

# RED & GREEN

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MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY

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## The importance of Black history

*Mellie Wilson*  
Staff Writer

The month of February is Black History Month, which was founded and introduced in 1926 by a historian named Carter G. Woodson who wished to unite the worldwide African diaspora.

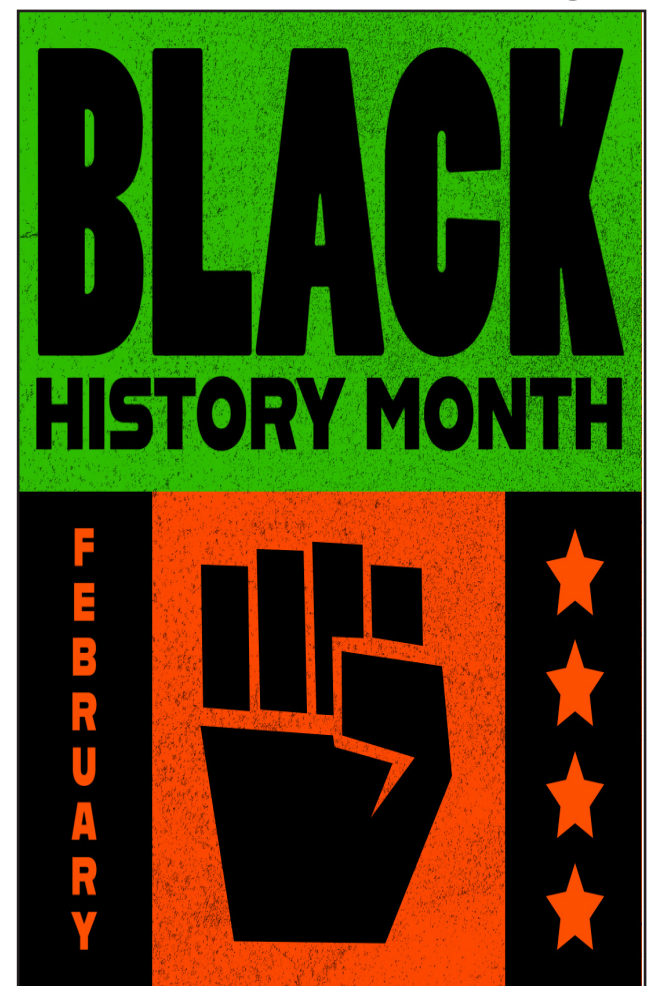
This is the month of remembering and honoring the success of Black Americans after fighting for

equality for numerous generations, as well as recognizing the work of Black artists, teachers, politicians, and scientists whose accomplishments were neglected and unappreciated by the public. Black History Month is important for the remembrance of people that offered a lot to the civil rights movement, like Malcolm X and Rosa Parks. Education in Black history is crucial in promoting understanding, breaking down stereotypes, and fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. Overall, Black History Month is an important event that helps educate people about the rich cultural heritage of Black communities and promotes understanding, unity, and respect among all races.

Black History Month is a time to raise awareness of the struggle for equality and justice.



Image via National Institute of Health  
Black History Month was introduced in 1926.



Poster by Alex Koontz

February is Black History Month.



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## The rise of syphilis

**Mellie Wilson**  
Staff Writer

Cases of syphilis have been rising rapidly in the U.S. ever since the year 2000.

Because of the lack of investments in public health, many medical professionals skip certain screenings since many are untrained on topics like sex or sexuality. Because of the discomfort many people have talking about sexuality, many patients do not request screenings because of miseducation on certain sexually transmitted diseases or they may just feel uncomfortable asking questions about their health.

Due to this societal stigma and lack of funding for public health, many doctors do not ask for the sexual history of their patients or they make assumptions about specific patients and their partners. Also, with the rise of online dating, there is an increase in drug usage and casual sex, which experts found lead to risky behavior that can

lead to detrimental health issues, like the ongoing syphilis epidemic and many other sexually transmitted diseases.

To stop the spread, studies say that sexually active people, including monogamous couples, should be tested once a year for STDs. Pregnant women must be extra cautious because STDs can damage their health and put their child's life in danger if she tests positive for an STD.

The healthcare system must progress into becoming more personable with patients so they feel safe having uncomfortable discussions with healthcare professionals.

Ultimately, this will help break the stigma of sexual education and myths about sexually transmitted diseases.

## What is ChatGPT?

**Saif Khan**  
Staff Writer

Everyone is talking about the new AI chat/search system released on Nov. 30, 2022. What is ChatGPT all about? And how is it changing the world?

ChatGPT uses artificial intelligence systems such as deep learning, machine learning, natural language processing, and extensive language models to produce human-like text and conversation with its users so everyone can understand what it is saying.

One of the pros of ChatGPT is providing human-like conversation based on user-placed queries or commands. It is generally like virtual assistant technologies and software applications such as Siri from Apple and Alexa from Amazon.

Another advantage of ChatGPT is that its responses and overall performance can be fine-tuned.

It banks on existing large language models while allowing for further improvements through active training using supervised learning and reinforcement learning.

ChatGPT also remembers your previous chats and things that you asked it.

One con is that the version launched in November 2022 can only provide information about events occurring in 2021 and earlier.

Another disadvantage of ChatGPT is that it has been subjected to scrutiny. Several educational institutions have banned its use. Researchers and creatives have

worried about copyright infringement because its outputs are based on human-generated texts.

Some facts about ChatGPT that might blow your mind are that Elon Musk discovered that Open AI was using Twitter's database to train ChatGPT. Musk had a significant role in its early stages, funding, and development.

ChatGPT has grown to over 100 million active monthly users in less than two months. It is a threat to Google, Microsoft, and other jobs that might be taken over by AI in the coming future.



Image via TipRanks  
ChatGPT, created by OpenAI, is a new chat/search system.

## 2023 fashion

**Mellie Wilson**  
Staff Writer

Recently, we have been seeing fashion trends quickly rise, then quickly decline, in popularity.

One may theorize that because of the 2020 pandemic, across the world people switched to more comfortable or rather athletic clothing.

However, after the pandemic, way too many trends for fashion became the center of attention on platforms like Instagram and Tik Tok. These trends included the 2000's aesthetic, or the "model off duty" look.

Yet in 2023, according to high fashion brand runways, the trends will include sheer, denim, leather outfits, and rich bright colors like purple and fuchsia pink.

On the other hand, social media is beginning to realize that because there are so many fashions there is more than one way to be stylish. Ultimately, this is because the

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# The history of Valentine's Day

**Saif Khan**  
Staff Writer

With Valentine's Day on Tuesday, it is essential to show respect and affection to our loved ones. But where did Valentine's Day originate from?

The history of the holiday — and the story of its patron saint — is shrouded in mystery.

February has long been celebrated as a month of romance,

and St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains Christian and ancient Roman traditions. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend suggests

that Valentine was a priest who defied Emperor Claudius II and performed marriages for young lovers in secret.

Another suggests that Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, was the actual namesake of the holiday and was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome.

The first Valentine's love letter was sent by Charles, the French

Duke of Orleans, who was captured in war by the British in 1415. His lover, France's princess, had been waiting for his return for over 15 years. He wrote a letter to her, in which he called her his "gentle Valentine."



Image via Good Housekeeping  
Valentine's Day's origins is shrouded in mystery.



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# R&G Editorial

## The music issue: Woodstock '99

**Kylie Koontz**  
Editor

Having recently watched the Woodstock '99 docuseries (I am aware that I was late to the trend) I thought, what a perfect thing to write about for my editorial.

I knew about Woodstock '99 but not to that extent. So when I tell you I was shocked, I was shocked.

Now, if we look back to the original Woodstock from 1969, we know that occurred during the Vietnam War, Flower Power, and with a very niche genre of music. Woodstock '69 was for the hippies through and through.

So the idea for '99 was to do the same thing. The Columbine school shooting had just happened so this gave the managers, CEOs, funders, and all these people the idea that they'd bring a new generation together to fight for the end of gun violence.

Seems like a great idea, right? I thought so too until I saw the line up.

Just like any genre of music, the crowd you bring in is always very niche to that genre.

If you play Richie Havens, Sweetwater, The Who, and Janis Joplin, you're going to bring in hippies. To me it's a no brainer.

This lineup, however, didn't give me "Stop Gun Violence" vibes with the headliners they had: Korn, Limp Bizkit, Kid Rock, and Rage against the Machine.

I am NOT here to bash these bands. Personally, I love these bands, but that means I also know the crowd these bands gather and they do not radiate peace and love, especially when listening to these bands perform.

My biggest issue is that throughout the whole docuseries, the people in charge

blamed the generation. This kind of things happens to young adult and teenage generations still today.

They said they weren't mature enough to fight for cultural change, that they were looking to cause trouble. It is a teenagers job to get drunk and party and listen to loud music so I can't understand what they thought was going to happen when you put Limp Bizkit on a stage to sing "Break Stuff" to thousands of hot, thirsty, drunk teenagers.

I could give you a list of artists from '99 and now that would've been the perfect line up for a revamp of Woodstock and let me tell you, Limp Bizkit and Korn are not on it

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

## DECA students win in competition

**Great Godwin**  
Staff Writer

On Feb. 9, Sydni Gartner, Stephen Tao, and Godwin Great made their way to Fargo to represent Minot State University and compete in the DECA state competition titled Get the Edge.

Despite their inexperience in how the competition works, this was Gartner and Tao's first time competing in such a big academic event. Their goal was to come back victorious.

The Distributive Education Clubs of America, DECA, is an international student organization that encourages the development of business and leadership skills through academic competitions and leadership conferences. DECA is currently in all 50 U.S. states, Canada, China, Germany, Mexico, and many other countries.

Every spring, DECA holds an international academic competition between their collegiate schools. Their

goal is to "help prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in high schools and colleges around the globe."

Through these events, they seek to bring the classroom to life by giving real-life situations to their students during the competitions and make them apply their learning and connect to business on a more practical level.

Last year, Favour Ozodi, William Martinez, Liela Koguchi, and Godwin Great represented Minot State University in the state competition.

They all won in their various competitive events and moved forward to the international competition in Baltimore, Maryland. In Baltimore, these competitors again were victorious, coming as top 10 finalists in all their various events.

This year, all three of the DECA members representing Minot State University passed and gained honors on the state level, coming

in as the top three in their various events in both the exam and the presentation.

When asking Gartner how she feels about their win at the state level, she said, "I am very excited and very grateful that we all got qualified so that we can compete in the international level together."

According to their advisor, Megan Fixen, "the DECA team has worked hard and has had a successful state conference in Fargo. I am so proud of the group, and I am looking forward to the international conference in Florida."

In April, all three will make their way to Orlando, Florida to compete on the international stage against numerous DECA member schools. All three competitors are excited about this opportunity and look forward to it.

"This opportunity means the world to me; being able to compete in an event

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# Minot State University's Mr. InKredible

**Gage Yost**  
**COMM 281**

Quentin Jones, a student and security guard at Minot State University, has one of the most exciting resumes in the student population. Not only does he protect our school... he has a thriving professional wrestling career!

Before Jones started his wrestling career, he worked contract security at the Minot Air Force Base.

"A friend of mine who was still in the military and remembered my absolute love for professional wrestling asked me at the front gate, 'Do you still want to be a wrestler?'" Jones said.

He said yes instantly. His military friend said he would be hearing from a promoter soon. Shortly after this conversation, he was reached out to by the promoter, and his close friend, Mark Holter. Holter offered Jones a tryout.

Jones thought he did not perform well enough to be chosen.

"I had a hard time falling on my own. It's just not something normal," he stated.

During the tryout, a veteran wrestler named Dirty Ernie approached Jones and told him that whenever they were in town, he should come by and get training from the professional wrestlers. Free of charge.

"He told me he saw something in me that was great," Jones said.

From this moment on, Jones decided to start taking his wrestling training very seriously and sponged everything that was taught to him.

Like every professional wrestler, Jones had to come up with his wrestling name. His oldest son's favorite movie growing up was "The Incredibles." He decided to make a spinoff of Mr. Incredible and named himself Mr. InKredible.

He still uses that name today, as he wrestles in the Cloud 9 Wrestling organization.

Cloud 9 is the third organization Jones has wrestled for. He started in the Northern Outlaw Wrestling Organization, and they covered most of his early wrestling footage. Mr. InKredible was the longest-reigning champion in the NOW.

He then wrestled for the Fully Loaded Wrestling Organization and was also the longest-reigning champion. They soon shut down, and he had the opportunity to wrestle in the Cloud 9 Organization.

However, he was skeptical because he wanted to return to school full time and work. He stopped wrestling for six months but was convinced by his friends in the Cloud 9 Organization to come back.

"Unfortunately, I wasn't ready. I felt it. I wasn't who I believe I am or who I am known to be in this town," Jones said on his comeback to wrestling.

Mr. InKredible is

also a physical education student at Minot State University. He has the tools and resources to help him stay in shape throughout his wrestling career.

Jones currently

wrestles with Cloud 9 Wrestling and recently won the Mid-West Wrestler of the Month award. He has sincerely enjoyed all his experiences in all wrestling organizations and continues to

improve his skills in the ring.

His next match is against "Zombie Killer" Mentallo on Feb. 25 in Brandon, Manitoba.



Quentin Jones, AKA Mr. InKredible.

Photo via Quentin Jones

# A family friendly concert: Ann Nicole Nelson Hall

**Cole Clementich**  
**COMM 281**

Concerts inside Ann Nicole Nelson Hall offer entertainment value for the common music lover. But at the start of the 2023 Spring semester, the Minot Symphony Orchestra went in with a different approach to attract new concert goers.

“A Story to Tell” flooded the performance hall on Saturday, Feb. 4 with the intention of bringing kids and aspiring young students a chance to create their own musical experience.

It also served as an opportunity to take advantage of the matinee period and allow for a more accessible time for everyone to join, as opposed to the late start times in the evening. For this event, the youth were the focal point.

The concert was not intended to go at the talent level of the symphony group, but instead they created a scenario to pass along their knowledge and

skills onto the minds of the younger audience and give them a chance on the big stage.

Although they were aware that some can get shaky in front of the crowd, it was an idea the group was willing to tackle and help keep the kids at ease. But they did so while keeping the entertainment value for the audience in mind.

Before the talent took the stage, festivities began with a petting zoo brought to the kids by seasoned Minot Symphony Orchestra sponsor Eckroth Music. The petting zoo enabled the younger audience to try out several of the instruments on site, including woodwind, brass, and strings.

The family-oriented performance began with Mozart’s “Toy Symphony,” which allowed young musicians from Erik Ramsstad Middle School to play with toys like ratchets, triangles, and even bird calls amongst others.

Sticking with the family image, the symphony featured a soloist from the annual MSO North Dakota High School Soloist Competition.

Out of 13 auditions, Bismarck’s Hannah Bohlen was the winner selected to play the first movement of Felix Mendelssohn’s “Concerto in E Minor” for violin.

To round out the night, we went into the world of Shakespeare with “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” As a twist, MSU Associate Professor of Humanities Eric Furuseth and MSU student Mya Temanson worked together to narrate the text of the performance. With additional help for the crowd, MSU student Sarah Nielsen interpreted the text using American Sign Language.

The overall experience aimed to improve the outlook on music amongst children.

MSO Executive Director Ellen Fenner saw the impact her



Photo via Minot Symphony Orchestra  
Sarah Nielsen, Mya Temanson, and Eric Furuseth at “A Story to Tell.”

group can create for the up-and-coming generations. For gauging music with young minds, all it takes is one chance.

“We want to just provide an opportunity and allow kids to step out of their comfort zone.” Fenner said, stating that they want kids to be open minded and gain more exposure towards live music and help them explore their options.

An increased function of everyday activities is also not out of range for these kids.

“Music helps improve testing scores,

along with mental and physical health,” Fenner said.

It was a mutual benefit and successful experiment between the Minot Symphony Orchestra and local youth.

Overall, the orchestra wanted to create an environment embraced by not only the kids, but their parents as they had the chance to watch them have a good time and enjoy great music to boot.

The family angle was reached by making sure all ages were involved. MSO wanted to fulfill a role of

engagement with the community by combining the talent of the MSO with growing youth inside music circles.

Up next for the symphony is “A Romantic Frenchman” set to take place on March 4 at 7 p.m. inside Ann Nicole Nelson Hall. For more information, visit the Minot Symphony online at [minotsymphony.com](http://minotsymphony.com).



# MSU students broadcast basketball double header

**Alex Koontz**  
Social Media Director

On Feb. 4, MSU professional communications students broadcast the men's and women's basketball doubleheader as an all-student-run production.

With crew call at 4 p.m., students were up and running by the 5:30 p.m. start time with a pre-show on the third floor of the MSU Dome.

This broadcast included all talent, including floor reporters, play-by-play, and color commentary. All tech positions were filled by students as well. These had two floor cameras, three third-floor cameras, voice-overs, and a tech director who oversaw cues over the headsets worn by every team member.

Kylie Koontz, a professional communication major specializing in journalism, loved the experience.

"I chose the pro comm department for its impressive options and reputation," she said. "I knew I would have to do some other broadcasting-related classes other than journalism, and I was honestly nervous to take some of those classes, but over the last three years, I've grown to really enjoy those classes."

"I was able to be a part of the basketball doubleheader broadcast on Friday (Feb. 4), and it was such a great experience. I was able to be a floor reporter for the men's game and the color commentator during the women's game, and it ended up being a great portfolio piece for when I graduate."

The MSU professional communications department is filled with hands-on learning experiences in and outside the classroom. This gives students the ability to

get real-life experience during school and get involved in the community.

All of this is possible through the wonderful broadcasting and communication professors at Minot State. Neil Roberts is an associate professor of professional communication specializing in broadcast production.

Roberts leads the MSU student broadcast with Lee Johnson, associate professor. Johnson is a broadcast specialist here at MSU who works closely with all broadcasting classes while teaching his own throughout the semester.

These two bring together the essence of the department. Because of their knowledge and hands-on coaching style, MSU's professional communications department is the place to be.

Broadcasting students really do have it all!



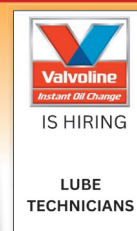
Photos via Matt Bosch

Students broadcasting the Minot State men's and women's basketball double header on Saturday, Feb. 4.



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# R&G Sports Editorial

## The impossible of the sports world

**Phillip Green**  
**Sports Editor**

This past week, the greatest football player of all time finally hung up his cleats.

There is no debate that what Tom Brady did during his time in the NFL is second to none. He retired with more Super Bowl rings than any franchise in the sport. Some would argue he put out Hall of Fame numbers in three different decades. Many of his postseason records will never be touched purely based off his sheer dominance in the playoffs. Odds are several of his regular season and career records won't be broken either.

As dominant as he was, there are several records around that sports world that are much more attainable

than the many records Brady has, starting with another great one of his sport, Wayne Gretzky.

Alex Ovechin is on pace to break Gretzky's career goal scoring record if he can stay healthy and play a few more years, but no one will ever touch Gretzky's career points record.

Gretzky could have never scored a single goal in his career, but his 1,963 career assists is enough points to still put him at number one in the career points list. Once you add on Gretzky's 894 career goals, that points record is never getting touched, especially with the defensive improvement in today's game.

Another impossible record to break is

Cal Ripken Jr.'s consecutive games player streak. Ripken played in 2,632 straight games during his Hall of Fame baseball career. That is over 16 seasons worth of baseball where he didn't miss a single game.

Baseball is by far the longest season in all of professional sports, playing 162 games a year. It is an impressive feat for a player to not miss one game during that 162 game stretch, let alone not miss one over 16 seasons. Between the everyday bumps and bruises of sports and managers giving players rest days, this record will never be touched.

He may not have broken Jack Nicklaus's career major wins of

**See Editorial, page 12**

## MSU student named head cheerleading coach

**Madelen Wick**  
**COMM 281**

Carly Johnson, current captain of the MSU cheerleading team, has been chosen as the head coach of the Minot North High School cheerleading team.

Johnson has a long history of cheer accomplishments, as both a coach and as a member of cheer teams. She has been the head cheerleading coach at Erik Ramstad Middle School in Minot for three years and has been cheer captain in both high school and college.

She earned the ND-CCA Senior Cheerleader Award for dedicating herself to the sport and has several state champion titles in competitive cheer.

Johnson is currently a junior at MSU studying graphic design. She says her experience in MSU sports has prepared her for this new opportunity.

"Cheering at MSU has shown me the hard parts of putting together a squad, but also what it means to

be a team," she said. "We all work really hard together to achieve our goals. I think it's something rare, and not every team has that kind of chemistry."

Getting a job in education straight out of college can be tricky to accomplish, but Johnson says you just have to go for it.

"The worst they can say is no," she said. "I was so nervous when applying for the job and for my interview, but you'll regret it later if you don't try, so just do it!"

Although the new

school is projected to officially open in Fall 2024, students who will attend Minot North are already competing on athletic teams as the Minot North Sentinels.

Johnson says she looks forward to starting the cheer season with the Sentinels in late July.

"I'm most excited to see the athletes I currently coach grow even more," she said. "Seeing past students I've coached is great, but now I'll get to see them both in practice and games as they im-

**See Cheer, page 12**

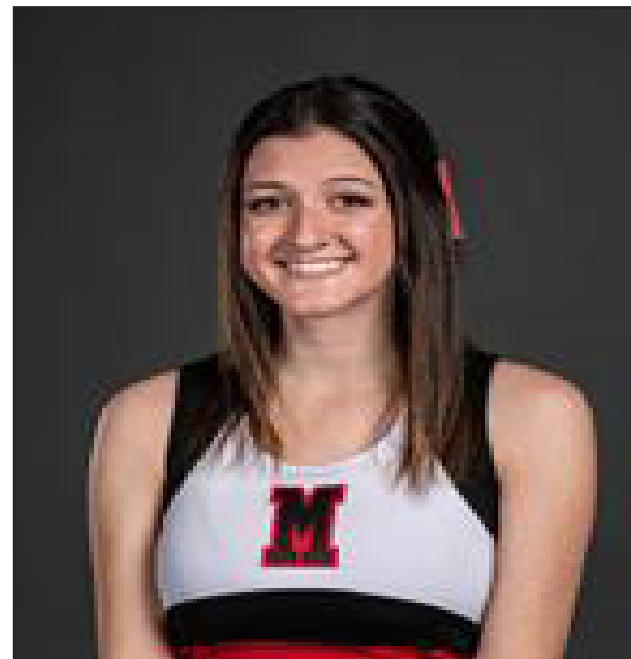


Photo via MSUBeavers.com

**Cheer team captain Carly Johnson named new head coach at Minot North.**



# Annual dance battle

**Lola Onsurez**  
Staff Writer

After a long exciting wait, we kicked off Minot State's Athletics 2023 dance battle with our very comical host Flacka.

Though different from last year's lip sync battle, the 2023 dance battle rules stayed the same. That being the top three teams with the best performances not only earned points for Beaver Cup, but also a big trophy for their accomplishment.

All performances were solely judged on

choreography, style, and overall creativity on a scale from 1-10.

This year, those looking to swipe football's crown from last year's battle would have to set the bar high, and this year's champs definitely did that.

With style, choreography, and overall performance these champions swept their competition, impressed the crowd, and more importantly, impressed the judges. This team had the most creative style and

dances. Not only was it very entertaining, it had energy that was hard to follow, but teams sure tried and came close to it.

The second-place team did have energy, creative style, and a great performance, but were just short of that bar that was set. Though the third place team definitely was entertaining through all the flips and amazing jumps, it just wasn't enough to beat their other com-

See Dance, page 12



Photo via MSU Softball's Twitter

MSU softball brought out their best dance moves and earned the title of 2023 Dance Battle Champions.

## MSU women's hockey and men's wrestling honors seniors



Photos from MSU Beaver's Twitter

Above: Women's hockey beat Lindenwood on their Senior Night Feb. 11.

Below: Men's wrestling took on St. Cloud State for their Senior Night.

Thank you to the seniors on both teams for all they have done during their time at Minot State.





Spring sports take to the road to open their season



Photos from MSU Beavers' Twitter  
Above: MSU softball opens their season on the road in Texas.  
Below: MSU baseball opens their 2023 campaign on the road in Kansas.



Men's and women's track & field take on the SDSU Indoor Classic



Photos from MSU Beavers' Twitter  
MSU track & field were in South Dakota Feb. 10-11 to compete in the South Dakota State University Indoor Classic.





**...Fashion**  
continued from page 2

is self-expression, so regardless of whether or not you are into fashion, it's important to stay true to yourself and only wear things that make you feel comfortable.

**...DECA**  
continued from page 4

that is exactly what I want to do as a career is amazing," said Gartner. "Without DECA, I wouldn't have known how to get myself to start doing what I want to do."

DECA is a business club on campus that is free for all students to join. It allows all members to participate in programs and actively makes them career ready. All students are welcome regardless of their major and can come gain experience in marketing, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

**...Editorial**  
continued from page 8

18, but Tiger Woods is arguably the most dominant golfer of all time. Whether you prefer Nicklaus or Woods, Tiger has a record that will never be broken.

From 1998 to 2005, Woods made a record 142 consecutive cuts on the PGA Tour. For this to be broken, a golfer would have to play in every PGA Tour event for four years and not miss a single cut during that time. That type of consistency will never be reached again.

It's hard to argue which of these records is more impressive and even less attainable than the rest. We will likely never see any of them broken.

I will say this one thing: all of these records required consistency over a long period of time. As the saying goes in sports, the best ability is availability, and very few athletes were as available as these three over the course of their career.

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

**...Cheer**  
continued from page 8

prove their skill set! They make coaching all worth it. They are my pride and joy."

MSU alumna Gwen Mathews was also chosen to help build the sports program at Minot North. Mathews was named the Sentinel's head coach of tennis. She graduated from MSU in 2022 and currently teaches second grade at Washington Elementary. Mathews was previously assistant coach of the Minot High girls tennis team and coached the Majettes Sophomore B volleyball squad. Mathews earned a state championship title in 2018 as a senior at Minot High.

**...Dance**  
continued from page 4

petitors.

With all the amazing performances and unexpected dance moves, this was an amazing night of teams battling it out with their creative ideas and style.

Softball understood that assignment and took first place with a with an overall score of 157 points. As for

our second-place team, the men's track & field and cross-country team were just short 10 points ending with 147 points. Lastly, men's wrestling trailed behind, earning the third place title with a whopping score of 128 points. Even though the judges judged with tough standards, the softball team more than earned their score with their talent and entertaining performances. The same goes for men's track & field and cross-country team with their creative dance moves and perfect song choice, but unfortunately softball just had a bit more to give. Congrat-

ulations to the softball team and we'll see if they can keep their title next year.

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Photos via MSU Beaver Compliance's Instagram

Minot State's Athletics 2023 dance battle had teams competing on the main stage for first place.

