely fun for me."



**Gracie Muggli**

**Year:** Sophomore

**Major:** MLT

"The first thing that popped into my head, I remember winning an art contest. It was just a school wide art contest. I think it was every Christmas or before the holiday. They had a coloring contest, and I remember

when I came back the following year, January, I remember getting this cute little plaque. I was like, 'I won it!'

I went to a private school at that time. It was called Trinity Elementary School. It was in Dickinson, N.D., I grew up there and now I am going to college here. I mean I had a good elementary school year. But I would definitely say there were some struggles, like most people do.

But I would like to say funny enough, I got bullied more in private school than when I was in public school later on in life. But other than that I still had really good friends.

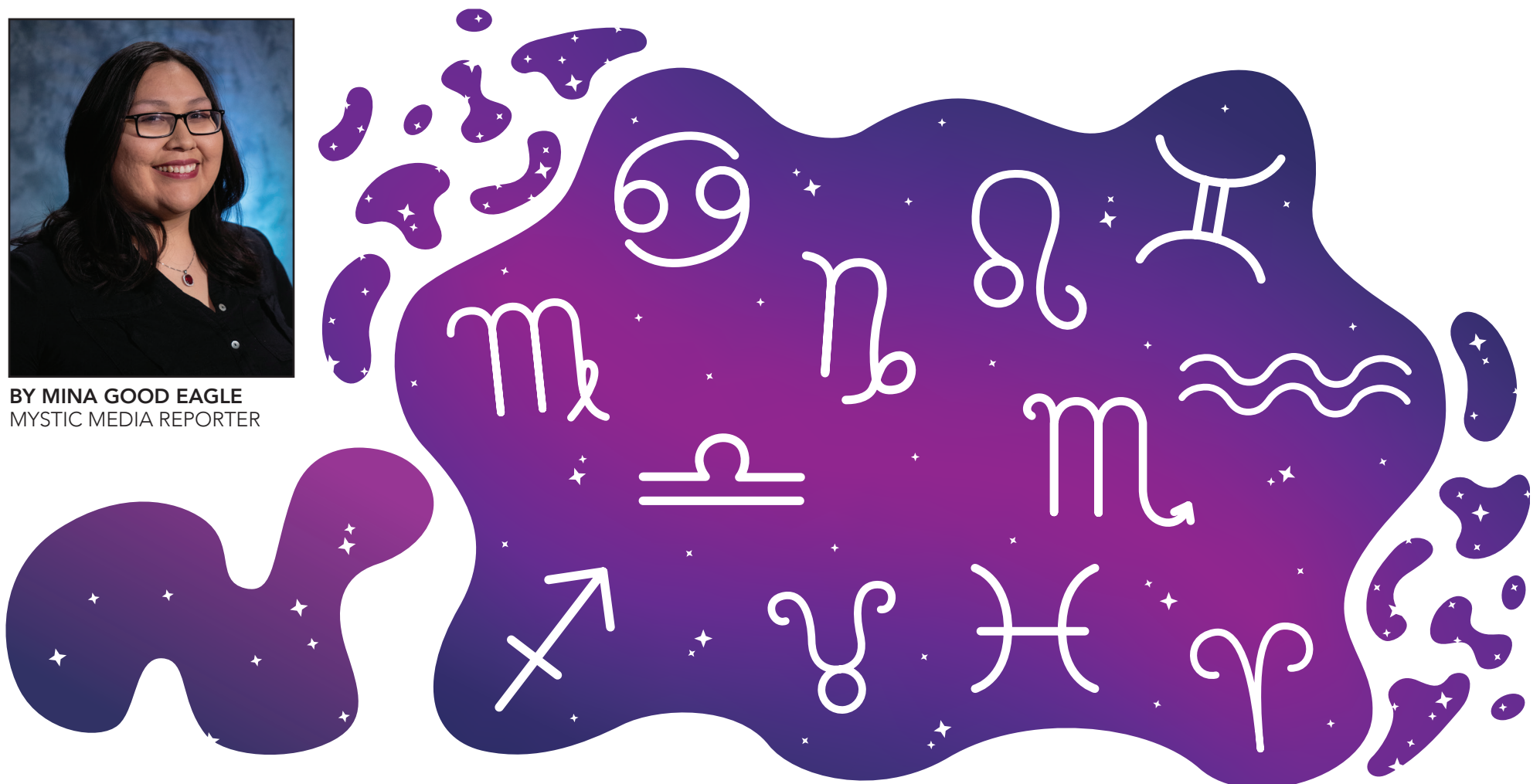
That was my favorite thing to look forward to at the end of the year [in December] was the coloring contest. I think I only won it once.

I remember specifically that tiny plaque of wood I got for it. I probably still have it in storage. I don't remember what I drew. It was so long ago. But I think it was more of a bragging rights award. You know when you're a little kid and you were like, 'Ooo! I won an award! I won!'"

# HOROSCOPES



BY MINA GOOD EAGLE  
MYSTIC MEDIA REPORTER



These horoscopes were written for the purpose of being fun. They were written with the astrological sun signs in mind using tarot cards and guided by the spirits.

<p><b>Aries (March 21 - April 19)</b> — Make time for fun activities as it may be a difficult season moving forward. Keep a keen eye on personal finances.</p>	<p><b>Cancer (June 21 - July 22)</b> – Take ownership of any mistakes you may have made in the past; this is not the time for settling scores.</p>	<p><b>Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)</b> – Pause to reflect on your accomplishments, give back thanks to those who helped you get this far.</p>	<p><b>Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</b> – You may be losing track of the big picture, remember to stay focused on goals.</p>
<p><b>Taurus (April 20 - May 20)</b> — All truths are coming to light, make sure your conscience is clear. This is a time of absolution.</p>	<p><b>Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)</b> – Trusting your intuition is key during this time, if something feels off chances are it is.</p>	<p><b>Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</b> – This will be a time to increase knowledge and skills. Remember to trust in teamwork when working on projects.</p>	<p><b>Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</b> – Your life's mission or career direction will become clear. Decisions should be guided by what is just and true.</p>
<p><b>Gemini (May 21 - June 20)</b> — As the dust begins to settle, seek out new creative outlets.</p>	<p><b>Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)</b> – You will confront many of your problems, remember to consider all options.</p>	<p><b>Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</b> — Your dreams and plans will be fulfilled, and your hard work will pay off.</p>	<p><b>Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)</b> – As peace and quiet follow stress it is time to prepare for the next phase of life.</p>

# REVIEWING MUSIC FROM YOU



BY ALEX SANABRIA  
MYSTIC MEDIA REPORTER

Bismarck State College has a wide variety of students. With this comes a wide variety of

music that students listen to. I went around campus and asked three random BSC students for a song suggestion. I will be reviewing each of these songs.

**It Will Rain** by Bruno Mars was suggested by a student named Riley. I interpret this as a beautiful but sad love song that looks to the future of a potential breakup. “Cause there’ll be no sunlight if I lose you, baby,” he sings. This signifies how much it would pain him to lose his lover. I would say my favorite part of this song is the hook right before the chorus. The emotion in his voice is obvious and gives me chills. The sequence of the lyrics flow so well together and helps

transition to the chorus. Overall, this song shows a lot of devotion and lament.

**Numb Little Bug** by Em Beihold is the next suggestion I received from Alexi. My interpretation of this song is describing how life as a whole is overwhelming and how hard it is to cope with that. “Like you’re hangin’ by a thread but you gotta survive,” she sings. I feel like all of us have felt this way before. We’re all just trying to survive. My favorite part of this song is the chorus where the beat and lyrics compliment each other. Overall, I feel this song is relatable and makes you feel like you’re not

alone in having these feelings about life.

**Miss You** by The Rolling Stones was recommended by Wiley. I interpret this song as the artist missing a past lover and wishing to have them back. He doesn’t have any interest in other women because he’s so hung up on this girl he once had. “It’s just you and no one else. Lord, I want to kiss you,” he sings. My favorite part of the song is the beat. It gives off a nostalgic soulful sound. One of those beats that you can’t help but bump your head. Overall, I feel as though the message of the song and the upbeat feel to it doesn’t match but it works.

Maybe that’s intentional, him pretending to be happy and upbeat when that’s obviously not his true feelings.

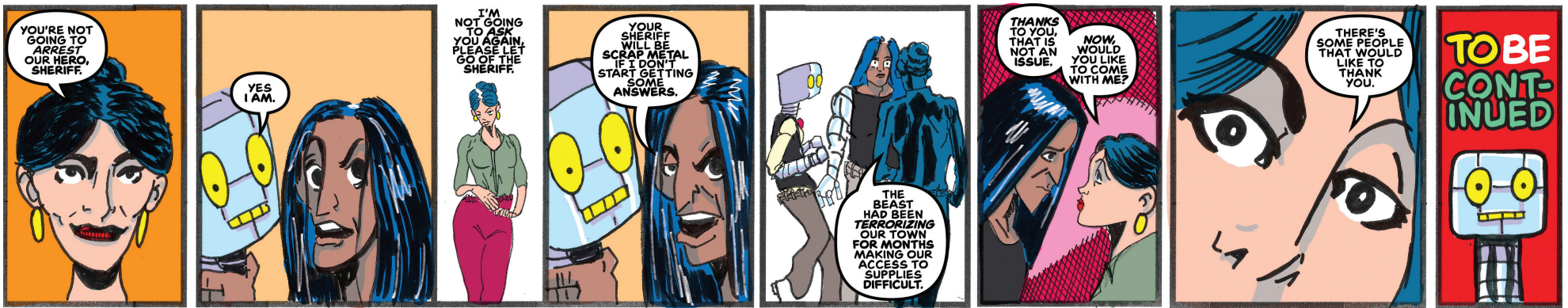
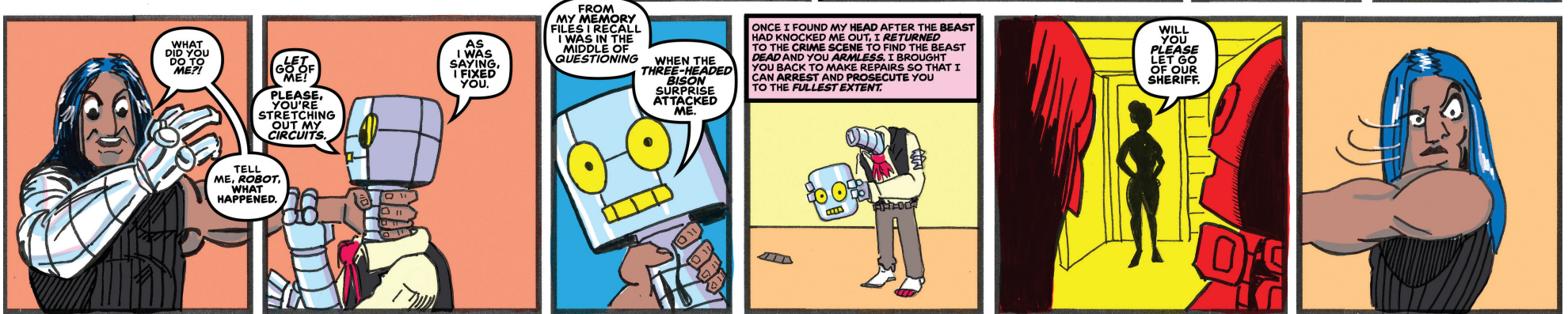
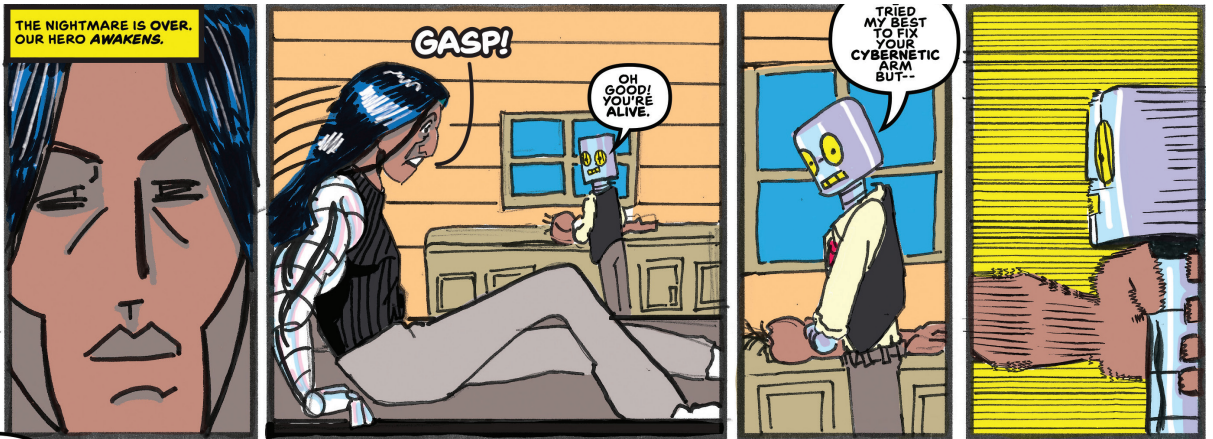
The goal is to make this idea a consistent section included in the Mystician. I think it’s a fun idea to bring to the paper that gets students involved. For the most part, I would like to keep it pretty random so keep an eye out for me around campus. If you are interested in getting involved whether it’s suggesting a song or taking a picture for this section, see below for my contact information.

[alexandra.sanabria@ndus.edu](mailto:alexandra.sanabria@ndus.edu)

# COMEDY CORNER

## INWADER!

BY DYLAN KAHL  
PART IV

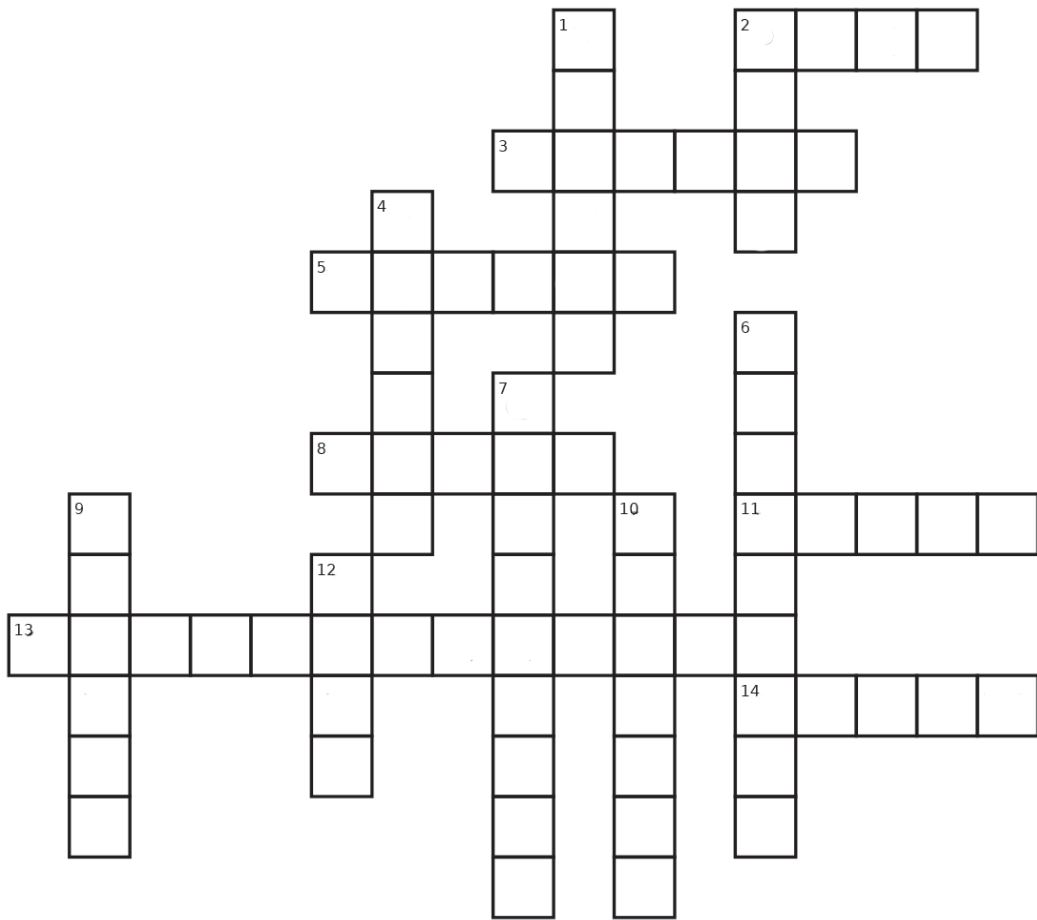


**GOT A COMIC OR ILLUSTRATION? WE WANT TO SEE IT! SEND AN EMAIL TO**

[bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu)



# PUZZLE PALOOZA



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

## WORD BANK

- |                 |         |            |
|-----------------|---------|------------|
| Love            | Bow     | Red        |
| Valentine       | Card    | Teddy Bear |
| Candy           | Balloon | Aquarius   |
| Leap Year       | Bouquet | Xoxo       |
| President's Day | Jewelry | Mardi Gras |

### DOWN

1. A plant that is often gifted during Valentine's day.
2. A short rhyme or text, often metaphorical in nature.
4. A zodiac sign covering half of February and March.
6. A candy made from cacao seeds.
7. An animal that decides how long winter shall be.
9. A written communication sent through the mail.
10. A feeling associated with love.
12. A period of fasting lasting 40 days, not including Sundays.

### ACROSS

2. A color associated with love.
3. A piece of jewelry often containing a photo inside.
5. The main meal of the day, typically in the evening.
8. A shape and a body part, responsible for circulating blood.
11. A god of love from Rome, depicted as a young boy with wings.
13. A toy animal made from fabric and stuffed with soft filling.
14. A projectile fired from a bow.

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

## RIDDLES

With pointed fangs and in plain sight, my bloodless victims are bound by my bite. What am I?

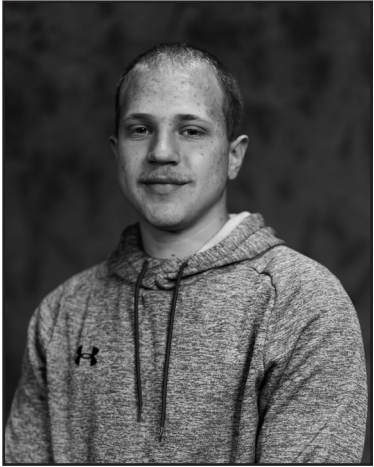
I am heavy forward, I weigh a lot. But when I am backwards I'm certainly not. What am I?

For some I cause joy, for some I cause strife. Treat me well and I last for life. What am I?

A box without hinges, key, or lid, yet golden treasure inside is hid.

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# THE BIG 12 CONFERENCE PLAY PREVIEWED



**BY CALEB HERR**  
MYSTIC MEDIA REPORTER

The chaos of the college basketball season has entered the conference play period, with the Big 12 looking to provide viewers with shocking excitement.

The Big 12 conference has been producing some of the most wild games and upsets for a few years now. The conference has produced a Final Four team in six of the last seven NCAA Tournaments

with Kansas being the most recent Big 12 program to win a National Title.

The conference added Houston, Cincinnati, Brigham Young (BYU) and Central Florida (UCF) during the summer of 2023. This move expanded the conference from 10 to 14 teams and changed the league's schedule format. Each team will play a total of 18 regular season conference games by facing five opponents twice and the other eight opponents once. The expansion and new schedule format has made this conference the most exciting to watch.

The Big 12 has shown that each game will be a battle and every team can win any given night. This was proven in just the second conference game for Houston on Jan. 9. Houston entered the game ranked second overall in the country with a 14-0 record, the last undefeated team in

division one, and got handed their first loss by a determined Iowa State team.

I split up the conference into three groups. The first group is "Contending Pending" and contains two teams that are legit contenders for the National Championship. Kansas and Houston have been sitting atop the college basketball landscape for quite some time now. Each year they are consistently seeded highly in the Big Dance and both squads look like they will be continuing that trend this year.

I labeled the second group "Elevating Excellence" because each team in this group could make a deep run in March. This is a cluster of eight teams that could be very dangerous if they improve on their major defects. Baylor, Oklahoma, Texas Christian (TCU), Texas and BYU have great offenses but

need significant improvement on the defensive end. From Baylor's incredible shot-making to TCU's fast transition offense, these teams make games thrilling for the viewers. The opposite is true for Iowa State. The team ranks second in the nation in defensive efficiency but will need to balance their defense with better offensive production as the season goes on.

Lastly, both Texas Tech and Kansas State struggle with depth. The starters for these teams are great and have been playing well but when they get in foul trouble or injuries occur the team cannot turn to the bench for big time minutes and production. This flaw can and will be improved as time goes on and players gain more game experience. Texas Tech already faced this adversity when starter, Devan Cambridge, went down with a season-ending injury in early

December. Fortunately, senior Kerwin Walton replaced Cambridge's starting role and has upgraded his game since.

The four teams left are "Storms of Surprise" due to the risk of playing these schools. Cincinnati, Oklahoma State, UCF and West Virginia are all capable of pulling off wild upsets against every team in the conference. These teams may not have great starts to their season, but they are not an easy opponent. Cincinnati made that clear when they traveled across the country and beat 18th ranked BYU by double digits on Jan. 6.

In this wildly competitive conference, every game is going to be must-see TV. Catch the thrilling Big 12 action on ESPN channels every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening, as well as multiple games throughout Saturdays.

## THE BIG 12 CONTENDERS

### CONTENDING PENDING

Teams With The Highest Chances At Nationals

**KANSAS JAYHAWKS**

**HOUSTON COUGARS**

### ELEVATING EXCELLENCE

Teams With High Potential This Season

**BAYLOR BEARS**

**BYU COUGARS**

**IOWA STATE CYCLONES**

**KANSAS STATE WILDCATS**

**OKLAHOMA SOONERS**

**TCU HORNEFROGS**

**TEXAS LONGHORNS**

**TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS**

### STORMS OF SURPRISE

Teams Capable Of Pulling Off Upsets

**CINCINNATI BEARS**

**OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS**

**UCF KNIGHTS**

**WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS**

# MYSTICS ADJUST TO HARDWOOD HURDLES

BY CALEB HERR  
MYSTIC MEDIA REPORTER

The Bismarck State College women's basketball season has surpassed its halfway point. The season tipped off with a roster featuring many new faces. Head coach, Thai Haggin, had only three players return from the 2022-23 team. Given the limited college basketball experience, the team has relied on the development of the freshmen.

"Last year we graduated a lot of sophomores," Haggin said. "This year we brought in nine freshmen and [they] are a big part of what we're doing right now."

In the 2022-23 season, BSC was led by a sophomore scoring tandem. This year, the freshman forwards have filled two of the top three scoring positions. The rookie duo of Harys Beauchamp and Brynlee Murdock are both shooting over 34% from the field and they combine for over 20 points a game.

"They had to come in and fill those positions," Haggin said. "They've done a really good job taking on challenges."

The Mystics had a 16-win season last year, securing them a third-place finish in the Mon-Dak Conference. However, they have faced some early season troubles

with a 3-15 start. Haggin has counted on the sophomores to be leaders not just on but also off the court.

"Our three sophomores are phenomenal [leaders] and are very seasoned," Haggin said. "They were here for a year, they know the expectation, but they also want that expectation to go into these freshmen so that next year they can be leaders."

Even with the rough start, Haggin noted that she has seen so much team growth since the beginning of the season. She wants the growth and player development to continue advancing as the season moves along.

"In college sports there's a process. When you're young there's a process," Haggin said. "[Our] goal is to keep improving so that when you're at the end of your season you achieve those goals."

The Mystics rank first in defensive efficiency in the Mon-Dak Conference. Haggin said that is where they have had the most improvement. She says the girls are really starting to understand how to play team defense.

The adversity from this season has been a learning opportunity for not just the players but the coaches too. Haggin has had to adapt to a different coaching style, but

she says it has helped improve her coaching.

"Coaches always reflect and have to change the style of how [they] coach team to team," Haggin said. "Teams ultimately need to be coached differently and each individual needs to be coached a certain way. I've had to change the ways that I present material and to me that's an improvement on [myself]."

The Mystics have eight regular season games left before post-season play begins. For more game and team information visit <https://bscmystics.com/sports/wbkb>.



**BRYNLEE MURDOCK ATTEMPTS 3 POINT SHOT**  
PHOTO CREDIT: CODY EISENBEIS



**HARYS BEAUCHAMP GOES FOR THE BUCKET**  
PHOTO CREDIT: CODY EISENBEIS



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# THE MYX ON-AIR SCHEDULE

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
7am	Pop	R & B	Alternative	Hip Hop	Rock	Blues	Alternative
8am	Country	Blues	Empty Space	R & B	MYX Talk 1	Alex	Pop
9am	Blues	MYX Talk 2	R & B	Hailee	Shane	R & B	MYX Talk 3
10am	Hailee	Emily	Hip Hop	MYX Talk 3	Hip Hop	Pop	Hip Hop
11am	Rock	Alternative	Hailee	Alex	Country	Shane	Country
12pm	Alex	MYX Talk 1	Rock	Alternative	MYX Talk 3	MYX Talk 2	Rock
1pm	Alternative	Hip Hop	Alex	Shane	Emily	Empty Space	R & B
2pm	Pop	Hailee	Emily	Empty Space	Pop	Hailee	Blues
3pm	Emily	Rock	MYX Talk 2	Alternative	Alternative	R & B	Shane
4pm	R & B	Alex	Shane	MYX Talk 1	R & B	Blues	Empty Space
5pm	MYX Talk 2	MYX Talk 3	Rock	Emily	Hip Hop	R & B	Pop
6pm	Alternative	Empty Space	Hip Hop	Rock	Blues	Emily	Alternative
7pm	Hip Hop	Shane	Alternative	Pop	Hailee	MYX Talk 1	R & B
8pm	MYX Talk 1	Country	Country	MYX Talk 2	Country	Country	Blues
9pm	Blues	R & B	MYX Talk 3	Blues	Alex	Alternative	Country
10pm	Pop	Blues	R & B	Rock	Empty Space	Pop	Hip Hop

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