

Red and Green

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Minot State University

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Fall 2021: Welcome back to campus

Lauren Reeves
Feature Editor

As the new school year starts off and students return to school and campus, there are many significant changes at Minot State University in comparison to last school year. These changes have come as a result of the developments over the past year of ways to combat COVID-19.

"I think the biggest, most significant comparison that I can make was a year ago. It was a lot of the fear of the unknown," said Kevin Harmon, Minot State vice president for student affairs. "From Aug. 27 to Sept. 11, we experienced over a hundred and thirty positive cases in two weeks, and that changed the entire complexion of the year."

Over the course of those two weeks, the school's COVID-19 plans were turned upside down.

At first, the school thought they could have everyone quarantine in Dakota Hall, with everyone having their own room. It took about two hours to figure out that wouldn't be possible because the school had so many positive cases. The plans changed to maybe having two people in a room. But even that wasn't enough, and the school had some students at one of the hotels in town for a few evenings.

"We also didn't know how severe the impact would be on our students when they had COVID-19, or faculty or staff," said Harmon. "And it was surprising to me that in our first go around, when we had the 100 cases or so plus cases, 75% of them didn't even know they had it. They were asymptomatic. So that changed it a little bit.

"For a while, we thought we were going to be dealing with sick people and transitioning students to health care facilities, such as hospitals and clinics. And it turned out we had to take a different path since three out of four students had no idea they even had (COVID-19). We learned that it was more about making accommodations, about making sure they had access to their classwork, coursework, meals, and safety."

Harmon also added that of the 660 positive cases and 1,000 close-contact cases that the school faced last school year, not a single student was hospitalized during that time.

This year, many of the questions and concerns the school had about COVID-19 and the students can be more easily answered and safety protocols can be less restrictive.

"There's way more research available to us, with masks and vaccines, we just have so much more information this year, that it's helpful when making determinations and protocols," said Harmon. "A year's worth of experience really allows us to do a better job of planning and understanding some of the dynamics that we have at a campus with a primary age group of 20 to 29."

Despite mandates for masks and quarantine no longer in effect due to the State of North Dakota dissolving the health emergency, Harmon states that the potential to go back to those requirements is a possibility if the health of the students is in danger again.

The school will have more

See Welcome back — Page 11



Photos via Minot State Instagram

Welcome Weekend.



News in Brief

Hearts of Glass

The Hearts of Glass Virtual Panel Event is today, Thursday, Sept. 16, at 4 p.m.

Minot Symphony Orchestra

On Saturday, Sept. 18 the Minot Symphony Orchestra presents "Motley Soiree" beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall.

International Artist Series

On Sunday, Sept. 19 at 3 p.m. will be International Artist Series: Taylor Red at Ann Nicole Nelson Hall.

Fall Assessment Day

Sept. 20 is Assessment Day.

Wild Hands

Monday, Sept. 20 features live music by Wild Hands in The Quad from 6-8 p.m.

Dropping classes

Wednesday, Sept. 22 is the last day to withdraw from first eight-week classes and receive a 50% refund.

NOTSTOCK

Sept. 23-25 is the NOTSTOCK Art Festival.

MSU volleyball

On Friday, Sept. 24, the MSU Beavers play Upper Iowa University at 6 p.m. at the MSU dome.

MSU volleyball

Saturday, Sept. 25, MSU volleyball plays Winona State University at 11 a.m. at the MSU dome.

MSU football

Saturday, Sept. 25, MSU football plays Minnesota State University, Mankato at 6 p.m. at Herb Parker Stadium.

Pride Flag Raising Ceremony

Monday, Sept. 27 at 11 a.m. is the Pride Flag Raising Ceremony in The Quad

Coming Out

On Tuesday, Sept. 28, MSU Campus Pride: Coming Out will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Aleshire Theater, Hartnett Hall.

Dropping classes

Sept. 29 is the last day to drop a first eight-week class

Asher Hoffarth Unplugged: My Transgender Life

Thursday, Sept. 30 at 6:30 p.m. in Aleshire Theater, Hartnett Hall is Asher Hoffarth Unplugged: My Transgender Life

NOTSTOCK: The art fest that is bound to impress

Miya Smalls

Assistant Editor

Audrey Hepburn once said: "Opportunities don't often come along. So when they do, you have to grab them."

Due to an unfortunate pause of events, the COVID-19 pandemic made us realize how much we've missed out on campus. As we return to a normal school year, many events follow, including one of Minot State University's biggest art festivals, known as NOTSTOCK.

NOTSTOCK, Minot State's annual live, signature arts event, celebrates three days of printmaking, poetry, music, ceramics, theater, and broadcasting and features three special art exhibits. This year's festivities will feature six guest artists, as well as art, music, and other creative opportunities provided by Minot State students, faculty, staff, and local artists and musicians.

"It all starts with an idea. Then pretty soon you find yourself opening your eyes 14 years later with it coming alive. I think one of the most amazing things about

it is just being able to sit back and watch the creativity take control and see more people getting involved and being introduced to the arts. It makes you just think to yourself and say, wow, this is really cool," said Bill Harbort, art professor and NOTSTOCK co-organizer.

The six guest artists that will be featured at this year's event include Ben Blount of Evanston, Illinois; Max Mahn of Missoula, Montana; Joe Triscari of Denver, Colorado; Tama Smith of Beach; Joe Davis of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Tom Brosseau of Grand Forks.

"Nowhere else in North Dakota can you see and work so closely with such a wide variety of artists who are willing to share their talents and experiences," Laurie Geller, vice president for academic affairs and NOTSTOCK co-organizer stated.

"I think it's amazing to see how much of an impact these artists give to those who come. Joining us this year, we are showcasing a Minot alum! It's phenomenal to be able to see that growth with

our students," added Harbort.

Not only will those who attend be able to interact with the artists and be exposed to their work, but NOTSTOCK also gives the opportunity to be involved and discover new passions. Throughout this three-day event, there will be many different activities to take part in including ceramic making, a poetry slam, screen printing, designing, tongue twisters, live music, and much more. There is also a do-it-yourself print design event held in MSU's Beaver Dam, located in the Student Center, on all three days of the festival, where students can design their own t-shirts, tote bags, or hats.

All events, except the Friday night concert, take place on the MSU campus from Sept. 23-25 and are free and open to the public.

Follow NOTSTOCK on Facebook @ MSU NOTSTOCK and Instagram @ msunotstock for more updates.

For a list of all events, visit <https://msunotstock.blogspot.com/>.



NOTSTOCK will be at Minot State beginning Thursday, Sept. 23.

Photos via NOTSTOCK Facebook

Minot getting its head in the games

Mason Collins
Comm 281

As gaming and e-sports are on the rise, some people have taken it upon themselves to further its growth in Minot.

Every Saturday at Chaos Games in downtown Minot, gamers show up to play an assortment of fighting games with friends. These games range from “Super Smash Brothers Ultimate,” to “Street Fighter,” to newer games like the recently released “Guilty Gear Strive.” Players show up whenever they can throughout the day to hang out with friends and enjoy fighting games in a semi-competitive environment.

With more players joining in, and more games coming out, a new style of tournament is now being held each Saturday.

Anyone is welcome to come and compete for free. Each

week, a wheel with names of games on it is spun. Whichever game it lands on is what will be played for the week.

“It gives everybody a chance to compete on an equal footing,” says player and MSU alumnus Darrel “Adelram” Magpali. “Each week gives everyone an opportunity to play the game that they excel at, as well as potentially find a new game they might like.”

To see what games are being played and what time, check out their Facebook Page: Minot FGC.

Minot State is also giving students options to enjoy games and make new friends.

The Minot State Gaming Club is working to get things back to normal after being absent last semester due to COVID-19. Every other Friday evening, the Gaming Club will be meeting

in a different resident hall. For more information on times and location, contact Rick Heit at richard.heit@minotstateu.edu.

Other places in Minot are also trying their hands at gaming

The Putt District on Main Street has a space to play some of the classics. Their arcade lounge includes an array of classic arcade games, as well as multiple consoles and a pool table. In the future, they will even offer a virtual reality gaming center.

Magic City Sweets is yet another place to go for some classics, but this time with a cold treat to go along with them. Boasting a vast assortment of ice cream flavors alongside multiple arcade cabinets, this shop in downtown Minot also has an area known as the Back Room for friends to hang out and enjoy some games.



Photos via NOTSTOCK Facebook

The NOTSTOCK 2021 exhibit is open at the Northwest Arts Center.



Chaos Games is located in downtown Minot.

Photo via Chaos Games Facebook

RG Editorial

Red & Green insider

Kylie Koontz
Editor

Welcome everyone, to the first publication of the fall semester of the Red & Green student newspaper.

Our team worked very hard putting this first publication together with a short amount of time with an insane amount of work, which is a great problem to have.

This is my first year as editor and my second year on the editorial team. Our other members include: Philip Green, returning sports editor; Lauren Reeves, returning features editor; and newcomers Jane Wunderlich, social media director, and Miya Smalls, assistant editor.

We are a student-run newspaper. The news you read here is written and edited by students, for students.

With a team full of new leaders and essential returning members, the Red & Green has come up with some amazing ideas for this year.

Smalls has already helped the Red & Green reach more people by joining Minot State's Club Fair and Club Crawl, which reached so many more people who are interested in being a part of the team. We've already hired 10 new writers and some photogra-

phers to our ranks — the most we've had in years. Now the Red & Green will have more than enough staff to cover all sporting events, campus events, and more! If you missed us at the club events and are interested in getting involved, you can reach us via email.

In the spring, the Red & Green will mark our 100th anniversary, and we want to celebrate!

We are in the process of brainstorming ideas for an anniversary event that everyone can attend. We want this to be something that the community can attend as well.

Our biggest goal this year is to make the Red & Green a fun, interactive club that people want to follow or become a part of. That means social media interaction, giveaways, contests, events — the works — and we want you to be involved. You can follow us on social media to stay updated on publications, events, and meetings. The Red & Green has already made so many important changes and plan on making more. This year is going to be a big year and I can't wait to see what's in store for us!

*This editorial may not reflect the views of Minot State University.

Letter Policy: Letters to the editor must bear the writer's name and contact information. Students must include year and major. We will not print unsigned letters, and we reserve the right to edit all letters for factors such as clarity, punctuation, spelling, and length. We reserve the right to refuse to print letters we consider libelous, superfluous, or ridiculous. Letters may be emailed to redgreen@MinotStateU.edu. Views expressed by this publication may not be those of the university, its administration, faculty, or student body. The Red and Green is printed at Minot Daily News, Minot, N.D.

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MSU mask mandate

Kylie Koontz
Editor

Over the past year, COVID-19 has impacted life worldwide, especially in the school system. From pre-K to university, schooling has changed dramatically from the years before.

After a year of learning how to teach and learn via Zoom, half in-person half online, and other ways, things are changing once again.

The Delta variant has slowly made its way into the U.S., causing COVID-19 regulations to increase again.

Mask mandates are being brought back to public schools and businesses in many states, including North Dakota. North Dakota State University and University of North Dakota both are back to mandating masks during indoor classes.

Minot State University has taken a different route.

Masks are only mandated at the discretion of professors. Some professors may not require masks in their rooms, but others might, and that

rule must be followed with no exceptions. As of right now, there have been no problems with this rule and campus has seemingly gone back to normal.

With the Delta variant getting worse and public schools and universities around the nation mandating masks, including surrounding universities in North Dakota, many are worried how long this normalcy will last.

This year, fall sports have come back in full swing but have serious COVID-19 regulations that must be followed. Vaccinated athletes can travel without having to rapid test the day before, while unvaccinated players must rapid test the day of travel, on the bus, and before competition. In the case of a positive or inconclusive test before travel, an athlete will not be eligible to travel with the team. During travel, vaccinated players must be paired up with unvaccinated players in case of close contact. If there is a close contact, vaccinated players must quarantine for three days and practice

with a mask in the days following, until their COVID-19 test results come in. Unvaccinated players must quarantine for the full two weeks before returning to practice.

Having missed an entire year to compete in 2020, all sports teams are praying they can make it through the year without missing out on games due to close contact or illness.

Mask mandates have always been a touchy subject for people, especially when it comes to school and sports. It seems like there is never any compromising on the subject. No one wants to learn online, and no one wants to miss out on their sport.

In the end, mask mandates are only meant to protect us and help us continue to learn and perform at our best. Since surrounding universities have already mandated masks, many wonder how long it will be before MSU mandates masks again. And they wonder if putting it off is only going to make things harder for students and student-athletes in the future.



Last school year, Minot State had the Beavers Restart plan, which included a mask mandate.

Photo via minotstateu.edu

Affordable but not cheap

Submitted by:
Hussein Abulamzi
International student

The international students at Minot State University come from different places, such as Nigeria, Korea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Italy, and China. More than a few of my acquaintances among the international students' demographic (me included), finished education in boarding high schools in their respective countries, and some of them even went to AP/SAT American-like high schools that led them to applying to universities in the United States.

I came to Minot after completing the first third of my education at Rhodes College, a college that is well-praised in "40 Colleges That Change Lives," by Loren Pope, a book that my high school university counselor read and recommended. The second third of my college career I completed at the University of Illinois at Chicago, a large public university in an international, world-class city, and its student body is quite diverse. During both instances of application, I had little research to do before I settled on these places.

Why choose Minot? It took me two weeks of searching on the internet for most affordable colleges in the U.S. before I found Minot.

It is absurd that such a low-cost university as Minot is not a household name across (at least) the Midwest. Why Minot? This is the question I asked the international students, and almost always, the answer was "because it was the most affordable," their reply almost sounding as if they settled for less.

When prompted to reflect on the good qualities of the Beavers' campus and community, Dion, a Nigerian fourth-year student majoring in computer science, said, "I picked Minot State because it is affordable, and it is the perfect student body size for getting involved. Also, the campus feels like

a tightly knit community, as everyone will help you with what you need."

The primary allure of such a campus, as most students can attest, is the affordable tuition. Why Minot? Yes, it is affordable, but it is more than a place where book expenses can surpass tuition.

While affordability brought many international students into the Beaver community, they still acknowledge their surprise and delight at Minot being more than a low price tag opportunity in a lightly-populated town.

Asked during her first week on campus, Sohyun "Sonia" Lee, a freshman majoring in addiction studies, said, "There are various events for new students to interact with returning students on campus."

This considerate spirit, which she and other internationals felt in their early days here, and which is possible because of the small student body, shows that Minot State University is a place where community exists in concrete terms.

The representative interviewees echoed the collective sentiment behind why Minot State University is a great place to be at. Now what?

Ifechukwu Obi, a freshman nursing major, said, "My cousin is probably coming here next term after he heard of the affordable tuition and nice, hospitable community at MSU."

MSU is one of the few places that delivers the full package of American education that most international students look for, and that is being affordable, hospitable, vibrant, and recommendable to people of all backgrounds and nationalities.

Why Minot? This is a question best taken up by admissions officers at MSU who could tread college fairs across reputable and internationally-based American high schools to interact with students curious about the answer.



Photo via minotstateu.edu

Above: Minot State's Old Main.
Below: The Wellness Center on campus.



A friendly face in a new place

Kaiden Cardoso
Comm 281

Sal Rodriguez has made Minot his home for the past seven years. As an incoming freshman, he carved himself a place on the baseball field while studying as a student, but recently, Rodriguez has been on the other side of the athletic department. Hired as assistant director of athletics for revenue & fan development, he has been tasked with attracting more fans from on- and -off campus to gain an interest and take part in MSU athletics.

"Right now, we are focusing on the fall tailgate," said Rodriguez.

Before football games, students can reserve parking spots in front of Herb Parker Stadium free of charge to tailgate for the football games.

Making the community connected to our student-athletes is not an easy task and it takes a full team effort from the athletic department and athletes alike.

"Doing things outside in the community and enjoying businesses are simple ways in creating a more involved community for athletic events," said Rodriguez.

The Red Alert app is also making a possible comeback. He has put it on his agenda to bring the former MSU app back.

"The Red Alert app was something I really enjoyed while attending Minot State," Rodriguez said.

Students can swipe their student IDs to acquire points to compete and win prizes while enjoying sporting events on campus. The app would encourage more student attendance and involvement in MSU athletics and grow the fandom and excitement at games.

The new promotion should be a great place for Rodriguez to thrive and shed the best light on Minot State athletics. The Minot State football home opener was Saturday, Sept. 11.



Sal Rodriguez has been named assistant director of athletics revenue & fan development for the Beavers.

Photo via msubeavers.com

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so why not
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Drought conditions improve slightly

Kylie Koontz
Editor

In North Dakota, Richland County has recently been dropped from all drought categories.

Beginning in August, drought conditions worsened causing Governor Burgum to sign an executive order on Aug. 9 waiving hours of service restrictions for drivers of commercial vehicles transporting hay, water and livestock to help livestock producers battling extreme drought conditions across North Dakota.

With a summer of astounding heatwaves in North Dakota, and wildfires from California and Oregon causing smoke and bad air conditions, drought conditions caused wildfires to break out in Western North Dakota near Bismarck and Medora.

Conditions did not make much improvement until very recently. Only the most southeastern part of North Dakota seems to be improving.

Richland County has now been dropped from all five drought categories. This is the first time since the beginning of the summer that the entire state of North Dakota has not been in a drought crisis.

North Dakota is now down to 59% of the state in extreme drought conditions.

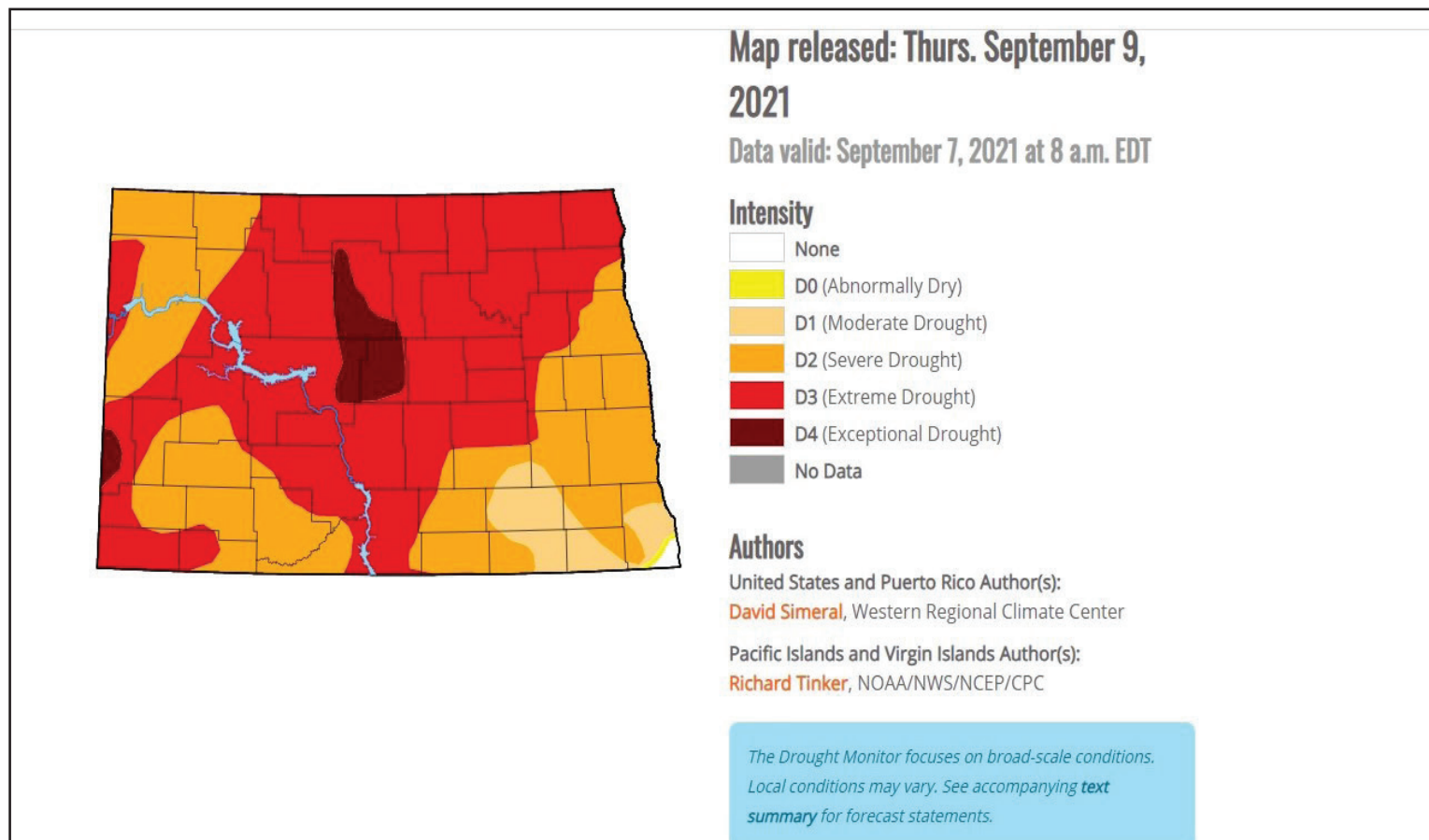


Photo via U.S. Drought Monitor

A current drought map shows drought conditions for North Dakota.



Photo via U.S. Forest Service

A grassland fire in the north unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park April 2021.



Photo via U.S. Forest Service

The Roosevelt Creek fire grew to approximately 4,000 acres in April 2021.

RCB Editorial

Game day experience

Philip Green
Sports Editor

The return of fall sports at MSU includes the return of tailgating, loud crowds, and university pride in Minot State Athletics.

It's been almost two years since Minot State hosted fall sporting events. As fall sports return, MSU could up the game day experience for both the athletes and the fans. MSU Life does a great job promoting all the exciting events that are put on here at campus.

As an athlete, it would be awesome to create a branch of MSU Life — or even a separate group all together — that could focus on promoting game days at Minot State that strives to build the best experience for fans and players.

The return of the Beaver Cup between all the sports teams has encouraged athletes to go out to support the other programs on campus, but we can step it up. Other schools in the NSIC have maximized their game day experiences and it's time Minot State follows suit. We can do simple things like Augustana University and give

each home game a theme or find ways to have teams walk through the pre-game tailgates. We should utilize the massive scoreboards in both the Dome and Herb Parker Stadium to play as much content promoting the athletes as well as encouraging the fans to get into the games.

Getting both the fans and players more excited for home games is only going to boost the game day experience. As an athlete, it's only going to make me want to play better for the home crowd.

The football team has started a tradition where once the defense gets a third down stop, everyone on the sideline sticks their fist in the air indicating its fourth down. If we could get the entire crowd to join this simple addition at home games, it would make home games even better. This is something we can do at all sporting events. Starting in the fall we not only have a chance to do this for football, but for the soccer and volleyball teams, too.

**This editorial may not reflect the views of Minot State University.*

Fall sports return after a long pause

Lauren Reeves
Feature Editor

After waiting two years to have fall sports, the athletic department of Minot State University is happy to announce that athletes will be able to play regular seasons.

As COVID-19 was still a very large concern last school year, many schools and athletic associations canceled their fall sports, due to fear and safety concerns for their athletes. This year, as more information is available, as well as vaccines, the Minot State University Athletic Department is pleased to bring back their sports program for the fall season.

"We got some direction from the sports science institute and then we adopted some policies that we feel very comfortable with," says Andy Carter, director of athletics. "They're not as stringent because we now have a vaccine. People who are vaccinated don't have to get tested, and we test for our student-athletes that haven't been vaccinated."

Despite the simple policies in place, it took a while to come to these guidelines for the department, and Carter states that there will likely still be changes made in the future.

"I think last year there was so much of an unknown on what we were dealing with," says Carter. "Decisions that we would make in one meeting on a video conference, an hour after we made the decision, were obsolete. We had to get back on another conference call and make a new decision because things were changing so rapidly."

"It was interesting that there was really not a lot of talk about going back to COVID-19 protocols in May, June, and July. Then, by Aug. 1, all that discussion came back up

for our conference. We play in an athletic conference for most of our NCAA sports. The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference consists of 16 schools in over five states. So you can imagine the complexity of trying to manage everything. We may not be having the same problems that somebody in Minneapolis is having."

While Minot is a safe place, and is not densely populated, the way things are here may not be the way things are in other places in the conference.

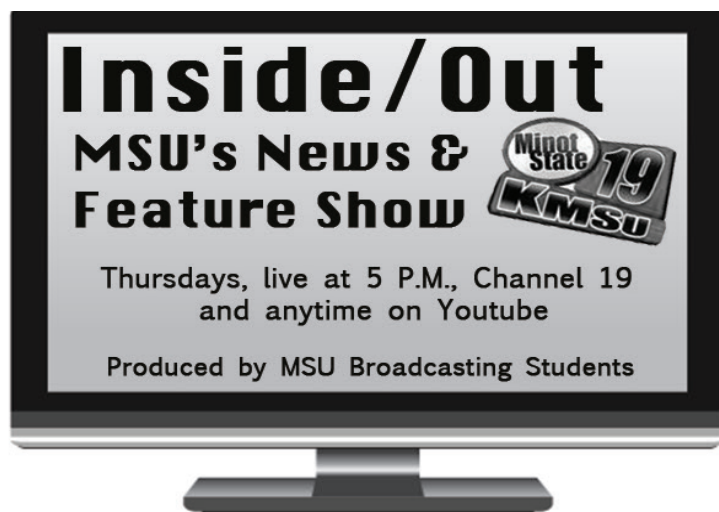
When teams travel to another school, they will be notified of additional protocols for the other school's campus or community. While traveling, athletes are required to wear masks on the bus. If a campus has a mask mandate, which some in Minnesota do, then the athletes will wear the mask from the bus into the locker room, and then from the locker room to competition. Once competition activity starts, athletes can take the mask off.

In regards to concern about the

Delta variant, Carter states policy changes will depend on the individual reactions to the disease.

"It's a concern because you're dealing with people's health," says Carter. "I trust that young people are the least likely to have a serious reaction, but individuals are different. And the way it may affect one person may not affect another the same way. We've had a number of our student-athletes have both COVID-19 and the variant, and we have a number of them who are vaccinated. I want to be able to say with confidence that we're going to play and you're going to be safe. My job is to give a sense of confidence. You have less to do if you're vaccinated, but we're not in a mandatory vaccination situation. We're trying to protect that person who actually is infected because vigorous exercise, if you're infected, could create other problems."

As for potential changes, Carter states that athletes can expect that he will be seeing them face to face and giving them the new proto-



Herb Parker Stadium.

Photo via minotstateu.edu

cols.

"I have met with every team at this point, I have basically laid out what our protocol calls for. I've told them all that if this changes, I'll come back and we'll let you know what's happening. We have two internal programs to be able to blast information to them as quickly as possible. If things have

to change in a drastic way, I think that it's always best delivered face to face, or at least on a video where they can interact and ask questions."

Despite the safety protocols in place, Carter encourages student-athletes to look forward to seasons for their sports and to be prepared to play this fall.

"Do the things that help keep you healthy," says Carter. "Get plenty of sleep, make sure you drink plenty of fluids, make sure you're getting in the sunlight, take vitamins. Even if you have the vaccination, your natural immunity can help fight off whatever viruses are out there."

For seniors who are worried

about losing their season again, Carter states that he does not think it is likely that athletics will have to shut down again, but if it does, he adds that the school will work to provide seniors with another year of eligibility if they choose to come back and compete.

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Photos by Sean Arbaut

On the left, Sofia Galvez pushes the ball down the field in Minot State's preseason exhibition against the Magic City Legends U19 soccer team. MSU Soccer will be on the road for their remaining games in September and will return to Herb Parker Stadium on Oct. 1 against Winona State.

On the right, Roxy King hit serves for Minot State Volleyball. The Beavers play at #1 ranked Concordia University Saint Paul on Sept. 17. MSU volleyball returns to the MSU Dome on Sept. 21 against Upper Iowa University.

Beaver football returns after 21 month hiatus

Jordan Rodriguez
COMM 281

After a long 2020 season off due to COVID-19, the Minot State football team is ready to return to action and eager to take the field.

Minot State has plenty of returning talent on the roster, as well as impressive newcomers. The Beavers players feel like they have

put in the work to improve on their 2019 record of 3-8.

Key returners for the Beavers include Minot native Ben Bolinske, the fifth year MSU quarterback, who in 2019 was named as an NSIC Honorable Mention. On the other side of the ball, linebacker Derek Wax will be throwing on the uniform for his fifth and final

year. In 2019, while appearing in 11 games, Wax totaled 56 tackles, which placed him third for most tackles on the team.

To open the season, on Sept. 4, the Beavers collided with Augustana University Vikings. The team totaled 164 yards with 130 passing yards and 34 rushing yards. In the first quarter, the Beavers defense

knew the Vikings' every move and kept the game scoreless after the first 15 minutes of play. Starting the second quarter, Augustana found their rhythm and refused to lighten up. Minot State dropped this matchup with its neighbors to the south by a score of 49-0, putting them at 0-1 to start the season.

MSU fell to 0-2 falling a loss on their home opener to University of Sioux Falls by a score of 49-10.

This week the Beavers will travel to Nebraska to face off against Wayne State College on Sept. 18 at 6 p.m.



Photo by Sean Arbaut

Quarterback Ben Bolinske winds up to pass in MSU football's home opener against University of Sioux Falls (USF). The Beavers sported American flag themed logos on their helmets to honor the victims and first responders of 9/11. MSU fell to USF 49-10. Minot State takes on Wayne State College on Sept. 18 and returns to the Herb to play the Division II National Champion runner-up Minnesota State University, Mankato on Sept. 25.

.. Welcome back continued from page 1

time to make those steps, and as of right now, those requirements are seen as not necessary for the administration.

"We can no longer enforce quarantine or isolation and some of the tools that we had in our toolbox a year ago, such as a mask mandate and mandatory isolation and quarantine, we don't have at our disposal this year, because the state of North Dakota no longer has declared this an emergency" said Harmon. "We do have authority locally here at Minot State University, that we can create policies that if you're positive and/or a close contact, we can prohibit your entry onto campus, but that's all we can do.

"We don't even talk about you having a 10 day quarantine or isolation. All we can do is say, until you have completed your obligation and recommendations from the North Dakota Department of Health, you're prohibited from being on campus. And then we have to leave it at that. If a student lives on campus and they test positive, we can't make them quarantine, we cannot make them isolate.

"However, if they wish to stay on campus, we can then allow them an opportunity to stay on campus and use their meal plan. They will need to go to the room that will be made available for them. But a student will have a choice. Like, 'No, I'm not doing this,' well, then they have the choice to go home, or they could go elsewhere."

In regards to the rest of the year, Harmon says students should expect a great school year.

"Hopefully, students are enjoying experiences in the classroom, the activities, the engagement that a college campus needs to be offering," said Harmon. "My greatest hope is that we can get back to teaching and learning and all of the positive interactions that occur on a college campus. That vibrancy, the experience, learning the life-changing events that happen when you go to college.

"That's our desire, that we can see, experience, and be a part of

our education and still be safe — have the whole experience that students deserve when they go to college."

Student Affairs is providing more activities outside, possibly even year around, depending upon the weather.

Harmon adds that the school wants to continue to have consistent programming for the students that are safe but still engaging so that students desire to be here.

"That's important for us. Everything that we do is about the student experience at Minot State. We need to continue to have experiences where our students can be in the classroom or, out of the classroom, through our student activities or in our community. It's important that we find a combination of offering all of those events," said Harmon.

As a last note for students to keep in mind, Harmon stated that the school is working constantly to research and provide safety information to the students, as the pandemic still continues and information is developing daily, but he hopes that this will not keep Minot State University from having year-round events and activities as they did before the pandemic.

NOTICES

Student vaccination incentive. Minot State University will be providing a \$100 financial incentive to students who have been fully vaccinated.

• **Amount: \$100**
• **Eligibility: All Minot State undergraduate, graduate, and professional students enrolled in at least one on-campus class at Minot State for the Fall 2021 semester.**

EXCEPTIONS: the following students are NOT eligible: (1) benefitted employees who are taking classes; (2) collaborative students whose home campus is another institution within the North Dakota University System. Students must upload vaccination information online. More details will be forthcoming about payment and procedural methods.

The Minot State Dome is open for third floor walking. The Dome will continue to be closed on the weekends.

• **Operating hours will be from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. (cleaning hour will happen between 12-1 p.m.).**

• **The northeast entrance door on the third floor of the MSU Dome will be the only entrance and exit to the building for visitors.**

• **Benches and chairs have been removed, visitors will be asked to stay on the third floor and bring their own water bottles.**

• **Locker rooms, batting cages, the Dome floor, and the Air-Supported Dome will be off-line until further notice.**

NOTICES

The Minot State Sustainability Committee is looking for new members. We welcome faculty, staff, and students from all disciplines. The committee focuses on activities to educate and to actively promote sustainability. The committee can fund projects related to sustainability and looks for ideas you may have to improve waste management and ecological practices. Projects for 21-22 include promotion of composting, dry erase marker recycling, and tree planting. Please contact heidi.super@minotstateu.edu to join the committee.

The MSU Writing Center is now open for both in person and virtual tutoring for Fall 2021. This fall, we are offering both in-person and online (asynchronous and synchronous) tutoring. Please check the tutor's availability when you make an appointment. To make an appointment, log in or register for an account. If you choose tutoring, please remember to attach your paper using the links at the bottom of the appointment form. The tutor will comment on your paper and email it back to you. If you choose online tutoring, you will need to be at your computer, logged into WC Online at the appointment time and day. You and the tutor will communicate live via audio, video and text. For questions, contact patti.kurtz@minotstateu.edu or call ext. 3073.

NOTICES

Minot State vaccination clinic Sept. 17. The second COVID-19 vaccination clinic for the 2021-22 school year will be held on Sept. 17 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in the Conference Center, located on the third floor of the Student Center. The clinic is open to students, faculty, staff, and family members; please bring identification to the event. Future clinics will be scheduled as needed.

Peer tutoring now available through the Academic Support Center (ASC), Peer tutoring is available for several Minot State University courses. The tutors are excited to help explain concepts or review material for better understanding. The tutoring schedule is available online and will be updated periodically as changes and additions occur. If assistance is needed in a subject that is not listed on the schedule or an alternative time is needed, please fill out the Tutoring Request Form. We will try to accommodate requests. Please contact tammy.wolf@minotstateu.edu or call 858-3360 with any questions.

The textbook reserve program continues! The Gordon B. Olson Library has more than 100 textbooks available to check out for courses offered this semester. More textbooks are added daily so check online to see if the library has your textbook. Textbooks can be checked out for one day at the library circulation desk.



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New Campus Construction

Exciting changes are coming to Trinity Health as we continue making more possible. Construction on a new healthcare campus and medical district in southwest Minot is scheduled for completion at the end of 2022.



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