

THE MYSTICIAN

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ASPIRING TO GIVE EVERY STUDENT A VOICE

bscmysticmedia.com



Student baristas, Mattie Kuntz (right) and Emily Salwey (left), work together to make customer orders during the busy afternoon hours at Mystic Java. Mystic Java has extended their hours from 7 a.m.- 7 p.m. (Credit: Kyleigh Hilbert)

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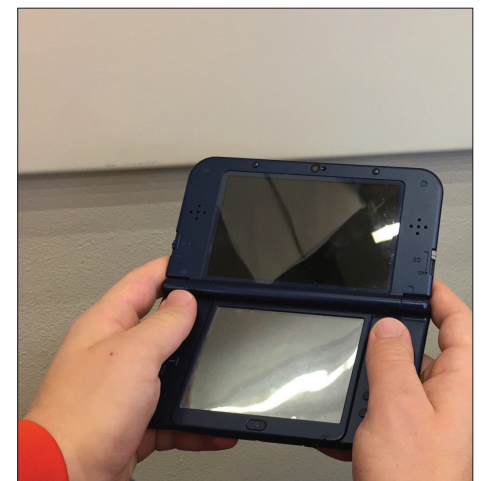
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THE MYSTICIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS – FOR THE STUDENTS

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Come Join Us!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

BOO! Did I scare you? Probably not, but I felt it was worth a shot. I hope that everyone had a Happy Halloween. My life has been very hectic and busy. I've been working on a special, super secret project at Mystic Media that I am proud and passionate of. Look forward to more news on that on our social media pages. All I can say is, Halloween may be over, but that doesn't mean the spooks need to end.

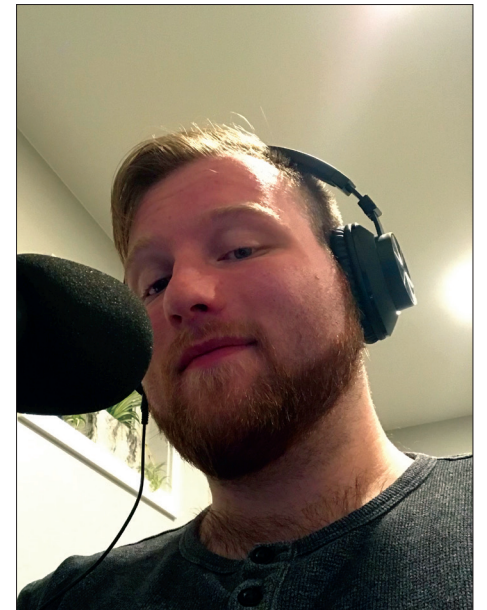
The holiday season fast approaches now. This is another friendly reminder that while out shopping for loved ones, especially on Black Friday, to wear a mask and social distance properly. North Dakota is one of the worst states for COVID-19 at the moment, so precautions are beyond necessary moving forward.

Be especially careful while travelling and celebrating the holidays. Crossing state lines by car, train or plane carries its own unique risks for exposure. My parents are both in age and health demographics where COVID-19 can be particularly dangerous for them, so any chance I can take to keep them safe I will take.

COVID-19 isn't the only danger while travelling. We experienced the first snow not too long ago, and while driving that day, I came across two separate three car piles ups and an accident between two vehicles-three total accidents just driving from my house to school, one causing a portion of Washington St. to be blocked off by officers. If you haven't made winter adjustments to your vehicles, now is the time!

Don't forget to share us on social media so we can get all of our amazing student works out there, and visit us on bscmysticmedia.com for more digital content! Have a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy the holidays. We'll see you again in December!

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Crossword Information

BSC's own Language, Literature and Communication Department Chair (and crossword geek) Michael Tomanek has created and submitted this month's puzzle. Experiment, explore and try to find the answers yourself for the most satisfaction. If it proves too hard, fear not, you can find the answers on the Mystic Media Website. Just go to bscmysticmedia.com and check under The Mystician page for the solution to the puzzle.

The Mystician Mission Statement and Disclaimer

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to the students.

We, as the student-based forum of journalism on the Bismarck State College campus, provide content that is informative, fair, concise and of importance to BSC. With this goal in mind, The Mystician staff 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.

The BSC Mystician strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organization.

The Mystician upholds the principles guaranteed by the First Amendment and utilizes these rights to bring diverse, entertaining and thought-provoking material to the college community.

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BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS GEARS UP FOR WINTER

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The winds are blowing colder, and the snow has begun to fall across North Dakota. With the winter dawning comes a new set of tasks for the department of Bismarck State College that ensures the paths are clear and the heat works.

The Buildings and Grounds facility is located behind the Armory in the Robert Kuntz building—a series of offices and a large garage housing heavy vehicles and storage space. Chief Buildings and Grounds Officer Don Roethler and his staff maintain all of the indoor and outdoor properties on the campus along with mail delivery.

“Take last week or the week previously, we were mowing grass,” Roethler said. “Went out today, there was snow this morning. You know, which was not really forecasted for this morning. They were talking about rain issues but nothing like substantial snow.”

With the weather, duties and priorities change along with the equipment being used. Leaf blowers and brooms no longer sweep away the fallen leaves but instead keep the sidewalks clear for campus pedestrians. The interior maintenance and equipment is not immune from the cyclical work either.

“We do PMs on our mechanical equipment; we try to do that on a regular basis,” Keith Schelske, Buildings Supervisor said. “Like an exhaust fan—we’ll try and service that prior to the temperatures changing, so we don’t have to worry about that in the winter

time. We still maintain temperatures and monitor things like that.”

Buildings and Grounds is responsible for making sure the temperature indoors on campus is appropriate. As the weather gets colder, they’ll adjust the heat in dorms and offices to be warmer.

In the event of multiple inches of snow, it is easier to allocate resources and manpower to night time and the early mornings when the parking lots

are emptied of vehicles.

“We’ll have two crews on snow that come in at nine or ten to start doing parking lots, and we’ll have another crew that comes in about three o’clock in the morning, and they can help with the shovelling of sidewalks,” Roethler said.

Schelske said that the maintenance and custodial staff contribute as well when it comes to snow accumulation in front of building entrances.

On the subject of COVID-19, the crews of Buildings and Grounds are ensuring the use of PPE when going through tasks inside buildings.

“I think we’re just trying to do the best we can with the situation we’re dealt right now,” Roethler said. “A majority of it is the cleaning. We’ve hired additional custodial staff going out throughout the day, through buildings cleaning, you know: doorways, entryways, bathrooms.”



Ryan Faragher, Buildings and Grounds Employee, detailing a vehicle. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)

BLACK FRIDAY SHOPPING HAS A NEW LOOK

By Dante Ames
REPORTER

This year Walmart, Best Buy and other retailers will have multiple opportunities for people who want to do Black Friday shopping

Walmart announced they will be splitting Black Friday into three parts this year in order to minimize and control the crowds during the COVID-19 pandemic and to avoid overwhelming the supply chain.

The first event of this new version of Black Friday will start online Wednesday, Nov. 4 with a multitude of

bargains on children’s toys, electronics and home products.

Later that same week on Saturday, Nov. 7, the first event will continue in stores. The following week will be the same except they will begin reducing prices on computers, music, movies, tablets, TVs and many more items.

The second part of the event, like the previous week, will start online on Wednesday, Nov. 11 and continue in stores the following Saturday, Nov. 14.

For the final part of the event, they will finish it all online on Wednesday, Nov. 25 and of course, as with all previous years, have the big finale on

the true and original Black Friday on the following Friday, Nov. 27.

Best Buy has also started partaking by having a special sale online in early October. Since COVID-19 hit, buying online, picking up in the store or picking up in the parking lot has certainly had the limelight and will surely continue going into Black Friday. Although Best Buy will be closed on Thanksgiving day, when it is open they will continue with cleaning protocols, mandatory masks and in-store capacity control.

Black Friday is the most opportune time to shop for Christmas gifts,

low priced electronics, and general savings. This year it seems that stores have guaranteed that will not change.

If college students are looking to get things at discounted prices and purchase their goods online, many stores will surely provide that service despite the pandemic.

Although Walmart and Best Buy are big players in the consumerism field, they are not the only store that will be partaking in the Black Friday event.

Other stores such as Amazon and Target have started sales for the event and plan to continue that going into November.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT JUST WEATHER

By Kyleigh Hilbert
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

Every year there are more record breaking heat temperatures. As of September 2020, Los Angeles County California reached the hottest temperature ever recorded for that month, reaching 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Assisting in these hot temperatures were raging wildfires from lack of rainfall and dry heat temperatures—both causes that have come from climate change.

“Climate change is just what it sounds like: It is a change in the climate” Ronald Jyring, Associate Professor of Biology at Bismarck State College, said. “It refers to the drastic changes that have been happening over the last 50-100 years. Global warming refers to the same thing. However, there was concern that the term doesn’t embrace its full impact. So while many parts of the world will become hotter (some to the point where humans won’t be able to survive), others will likely become cooler due to shifting weather patterns.”

Although the planet has been warming naturally since the Ice Age, around 10,000 years ago, the warming is happening faster than natural. The human race has assisted in this significantly with the overuse of fossil

fuels and wasting of materials that are littering our Earth.

Humans have been littering millions of single use products and wastes for many years. The build up of these wastes such as plastics, are piling up in our oceans and on our lands causing the wildlife in these areas to suffer dramatically. Along with this, many species are becoming endangered and dying off at extremely fast rates. All because of the human race.

“Despite some claims to the contrary, the main drivers of current climate change are the burning of fossil fuels, certain agricultural practices and deforestation,” Jyring said, “It is important to note that these are all the result of human activity. There are some other contributing factors, but these are human-caused factors that are by far the main ones.”

Jyring also mentioned that some of the “natural” contributors, like forest fires, are made worse because of human activity.

According to NASA’s website, climate change is not just weather, but a change in Earth’s usual climate. This means that the climate in certain places may have unusual changes, such as snow fall in places that don’t get snow or extreme temperatures that certain places aren’t used to.

“Currently we are having record forest fires in the west,” Jyring said, “We have



This trash was lying in the parking lot outside of the Armory. Moments after the photo was taken a Buildings and Grounds employee came by and picked it up. (Credit: Kyleigh Hilbert)

had so many hurricanes this season that they are no longer naming them.”

Scientists who study the Earth have found that the normal temperature of the Earth has gone up one degree Fahrenheit in the past 100 years, which might not seem like much but actually is. These small changes in the Earth’s temperature can have huge effects that come along with it. The changes can come from pollution from millions of people driving cars or the use of products that take energy such as heating or cooling a house by burning coal or oil. By burning and using this energy, we are putting gases into the air which also heats up, causing the Earth’s temperature to rise.

“We can help by wasting fewer resources,” Jean Rollandeli, Associate Professor of Biology at BSC, said, “including food, packaging, building materials, electricity and fossil fuels. Scientists believe we could reduce our need for resources by 50 percent if we did not waste them. Reduce, reuse and recycle.”

Rollandeli also talked about buying items made from materials that are easily recycled or handing down items to someone else who can use them.

The Earth and many of its species are beginning to suffer from these effects. This includes the melting of the ice caps and glaciers, which will

eventually result in major flooding of coastal cities and endanger many species that live in those ice climates. There will also be more erratic weather patterns with higher rates of precipitation or stronger storms.

“We can’t stop it. It is already here.” Jyring said, “and climate change will

“We can do this, but pretending it is not happening is just a really bad plan.”

Jean Rollandeli
BSC Associate Professor of Biology

get worse, no matter what we do. However, the question is how bad will we allow things to get. Burning less fossil fuel is a prime place to start.”

The topic of climate change and global warming have been up for debate quite often, even being one of the topics in the 2020 Presidential debates—questioning whether it is real or not, and where our leaders stand on the topic.

“This is something we should be worried about.” Rollandeli said. “The next generation will be facing a much harsher world if we don’t slow this down as soon as possible. It took our Earth 30 plus years to recover from the ozone hole we caused, but it did. Great progress has been made since all the countries of the world got together to find a solution. We can do this, but pretending it is not happening is just a really bad plan.”



AGE OF CONSENT LAWS CAN AFFECT NEW STUDENTS

By Dante Ames
REPORTER

A young man at the ripe age of 17 asks out a cute young lady who is 16-years-old. Only mere days later does the young man turn 18 while the girl is still 16. An 18-year-old girl moves from her small town to a slightly bigger small town to attend college, leaving her 17-year-old boyfriend behind. These relationships have now come into question as to whether or not it is acceptable for these couples to be romantically involved. In North Dakota the age of consent is 18, with a close-in-age exemption for minors aged 15–17 if the older partner is less than three years older.

There are countless points that can be argued about the topic. One could look at it from a psychological point of view, a sociological point of view or from a legal standpoint. To solve this issue in a matter that is agreed upon, one should and must look at all points

of views and all sides of the story.

A good starting point is a psychological point of view. Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and its functions, especially those affecting behavior in each context. The psychological aspect of these scenarios matter because human brains do not not fully develop until people reach their mid-20's. On average, the frontal lobe of the brain does not fully develop for several years after a person's teen years. The frontal lobe is the part of the brain that controls important cognitive skills in humans, such as emotional expression, problem solving, memory, language, judgment and sexual behaviors. These factors are important when deciding if a person is competent enough to make their own decisions on who they want to be intimate with.

"At 18, 19, 20 you are better equipped cognitively," Dr. Theresa A. Felderman said.

Felderman, a Bismarck State College

professor of psychology, explains that each case is unique and should be looked at like it is a different case every time age of consent comes up.

"Even though your brain is not fully developed," Felderman said, "a very large portion of your frontal lobe and brain are developed, and it is continuously developing and changing."

Now if one was to look at it from a sociological point of view, the outcome of acceptability may or may not be the same. Sociology is the study of human behavior, referring to social behavior, society, patterns of social relationships, social interaction and culture that surrounds everyday life. The sociological aspect may matter because how society is in each region generally defines what we view as acceptable when deciding what is appropriate and what is not.

Ashley Steckler, a BSC professor of sociology, explains that when it comes to consenting, people who have a position of authority may influence

how others consent to them. Power dynamics matter when it comes to consent.

There may be too many variables to consider when deciding if the current age of consent in North Dakota is culturally acceptable or not.

"What are we even talking about then?!" Steckler asks, "It's all perception, it's all cultural and we all have our own understanding of what it is we are even talking about!"

Steckler makes it even more clear that when we talk about the age of consent and what should and should not be allowed within the confines of the law and society, that we need to all be on the same page and have a very clear definition of what the age of consent is. One way of making sure all laws and rules are kept prevalent and definite is by constant updates. By updating the laws, we make sure that everything is relevant to every possible current circumstance.

For legal information on age of consent visit legis.nd.gov.

News Brief

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum moved Burleigh and Morton counties into the high risk level for COVID-19, or the color orange on the risk level chart of the North Dakota Smart Restart Plan. In response to the governor's decision and to stay consistent, Bismarck State College has also moved the campus to the orange risk level.

The governor's changes relate primarily to public gatherings, large events and the allowable capacity.

At the orange risk level, the operational changes at BSC include:

- Limits on dining and facility capacity
- Seating is limited to 25% capacity, not to exceed 50 people, in the Mystic Marketplace dining area, the Power Bean and the Well Bean.
- Meeting rooms and auditoriums are limited to 25% capacity, not to exceed 50 people.

-Due to current protocols, instructional space on campus is not affected.

-Reviewing and evaluating live, interactive instruction delivery across all disciplines

Students will receive communication from their instructor, department chair and/or dean if any changes to delivery need to be made.

To learn more about BSC's approach to COVID-19 and how it relates to campus safety, visit bismarckstate.edu/BSCSmartStart.

Information from:
bismarckstate.edu/master-news/



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EXPLAINING ISOLATION: THE GOOD AND BAD



Jon Fettig
THE MYSTICIAN COLUMNIST

Loneliness has many ways of appearing depending on the person and experience. A person can feel lonely even when around other people. It can be hard to express to someone why you feel lonely when your perceptions are different from other people, but there can always be reasons for that. Not every person is meant for the same thing.

Psychiatry has framed loneliness on two levels: a clinical symptom and a personality trait according to psychiatrytimes.org. A clinical symptom of being alone can be of different circumstances and conditions like personality disorders or accompanied by several other symptoms that contribute to a variety of other diagnoses. Loneliness can be a symptom itself with a variety of other causes such as isolation whether by choice or directive. For example, having to isolate because of illness.

“Being isolated can certainly lead to feelings of loneliness and separation

from our regular social support systems,” Kate Milner, Bismarck State College Director of Counseling and Advising Services said. “Loneliness is associated with increased depression and anxiety.”

Loneliness can nourish despair and discouragement ending up as a type of depressive disorder and potentially self-destructive acts. It can increase different behavior styles that can generate painful memories.

Because of the pandemic, people who are usually social are seeing what it’s like to be isolated. The wide-spread infections across the state and country have caused government orders to shut places down and quarantine.

“I’m someone who likes to be on the go and socially active with others,” BSC sophomore Caden Shean said. “It was definitely a change of pace and an adjustment to get used to. It was a sign of relief when I could leave my room and see my friends again.”

Quarantine for many has had negative effects. People more at risk are people of color, people with pre-existing conditions, those with low income and those who are less favored in society like people with different disabilities. Individuals who are living with mental health concerns are at risk of experiencing an increase in unwanted symptoms. It may be more difficult to cope with the symptoms

of a mental health concern when also experiencing loneliness and isolation.

Like all things, there are circumstances that nourish problems with a person’s mental health, and loneliness can contribute to that. Discrimination and exclusion can push people to a breaking point from times when they feel lonely. People with learning disabilities are especially vulnerable to this.

COVID-19 has increased the probability of mental health issues in the form of loneliness. There have always been circumstances even before the pandemic with isolation resulting in loneliness.

“Signs to watch for that isolation may be impacting someone’s mental health include feelings of depression and anxiety, poor sleep, trouble concentrating, and not taking care of personal needs, deep boredom, lack of interest and withdrawal,” Millner said.

On the other hand, a personality trait for being alone with limited interactions with others can be peaceful.

This may not necessarily mean that an introverted person just likes to avoid people or interacting with people entirely. When it comes to being alone, there can be benefits, like getting your mind recharged and as a result increasing productivity.

According to tips from headline.

com there are ways to be happy while being alone. Some examples are taking some time to let your mind wander; taking a step back from social media; doing physical activity; or taking yourself on a date.

Being lonely can be good or bad. It can be hard feeling trapped while being lonely. Life can get miserable when having to rely on other people to avoid those un-preferred ways of being lonely and are too limited on resources to be able to do things for oneself. This is the part for social bugs where they may be doing more for each other then they think and that just may be the beauty of it after all.

When people have a mental illness and are limited with what they have to make things better, they use what they have at their best advantage and are resourceful. Unfortunately for some, there may not be many things they can use as a source to help them escape the reality they are in or there may not be much that source can do depending on the ordeal. Some may not know there are options.

“North Dakota has many resources available to the community and many of them are free,” Millner said. “BSC Students also have access to free counseling support on campus through the Mystic Advising and Counseling Center.”

WHAT CONSTITUTES A REAL AMERICAN?



Samantha Rosario
THE MYSTICIAN COLUMNIST

They come to our country, and they take the jobs no one else is willing to do. They come here looking for better life opportunities for their children. They come here to escape gang violence, abusive governments and poverty. Immigrants are the backbone of this country and make up most of the working class and blue collar positions.

Many white Americans like to pretend that people of color don’t run this country behind the curtains. Slaves built it from the ground up, and the immigrants maintain it.

These people spend time and money to earn citizenship to this country that

couldn’t care less about them because they are not natural born citizens and most of them are brown.

The process to apply for a green card or permanent residence should take from about seven to 33 months.

It doesn’t.

The process for citizenship should take about six months.

It doesn’t.

For most immigrants there are only so many visas given out per year. In reality, these processes take years, even decades. For example, the United States may have 30,000 visas this year to award to Venezuelan citizens, but over 700,000 Venezuelan citizens applied for visas. Now 670,000 Venezuelan citizens will have to wait another year to begin their application process if they are chosen.

Quiz time:

“The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.”

“Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?”

These are two exact questions from

the United States Naturalization test. A U.S. Immigration and Customs

Officer will present 10 questions from the 100 Civic Questions of the Naturalization test, and the hopeful citizen has to get at least six right.

Then they are tested on their reading and comprehension skills by reading and writing one of three sentences given.

More than 30 million Americans are illiterate meaning they cannot read or write. More than 30 million Americans would fail this test. Should I refer to them as Americans? Maybe we should send all of them to another country and grant citizenship to 30 million immigrants who can read and write.

Some Americans refer to immigrants as freeloaders and lazy, yet they come to this country and get straight to work because they know it is more difficult to provide for their family as non-citizens.

Sixty-three percent of non-citizen households and 35 percent of native households are on welfare programs. According to the Center

for Immigration Studies, “Of non-citizen households receiving welfare, 93 percent have at least one worker, as do 76 percent of native households receiving welfare. In fact, non-citizen households are more likely overall to have a worker than are native households.”

Non-citizens do not include illegal immigrants, new Green Card holders and temporary visitors.

Even though most non-citizen families are on welfare, which is completely understandable considering most of them come from poverty and have slave wage jobs here. Most of these families have someone working and making an income versus more American households on welfare not having anyone at all earning an income.

Are immigrants actually lazy or was that just a loathsome generalization made by real Americans to oppress the immigrants and make them feel like this made up hierarchy of races and nationality is still intact with white Americans still at the top?

EXPLORE AN EDUCATION IN MASS COMMUNICATION: SPRING SEMESTER 2021

COMM 201 Interpretive and Opinion Writing MW 1-2:15 p.m.
COMM 206 Digital Communication Fundamentals TTh 8:30-9:45 a.m.

COMM 233 Media Ethics MWF 9-9:50 a.m.
COMM 242 Advanced News Photography M 6-8:40 p.m.
COMM 244 Reporting and Feature Writing MWF 10-10:50 a.m.

COMM 272 Advanced Video Production TTh 1-2:15 p.m.
COMM 281 Reporting and Editing: The Mystician TTh 12-12:50 p.m.

COMM 283 Video Lab: MystiCast TTh 2:30-3:20 p.m.
COMM 284 Radio Lab: The MYX TTh 11-11:50 a.m.

EVERY STUDENT'S VOICE

ASPIRING TO GIVE EVERY STUDENT A VOICE:

AND FACULTY, STAFF
AND ADMINISTRATION

This is our mission statement at The Mystician. It is often said that in higher education, we grow as people and become who we are through learning and experience. We know you would like to let yourselves be heard, and this new addition to our student newspaper is just the way to do that. You will often see our reporters and columnists out and about getting interviews. If you would like to have your voice heard here, answer openly and honestly to them and allow your picture to accompany your opinion.

The incident that prompted the question:

Recently during a fire alarm on campus, it was observed that when everyone had to go outside to wait, administrators stood huddled in a little group while students stood around in their little groups. Administration talk about student retention and how to keep students interested in Bismarck State College. This would have been a perfect opportunity for them to take a moment to introduce themselves, begin a conversation and reach out to students as fellow humans in the same predicament.

QUESTION: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS TO FORM RELATIONSHIPS WITH FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION?

“I think it is important to have that connection with your teachers so you feel welcomed and comfortable, and also to



Megan Anderson, BSC Student

build some familiarity with your teachers and coaches in order to be able to ask questions and succeed.”

“I think it’s important for the faculty and the professors to be able to know the student’s by name. Not only to know them during fire drills and be able



Sydney Sundsbak, Student Government Association President

to talk with them, but to also be able to communicate with them not just through email but in person.”

“I do think it’s important for them to form relationships (between students and faculty),



Therese Wehri, BSC Student

so then students feel more comfortable going to them if they have questions about stuff.”

It is important for faculty and administration to form relationships with students because they work closely together to help the students prepare for education and for life.

Faculty, like teachers, should have deep connections with their students so they can understand how the student communicates and learns and get the student comfortable with asking questions.

Administration should form relationships with students for similar reasons but administration will often work with a student on financing and schedules and getting to know the student helps to know what their needs are.



Jen Waldner, Career Development Specialist with Job Corps in Minot

“I think it is really important for our faculty members and administration to get to know the students on a personal level. When they can make those connections, it really helps the student persist in classes, feel like they’re known at the school. When you have somebody know you on a first name basis and see that you’re coming to class everyday, I think that really goes a long way for a student’s success.”



Retha Mattern, Admissions Director at BSC

TAKE AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE NEW BSC TRAP SHOOTING TEAM

By Samantha Rosario
COLUMNIST

Trapshooting originated in England from the late 1800s. Hunters shot live pigeons from cages to improve their skills. Glass balls filled with feathers replaced the live pigeons then eventually evolved into the clay plates used today.

This is a special kind of sport as it allows individuals of all ages to participate. As a result, this has become a family activity. Grandparents can go shooting with families and not have to worry about physical capabilities. This is what differentiates trapshooting from sports like baseball or soccer where speed is necessary. Technique is the only skill required. Anyone can do it but of course it takes practice.

Six high schools have trapshooting teams with a total of about 200 students. That is a lot of families. Most students have been encouraged by family members to join teams.

Here's the breakdown:

As part of a trapshooting team, students go to the range weekly to shoot for scores. Each round is 25 shots. Each shot is a point. There are five pathways at each shooting dock, each with a microphone at the end. The students rotate to each pathway shooting five shots at each totaling in 25 shots. The team with the highest accumulated score at the end of the season wins. The teams never see their opponents.

Jenna Thompson, President of the Bismarck State College Mystic Clay Dusters, shot 50 perfect hits during her last Sunday rounds. This is her 5th year shooting, and her rifle of choice is a left-handed 12-gauge shotgun.

"I am used to the recoil," Thompson said. "It is just a matter of managing."

She never fit into any sports growing up and when she joined her high schools' team, she found a family. Thompson says she fits in more and found her people within this sport. She grew up shooting and her father, Coach Eric Thompson, told her about the Mandan High School

Trapshooting team.

Thompson is a left-eye shooter meaning that shooting targets to the right can be difficult for her. The way she overcomes this is by taping the right lens of her safety glasses to improve sight in her left eye. This is known as a "cross-fire." The dominant eye is the shooting eye. Covering the weaker eye gives dominant control to the shooting eye.

Mystic Clay Duster Cade Steffan scored 47 out of 50 points for his first round. Steffan has been shooting for nine years and was introduced to a trapshooting team by a coach of his. Previously he has competed for the trapshooting "Zap Club" and says that shooting for BSC now is great. Steffan also believes that consistent practice of technique is how to become successful in this sport.

Sunday mornings Dr. Doug Jensen, President of Bismarck State College, can be found at the outdoor range to support the trapshooting Clay Dusters and spend time with students.

"You have moms, grandparents and

coaches coming out here to support the kids," Jensen said. "Sunday mornings—families are out here, and I can be here with the students. I am always around students when I can be, but with the pandemic it is difficult. Right now with COVID, this is the only place I can really be with students and athletes."

Dr. Doug Jensen, President of Bismarck State College, enjoys coming out every Sunday morning to support the trapshooting team and spend time with students.

"You have moms, grandparents and coaches coming out here to support the kids. Sunday mornings, families are out here and I can be here with the students. I am always around students when I can be but with the pandemic it is difficult. Right now with Covid, this is the only place I can really be with students and athletes." said Jensen, referring to the outdoor range where the Clay Dusters shoot. For the campus President, safety concerning both covid and use of firearms are paramount.



Reporter Sam Rosario, lines up her shot while being coached by Darryl Howard, Head Coach of the Century High School Track team and the BSC Clay Dusters. (Credit: Jason Lueder)

FORMER MYSTICS LEARN TO PLAY IN A DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERE

By Caden Shean
SPORTS REPORTER/COLUMNIST

Leaving behind what you know and are used to can be tough at times, but following what you love can make it all worth it in the end. This is the case for the former Mystics Amber Stevahn and Sydney Anderson.

After a very successful career for the two, they decided their journey would not be the same without the other and decided to team up once again, this time for Minot State University.

“Basketball at Minot State has been very similar to my experience at BSC,” Anderson said. “Coach Graupe is preparing us to play fast break basketball which is what we played at BSC.”

Even though it may be a new

challenge in a different atmosphere, having someone with you along the way can be beneficial.

“It meant a lot to have a familiar face and great friend in Sydney with me,” Stevahn said. “I am not a big fan of change, so it has helped out a lot to have her with me for this process.”

Going from a junior college to a four-year University is a big transition, but the two former BSC standouts are making the most of it.

“The transition has been smooth,” Stevahn said. “I had some scheduling conflicts for classes from being a transfer, but my advisors and the staff here helped me figure everything out.”

With being at a new college, the two will always remember what BSC did for them and what it means to them.



Former Mystic Basketball Players Sydney Anderson (23) and Amber Stevahn (34) share a “good job” moment during a basketball game last year. Both now play for Minot State University. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)

LAKERS TOP HEAT AND WIN FINALS EARNING LEBRON HIS 4TH CHAMPIONSHIP



Kade Trottier

THE MYSTICIAN
COLUMNIST

On Sunday, Oct. 11, LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers pummeled the Miami Heat in game six of the NBA Finals by a score of 106-93. Winning the best of seven series 4-2, LA now ties the Boston Celtics for most NBA Championships with 17 respectfully.

Lebron James rightfully took home Finals MVP by averaging 29.8 points, 11.8 rebounds, and 8.5 assists becoming the second player in NBA history to take home four Finals MVP and four regular-season MVP awards.

The first person on that list, the only person standing in his way of being the greatest basketball player of all time: Michael Jordan.

Jordan’s résumé is equally impressive. Playing from 1984-1993, 1995-1998 and 2001-2003. He is a five-time league MVP, one time defensive player of the year, six NBA championships in six appearances, including six Finals MVP, 10 time All-NBA First Team, 10 time scoring champion, three time NBA steals leader, and has scored over 32,000 career points. That’s the tip of the iceberg.

Now let’s take a look at the résumé of Lebron James. In his 17th season,

Lebron is a four time NBA Champion in 10 Finals appearances, winning four regular-season MVP and four Finals MVP. He also is a one time assist leader, one time scoring champion, 13 time All-NBA First Team, and has scored over 34,000 points. At 34 years of age Lebron James, who reigns the king of NBA basketball, will go on to break almost every statistical category for regular season and postseason play.

Debates will be debates, and if you watched Michael Jordan play, you likely think he is the best player of all time. If you are a millennial and were not able to watch Michael Jordan play, you likely, without a doubt, think Lebron James is the best basketball player.

If it were up to me to decide, I believe Lebron James is the greatest basketball player to ever lace up a pair of sneakers. His unique combination of size, strength, athletic ability and IQ for the game make him not only the hardest player to guard physically but mentally as well.

I believe this debate also needs to be determined by what the players accomplish off court as well.

Lebron has started his I Promise school for kids in his hometown of Akron, Ohio and has also been a major advocate for the Black Lives Matter movement.

In the end, the decision of who’s the greatest to ever play will never be unanimous. However, these two men have equally cemented themselves on top of the basketball world.

That is something no one can deny.

DENVER BRONCOS WON WITH A LOSS



Caden Shean

THE MYSTICIAN
SPORT
REPORTER/
COLUMNIST

This year has been nothing ordinary whatsoever, but we all have had to make adjustments and changes as time goes on. This includes the National Football League (NFL). The NFL went ahead and is having their season as planned but with very few fans and many players opting out for safety reasons. Things will get harder to adjust as problems start to happen. The first problem came about with the New England Patriots contracting COVID. The NFL had to quickly adjust with the Patriots playing the Denver Broncos during Week 5. I think this was unfair for the Broncos. The Broncos had to prepare for a full week thinking they were going to play the Patriots then that game got postponed for the following week. So, the Broncos ultimately wasted their bye week without planning on it.

Bye weeks are huge in the NFL as it gives the players an extra week of rest and a week off from football to get their minds and bodies recovered during the long season. The team did end up getting a few days off the following week given by Head Coach Vic Vangio, but it came with a price. Running Back Melvin Gordon III had a bit of trouble during those three days off. He ended up getting a DUI after a dinner and was speeding when he got pulled over.

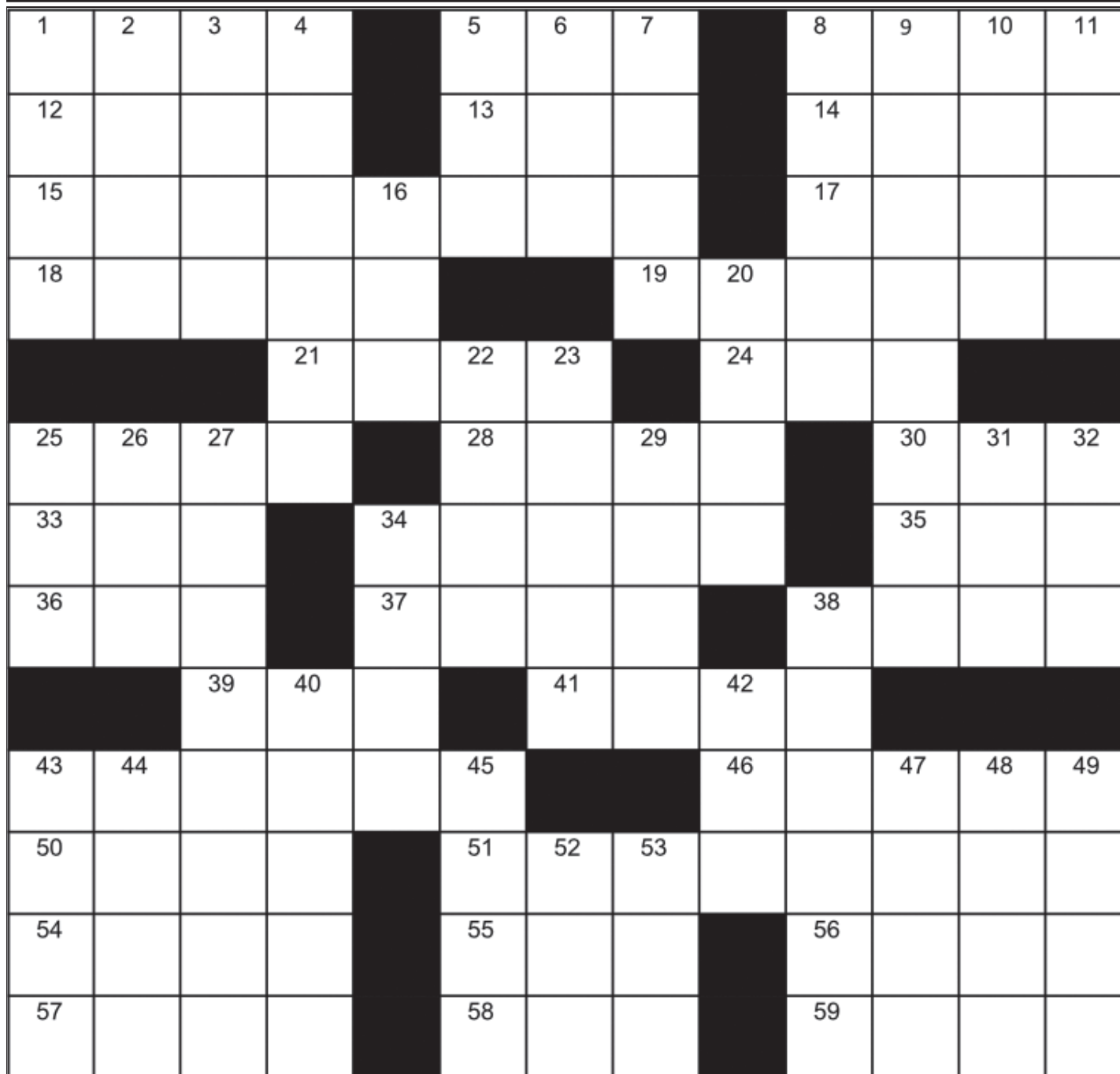
The bye week was not supposed to come until week 8 which is a huge thing after playing 7 games straight to get ready for a playoff push. But they now lose that key bye week due to the Patriots and their coronavirus situation.

I am not blaming the Patriots for what happened with Gordon III, I am blaming them for ruining the Broncos great bye week as well as their bye week as a whole.

Planning to play and not getting to play is one thing, but not getting any true rest or time off is another. The Broncos did end up getting the win nonetheless, but it is straight games the rest of the way for the team with no breaks in between.

For information about plans for the upcoming Bismarck State College Mystics spring season, go to bscmysticmedia.com and listen to a Chat with Thai Haggin on Episode 2 of Everyone’s Voice: A Mystic Media Podcast

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



MICHAEL TOMANEK'S FOURTH PUZZLE: "HAVE ONE"

ACROSS

1. Worry
5. Just a touch
8. Forgery
12. Colorful slush
13. Columbus sch.
14. Edible root
15. "The beautiful game"
17. About
18. A year in Toulouse?
19. Less hairy
21. Goblet support
24. Charlotte's home
25. Rid
28. Spanish painter Joan
30. Yes
33. Mil. support
34. Digital spec.
35. Deep, mean, or sad
36. NFL scapegoat
37. A place to move? (2 words)
38. Rubber's antagonist
39. Ft. Worth sch.
41. Kitty or collective

43. Baja or outback
46. Avoid a Caravan?
50. ___ berry
51. "America's pastime"
54. Ole and his wife might live here
55. A summer in Toulouse?
56. Donald's "Saturday Night" bane
57. Story
58. T type?
59. Ole's wife

DOWN

1. Org. for 15-across
2. The sub. for micro and macro
3. A billion years in London?
4. Second attempt
5. Doomed dlrvy.
6. Handy lang.
7. Tulip seed
8. Scarf heist
9. Ruthless play
10. British bottom
11. Bog
16. Wager
20. Truant (Mil.)

22. E, F#, G, A, B, C and D (tog.)
23. Confuse
25. Mine and yours
26. Take advantage of
27. An easy one
29. "___ Man" (starring Emilio Estevez)
31. 2nd person, person
32. 3rd person, sheep
34. Dump
38. Worldwide
40. Kayak's cousin
42. One of many Neruda poems
43. A Celtic Person
44. Skyward major or minor
45. Ride app.
47. One of two chipmunks
48. Valley
49. Luth. branch
52. Lunched
53. It sells

Answers can be found online at
bscmysticmedia.com
on The Mystician page

WATCH HORROR AND ROMANCE IN "THE HAUNTING OF BLY MANOR"

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When reading the book "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley in high school, I came to a realization that early science fiction had nothing to do with spaceships. This book is one of the earliest instances of sci-fi, and its themes would carry on to inspire other works for generations.

The 2018 Netflix series "The Haunting of Hill House" brought a similar revelation, that horror does not always need to be scary. Rather it can deal in the nature of death, loss and grief to create a narrative just as frightening as any big blockbuster.

Netflix's follow up series "The Haunting of Bly Manor" takes this even further than "Hill House." Much of the spookiness is there, but now the story is tinged with themes of death, loss and grief through the lens of much more sympathetic characters. "Hill House" suffered at times with character writing—one person's anger comes off as cartoonish rather than justified or even relatable.

"Bly Manor" on the other hand, has a character give a whole monologue while managing to hold suspense. She is angry and human more than just angry for the sake of it.

Even the underlying mystery has more affective elements than effective. A good mystery gives the pieces to put together alongside the one solving it in fiction.

In "Bly Manor" you piece together the mystery in time as well, but the realization of the truth is dark and terrifying. Death is not the end in this series or "Hill House," and when you come to terms with that at the same time as some characters, the moment is gripping.

The series does manage to lose the solid pacing of its predecessor. All of the elements are there, but they arrive slower, and the cinematography has less impact. This may be because of having less spooky details, and the ghosts being less grisly and fantastical in this story than they were in "Hill House."

You can watch "The Haunting of Bly Manor" and its predecessor "The Haunting of Hill House" for a spooky watch right now on Netflix.

CHANGES TO SKILL BASED MATCHMAKING RUINS CASUAL FUN OF MULTIPLAYER GAMING



**Travis
Askerooth**

THE MYX
PRODUCTION
MANAGER

I know what you might be thinking after reading that headline:

“How has online multiplayer been ruined? I still go online and have a ton of fun.”

Granted, multiplayer can still be great. What I was unable to include for my headline (and will elaborate more) is the type of multiplayer.

In a world of negativity and conflict, the human race can collectively agree on one statement: multiplayer is a lot of fun and even better with friends. However from my experience, multiplayer has been worsened to a point where I would rather eat sand than touch that mode.

Why is that? Why am I not enjoying multiplayer games these days?

I mentioned earlier that I failed to specify what type of multiplayer I hate; it is multiplayer where the players are super competitive, even if the game is casual. The amount of competitiveness in casual multiplayer rots me to the core. I just want to play that mode without having to chug Monster Energy drinks, sit up in my gamer chair, and sweat profusely. You want me to explain more specifically why? Well, I'll tell ya!

Why do people have to be good?

I enjoy games like “Call of Duty.” They're fun, addicting, and quick to pick up and play for about 30 minutes. Their multiplayer has always been one of the more casual games that I have played, but with the addition of “Modern Warfare” (2019), I came to loathe the multiplayer after about two or three months into the game's lifecycle.

During those months, people had time to experiment what loadouts worked and what else didn't. Sure there were rage-inducing loadouts/playstyles like camping with claymores and a shotgun, but for the most part, people were at least experimenting. After that, people found a meta and got accustomed to the movement; that is when the sweats joined the lobby.

For those who are unfamiliar with sweats, I would describe

them as people who treat every match like it is the esports championship, the winning pot is one million dollars and it could be the last match the person ever plays. So, they run around, jump, slide, or evade every second like a little bunny rabbit, are snappy with their aim, use overpowered loadouts and complain when someone ends their killstreak.

I swear that after every match, they must have to replace their controller because the thumbsticks and buttons are worn out.

Now, I'm not saying that I hate people who are good players; I'm not a fan of people who treat every single match like their life depends on it.

If the game is full of these sweats, it might ruin the experience of a newer/casual player who just wanted to hop on and try to do well. Granted, with a game like “Modern Warfare,” newer people won't get to experience these lobbies because of a controversial system that is kept in place that helps newer players but hurts casual players. And that system is...

Skill-Based Matchmaking (SBMM)

What is that?

SBMM is a system that matches similar players based on their skillset. There are many factors that contribute to the system's requirements to match these players: their level, connection, reaction time, etc. On paper, this sounds like a good system. You don't want to be a new guy to a game and end up getting matched with players that put days into the game. It would create an unfair gaming experience. SBMM would make sure that it would put you with similar people so that those unfair matches never happen.

SBMM is great for ranked or competitive games like “Overwatch,”

“League of Legends,” “Smite” and “CS:GO.” It matches people who are skilled at the game with players who are just as skilled. These games create some intense moments where wits and strategy will end up winning the game. This is why esports are popular and fun to watch. Pitting two equally matched teams against each other creates tension and hype when something goes right. Competitive games need SBMM.

But why does “Modern Warfare” (2019) include it and doesn't get received well by the community? Why is it that the day after “Black Ops Cold War” alpha and beta released, SBMM made it to the trending page on Twitter?

As far as I can remember, “Call of Duty” was more of an arcade, casual game. It was easy to pick up and do well, as long as you knew what you were doing. If there was any competitiveness to it, it would be under a ranked playlist.

“Black Ops II,” “Advanced Warfare” and “Black Ops IV” all had a ranked playlist where SBMM is at its strongest. Those modes were fine because we had a casual playlist for people who just want to have fun and play without a competitive edge.

Now, SBMM has been in multiplayer since “Modern Warfare” (2007), but the system wasn't as strong as it is today. All it requires to match players is their rank and the connection between players. But the rank didn't matter as much because you still get matched up with newer players. The system mixed up the lobby with some skilled players, some newer players and some average players.

This combination made it fun for all parties: the skilled get to have a good

game, trying to get the most kills or play the objective; the average, while getting frustrated at the skilled, still have the newer players to pick on so at least they can contribute; and the newer players get to learn how to play and experiment, even though they are getting killed a lot. When they finally get a couple kills, trust me, they'll be celebrating the fact they got better.

With the arrival of “Modern Warfare” (2019), it seemed to be like nothing had changed. Everyone was on an equal footing and skill level, and they were experimenting to see what worked. As the game got older, people were starting to realize that this game's SBMM seemed too strong. Casual players who get decent kill/death ratios were being put up against sweats and not one person on the enemy team was new or at least decent at the game.

What happened? Why is the SBMM this strong?

As many players figured out, they added at least one more factor in the system and that was reaction times. If a player reacts fast or slow to an enemy, that'll factor in for the next match. So hypothetically, it could be possible for a newer player (let's say at level 15) could have a great reaction time and get paired up with a bunch of level 155.

So, the reason why this “Call of Duty's” SBMM has been so strong is because Infinity Ward made the system heavily rely on performance and stats, not your level or connection. So, you might be asking again if there is a ranked mode in “Modern Warfare” (2019). Well, no. Casual mode is the ranked mode, and it shouldn't be that way. Why strengthen an SBMM that no one really complained about? I

guess it is to help the newer players, but if the players get slightly better, they'll end up getting into a lobby full of sweats, and they end up quitting the game because it is unfair.

It looks like it will happen again with “Black Ops Cold War” because the SBMM is, once again, really strong and players are already hating it. Will they turn it down? Who knows. I'll just stick with the zombies mode, thank you.

Fun little side note, there was a point where Activision patented a SBMM system that would have the system match people who spent money on the game with people who didn't. As far as the community knows, it hasn't been implemented, but imagine if it did.



HALLOWEEN ON CAMPUS



A BSC HALLOWEEN

Bismarck State College may be affected by COVID the same as any other school, but that doesn't mean they put Halloween on hold. On October 29, 2020 students went to the Alumni room in the Armory to decorate their own pumpkins.

They wore masks and socially distanced while making the best looking pumpkin they could out of arts and crafts supplies.

On October 30, 2020, the BSC Bookstore had a Halloween costume contest from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students came by in their best and spookiest attire.

Even in the Armory the Mystic Media staff decorated the offices with whatever decor they could find befitting the holiday. Jon Wingenbach, a Mass Communication student, decorated the board in colorful letters and drawing.

Thank you to Sarah Owens for the photographs from the pumpkin decorating event.

