

# RED & GREEN

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MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY

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## MSU grad gets job with NBA

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

Being in a small town like Minot, it is a challenge to work your way up the food chain in whatever field of work you desire. But if you put in the effort and want to make your dream job a reality, small-town personalities can push their way into big city roles. Every community has a diamond in the rough, and the Magic City is a perfect example of that.

At Minot State University, the ath-

letic department is a gateway of opportunity for many. Grad assistants make up a critical piece of the game day operations staff. That is how MSU sports management graduate Greg Spencer found his passion, which led to his pathway going up the ranks.

In just two short years, the Minot State alum finds himself working for the NBA's Phoenix Suns and WNBA's Phoenix Mercury. But the road to success featured many bumps along the

way.

After getting two associate's degrees at East Georgia State College and acquiring his bachelor's degree in public relations at Georgia Southern, Spencer thought about plans to be a sports information director. And quite possibly, work for a sports team. While his focus was on his first step, there was something about making videos that caught his attention. He stayed the course and shortly thereafter, he came

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Photo submitted by Greg Spencer  
MSU graduate Greg Spencer with the Phoenix Suns



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# What's happening to the U.S. dollar

**Nengi Daminabo**  
**Staff Writer**

What is happening to the U.S. dollar?

There has been a growing trend among foreign nations to refuse trading in the U.S. dollar. Countries like China, Russia, Iran, and Venezuela have been looking for ways to move away from the U.S. dollar and conduct their trade in other currencies. The reasons for this shift are varied, but they all have a common thread of dissatisfaction with the U.S. dollar's dominance in the global economy.

One of the main reasons behind this trend is the growing discouragement with the U.S. dollar's status as the world's reserve currency. The U.S. dollar has been the dominant currency in the global economy since the end of World

War II, with many countries pegging their currencies to the dollar or holding U.S. dollars as their primary reserve currency.

However, with the rise of new economic powers like China and India, many countries have become wary of relying so heavily on the U.S. dollar.

Another factor contributing to the trend of foreign nations refusing to trade in the U.S. dollar is the use of sanctions as a political tool by the United States.

The U.S. has a long history of using sanctions to pressure other countries into changing their policies or behavior. However, many countries are increasingly frustrated with the extraterritoriality of U.S. sanctions, which can target entities

outside of the U.S. and have significant economic impacts.

As a result, many countries are looking for ways to reduce their dependence on the U.S. dollar and limit their exposure to U.S. sanctions.

One example of a country that has taken steps to reduce its dependence on the U.S. dollar is China.

China is the world's second-largest economy and has been actively promoting the use of its own currency, the yuan, in international trade. In recent years, China has signed currency swap agreements with many countries, allowing them to trade directly in yuan instead of U.S. dollars. China has also established its own international payment system, the Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS), which

is intended to rival the U.S.-dominated SWIFT system.

Russia is another country that has been looking to reduce its reliance on the U.S. dollar. In 2014, Russia was hit with sanctions from the U.S. and other Western countries in response to its annexation of Crimea. In response, Russia began selling off its U.S. dollar reserves and looking for ways to conduct its trade in other currencies. Russia has since signed currency swap agreements with China and other countries and has been actively promoting the use of its own currency, the ruble, in international trade.

Iran and Venezuela are also countries that have been hit with U.S. sanctions in recent years, leading them to look for ways to reduce their

dependence on the U.S. dollar. Iran has been exploring the use of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin as a way to bypass U.S. sanctions, while Venezuela has turned to gold as an alternative currency for international trade.

The trend of foreign nations refusing to trade in the U.S. dollar has significant implications for the United States and its economy.

One immediate effect is that it could lead to a decline in demand for U.S. dollars, which could lead to a depreciation of the currency. This, in turn, could lead to higher inflation and higher interest rates, which could harm the U.S. economy.

Another potential consequence of the trend is that it could lead to a decline in the U.S.'s influence

in the global economy. The U.S. has long used its position as the world's reserve currency to exert influence over other countries, but if other countries begin to move away from the U.S. dollar, the U.S. may lose some of its economic leverage.

However, it's worth noting that the trend of foreign nations refusing to trade in the U.S. dollar is still in its early stages, and it's not yet clear how significant the impact will be.

The U.S. dollar is still the dominant currency in the global economy, and many countries still hold large reserves of U.S. dollars. That may not be the case for so long, but the world is watching to see what happens to the U.S. economy after this new development.



# Club highlight: MSU SWIFT Club

**Saif Khan**  
**Staff Writer**

SWIFT Club is a great club here at Minot State University. It stands for Students With Interest in Future Technologies.

“Everyone can be part of SWIFT Club no matter their major, and no experience with any technology is required,” said Amber Schmaltz, SWIFT Club president.

It gives people of all experience and

knowledge levels a good background in technology and more experience with being around technology. In a world where we are constantly improving technology through AI or cybersecurity, it is very important for any student in any field to be comfortable with using and understanding how technology works.

They also aim to help other clubs in any way they can so that togeth-

er they can strengthen each other and accomplish more goals as a community.

SWIFT Club gives opportunity for its members to participate in at least two cyber competitions a semester where students lock down and secure different operating systems and servers and, in some competitions, they get a feel of how it is in a real-world scenario where a company is being attacked. What

will you learn from this club?

The club also hosts a “learn a skill night” where they get together and learn a technological skill, eat pizza, and have a lot of fun. You can learn things like lock picking, how to secure a system, how to incorporate cybersecurity, and learn about it.

Every year in October the club hosts Nodakon, a cybersecurity conference to bring

awareness to cybersecurity. They bring in professionals and high school students so that college students can help educate the high school students, and they also have opportunities to learn from professionals and connect with them to gain resources for internships, jobs, and career field help.

Another very interesting thing about this club is that they have a cyber center in

Old Main on the third floor where there is equipment for students to study or learn new technological skills and hang out and collaborate. There are computer stations where you can do your homework and have fun.

This club is a great environment to get together with people who love technology and expose yourself to new ideas and people and to build great networks.

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# R&G Editorial

## School shootings

**Kylie Koontz**  
**Editor**

I wanted to take a break from the usual music-related editorials to talk about what my generation faces everyday.

On March 27, three more children were killed. Three 9-year-old children, children around the same age as my four cousins. Two of which go to school in the suburbs and the other two in a rural public school near where I grew up.

These days I see headline after headline of dead children. Children so brutally murdered that their parents have to identify them by their shoes.

The only thing I can think of when I see these headlines, selfishly, is my family. I think about my four cousins, who have even more lockdown drills than I did in school. I think about what conversations my aunts and uncles have to have with them every time they hear the headlines on the radio or tv.

I think about my

mom who works in a high school, who would do anything for the kids in her care. I think about my Dad, my physical education teacher throughout elementary and high school, who stood outside his locked gymnasium with a baseball bat during the live lockdown that happened while I was in school.

I think about my partner, who will be a physical education teacher in less than a year.

I think about my family when I see these headlines.

I think about how everyone's thoughts and prayers haven't done anything and will still do nothing to protect my family. What will it take for us to convince our government to protect our children, to protect my family? Because I know that thoughts and prayers won't.

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

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

Campus Players are back.

Mark your calendars! Minot State University's longest tenured club, Campus Players, is coming back to Ann Nicole Nelson Hall on April 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m. for their first show since December 2019.

They will be performing "Suite Surrender," written by Michael McKeever, and a drama, comedy, and musical all in one.

The year is 1942, and two rival singers

are to share a stage for the wartime performance at the Palm Beach Royale. Things seem to be running smoothly, until these feuding performers are... booked to the same suite?

The club has been working hard this semester, hosting multiple rehearsals a week to put together the show these aspiring actors and actresses have dedicated hours to.

Kylee Cook, a lead role in the performance of "Suite Surrender," is very

impressed with the progress the club has made.

"Rehearsals have been going really well," she said. "I think everyone fits their character really well and has a lot to offer. There hasn't been one rehearsal where we haven't given our all. Everyone pulls their weight, offers suggestions to peers, and helps with set construction and such."

This will be a first-time on-stage performance for some members of the club.

"I haven't ever been part of a full-fledged production, and I am beyond excited for this opportunity," Cook said. "It will be a really good laugh for sure."

It is safe to say this performance will be very well-prepared and extremely fun to watch.

Minot State University students, staff, and faculty are free. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 13+ (mild adult language). Come support your Campus Players and enjoy a night at the theater!



Campus Players rehearsal for "Suite Surrender."

Photo submitted by Katy Allers



# How music affects individuals

**Madeline Wick**  
**COMM 281**

Music has shaped cultures since the dawn of its existence. With numerous eras of unique sounds and characteristics, music reaches out to everyone and affects them in countless ways. According to BrainyQuote.com, Ludwig van Beethoven once said, “Music is the one incorporeal entrance into the higher world of knowledge which comprehends mankind but which mankind cannot comprehend.”

Learning an instrument along with studying music theory and history provides extremely beneficial traits to those who work hard to educate themselves about music, push their limits, and perform at high levels.

These benefits include brain and language development, a significant increase in academic performance, an expansion of one’s creativity and intelligence, and an open door to almost limitless career choices. Music affects people in remarkably valuable ways. Studying, practicing, and listening to music provides benefits everyone should know.

The brain can take around 25 years to develop. Practicing, studying, and listening to music substantially aids in the development of the brain. When listening to music, the human brain responds in a variety of ways. Activity in the brain undertakes and examines the diverse dynamics and characteristics of music that the outer ear picks up

and transmits to the brain through a series of processes.

According to researchers from the Stanford University School of Medicine, “Music engages the areas of the brain involved with paying attention, making predictions, and updating the event in memory. Peak brain activity occurred during a short period of silence between musical movements — when seemingly nothing was happening. Music engages the brain over a period of time and the process of listening to music could be a way that the brain sharpens its ability to anticipate events and sustain attention.”

Theories that state listening to music can increase creativity, optimism, learning, and a significant increase in memory

are widely supported. Studying music also provides remarkably beneficial results. Consistent music study can help children and adults learn new languages and improve speech comprehension.

According to initial results of a five-year study by USC neuroscientists, “Music training helps the brain to work additionally systematically. Music instruction appears to accelerate brain development in young children, particularly in the areas of the brain responsible for processing sound, language development, speech perception, and reading skills”.

Activities like studying music or receiving musical training require an abundance of focus. Through music, we can train and

grow our ability to focus. The practice of music exercises one’s brain and body to stay attentive to what they are doing.

According to research by Sound Direction’s creator, Chris Brewer, “Music stabilizes mental, physical, and emotional rhythms to attain a state of deep concentration and focus in which large amounts of content information can be processed and learned. Learning vocabulary, memorizing facts, or reading to this music is highly effective.”

Music forms valuable skills people can use for the rest of their lives, both in and out of music.

Johann Sebastian Bach, arguably one of the greatest composers of all time, once said, “Music is an agreeable harmony for the honor of

God and the permissible delights of the soul.”

Music, one of the many joys in life, can help one cope with stressful situations, bring people together, form values, and develop intellectual benefits.

Recognizing the immense value of music is extremely important. Showing and proving how beneficial listening and practicing music is brings a realization to oneself about how essential it truly is. Music reaches across the world and affects everyone in different ways for the better.

# 2023 school shootings so far

## **Nengi Daminabo** **Staff Writer**

In 2023, the United States has unfortunately witnessed numerous school shootings that have caused widespread devastation and trauma across the country and the world. These horrific incidents have claimed the lives of innocent children, teachers, and staff members, leaving behind a trail of grief and heartbreak.

One such incident occurred in March 2023 at the Springfield High School in Ohio, where a 17-year-old student opened fire, killing three students, and injuring several others before being taken down by the police. The victims were identified as 16-year-old Amy Johnson, 15-year-old David Garcia, and 17-year-old Sarah Parker. The school community, along with the families of the victims, was left in shock and

disbelief.

Similarly, in February 2023, a 19-year-old former student walked into the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, where a mass shooting had taken place three years earlier, and opened fire, killing four students and two teachers. The shooter then turned the gun on himself. The tragedy shook the entire nation and reignited the debate over gun control and mental health issues.

These are just a few examples of the numerous school shootings that have taken place in the United States in 2023, with each incident leaving behind a trail of trauma and devastation. The impact of these incidents is not just limited to the families of the victims, but it also affects the entire school community and the country.

According to a study conducted by the National Center

for PTSD, around 25% of individuals who have witnessed or experienced a mass shooting develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). PTSD can lead to a range of mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts, which can have a long-lasting impact on the individual's life.

The government has taken several measures to prevent such incidents from happening again.

In March 2023, President Joe Biden signed into law the Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety Act, which includes provisions such as universal background checks, red flag laws, and bans on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. The act also provides funding for mental health services and research into the causes and prevention of gun violence.

In a statement, President Biden said, "We cannot allow our children to live in fear of going to school. It's time for action, and this law is a critical step in the right direction."

Apart from federal laws, many schools have also taken steps to improve their safety measures. For instance, some schools have implemented active shooter drills and installed metal detectors at entrances. Additionally, many schools have hired trained security personnel and provided counseling services to students and staff members.

However, some critics argue that these measures are not enough and that more needs to be done to address the root causes of gun violence.

According to a report by the American Psychological Association, factors such as social isolation, mental illness, and easy

access to firearms are some of the key factors that contribute to gun violence.

The report recommends a comprehensive approach to addressing these issues, including early intervention for mental health issues, community-based programs to promote social connectedness, and efforts to reduce access to firearms for individuals at risk of committing acts of violence.

Despite the challenges, there are signs of hope. In response to the recent shootings, many individuals and organizations have come together to demand change. For instance, the March for Our Lives movement, started by survivors of the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, has been advocating for stricter gun laws and mental health reform.

Similarly, the Sandy Hook Promise Foun-

dation, which was formed in response to the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, has been working to prevent gun violence through school-based programs that promote social and emotional learning and mental health services.

The impact of school shootings goes beyond the physical harm inflicted, it inflicts intense emotional trauma on the families of the victims and the nation as well.

The most common response is to "send our prayers to the victims and their families" but until an actual resolve is done, our prayers won't do much.

Hopefully the government finds a suitable solution for this problem and till then, we will be sending our prayers and well wishes to the victims and their families.



# Therapy Dog Appreciation Day

**Mellie Wilson**  
**Staff Writer**

April 11 was Dog Therapy Appreciation Day! It is the day to take time to appreciate the dogs that visit hospitals, schools, and private therapy sessions, which help people feel comfortable and less anxious during hard times.

The idea of animals helping humans isn't new, since many animals such as dogs

were bred in ways to hunt or protect, but a doctor by the name of Boris Levenson discovered that dogs in fact help with mental health and create the atmosphere of a safe and comforting environment to mentally-impaired individuals. Therapy dogs are amazing because studies show that about 80% of children who show signs of autism can

stimulate emotions if surrounded by dogs. Additionally, the presence of dogs helps improve children's reading skills as dogs provide a safe and pressure free environment as the kids read to them. In fact, about 75% of dog owners admit to having improved mental health. It was also proved that dogs decrease the risk of heart diseases and

heart attacks.

But how and why do dogs reduce stress?

Studies from John Hopkins show that petting a dog lowers levels of cortisol, the stress hormone, and releases oxytocin, which is the

same chemical that is released as mothers' bond with their babies.

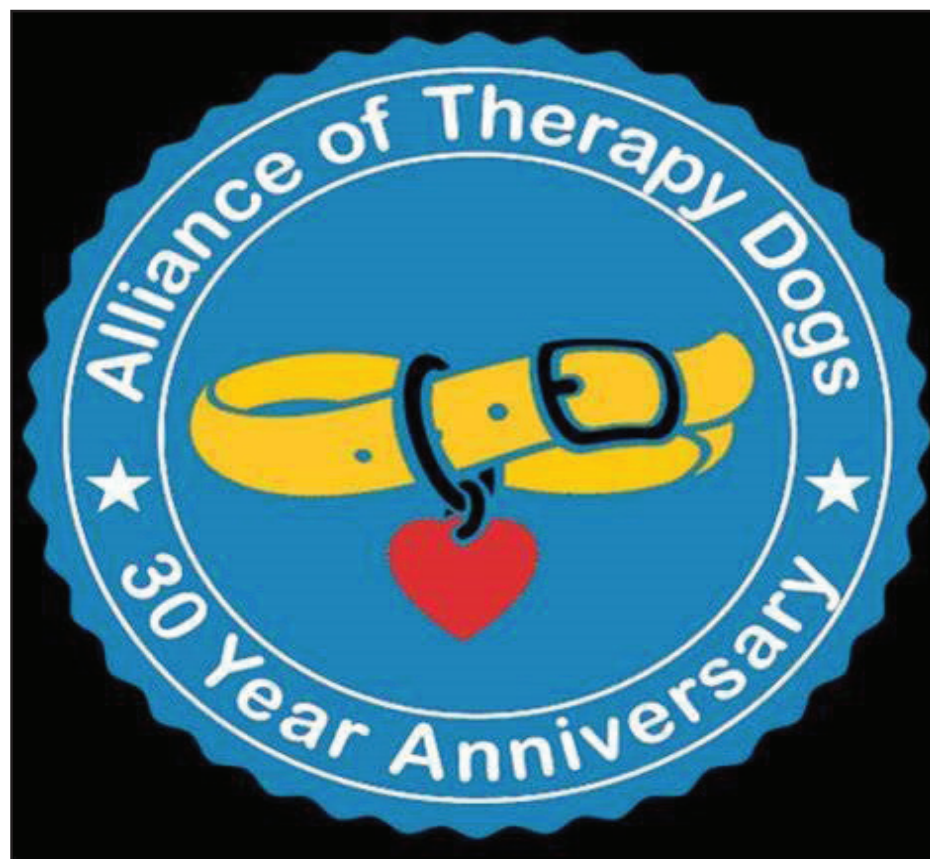
Dogs are known to absorb our emotions and recognize if humans feel down. This is due to our production of chemicals; therefore, the

dog will start to feel distressed, and because of the dog's emotional intelligence it will do anything in its power to make the owner joyful again.



Photo via Memorial Herman Health

A child playing with a therapy dog.

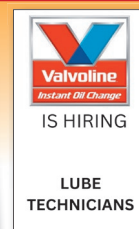
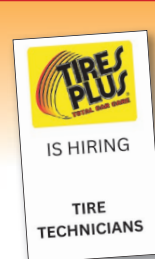


Graphic via usatherapydogs.com

April 11 was Dog Therapy Appreciation Day.

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# R&G Sports Editorial

## Meet newest Beaver football coaching staff

**Philip Green**  
**Sports Editor**

April 22 will mark the first spring game for the new Minot State football coaching staff.

Announced at the beginning of the spring semester, new head coach Ian Shields quickly began building his staff. Beaver football fans will get their first glimpse of how the newly hired staff is working with the team at the spring game.

The spring game is the pinnacle of all the hard work the team has been putting in with the new coaching staff this spring. Before you see them in action coaching on First Western Bank Field at Herb Parker Stadium, get to know the men leading Minot

State football for years to come.

Starting on the offensive side, Shields will also serve as the offensive play caller for the new and improved Beaver offense as well as the quarterbacks coach.

Shields spent his last several years as an offensive analyst at UNLV. Before that, he served as a head coach at multiple stops. Shields' first head coaching job came at Lenoir Rhyne a Division II in North Carolina. Next, he spent several years as a head coach at FCS Division I Jacksonville University before the football program was from the university. In his playing days, Shields was a two-sport athlete at Oregon State University, playing quarterback as well

as baseball.

Joining Shields on the offensive staff are offensive line coach and assistant head coach Tom Simi.

Simi comes from The Citadel, an FCS Division I university in South Carolina. Simi has coached alongside Shields on several occasions. Simi was a part of both coaching staffs during Shields last two head coaching trips at Lenoir Rhyne and Jacksonville University. Simi also coached alongside Shields at Army.

Two offensive coaches from last year's staff were retained by Shields and will be continuing to coach at Minot State.

Mike Famiglietti returns to the Beaver coaching staff as special teams coordinator and

will make the move from coaching wide receivers to running backs.

Also retained by Shields is tight ends coach Dan DeYoung. DeYoung has served as a graduate assistant the past several seasons and has now been elevated to a salaried coach.

Lastly, joining the offensive staff is graduate assistant wide receiver coach Marshawn Friloux. Friloux previously intended on joining Hall of Fame football player Ed Reed's coaching staff in Bethune Cookman before Reed eventually passed on the job.

Leading the Beaver defense is defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Mike Bruno. Bruno recently coached

alongside Shields at UNLV as a lineback-er coach.

This will be his first opportunity to serve as a coordinator. Bruno has spent several years coaching on the defensive side of the ball in college football. Several of those years were spent at Division I programs, including University of California Berkeley, Mississippi State, Louisville, and Dartmouth.

Joining Bruno on the defensive staff is defensive backs coach Anthony Garnett.

Garnett's last coaching stint came at Arizona State. Garnett is one of two coaches on staff who played for Shields during his college career. Garnett played quarterback for Shields

several years ago at FCS DI Cal Poly.

Also coaching defensive backs as a graduate assistant is coach Johnson. Johnson also played for Shields, but during Shields time at Jacksonville. Johnson played defensive back at Jacksonville for Shields.

Wrapping up the coaching staff is defensive line coach Darryl McBride. McBride played defensive back at Hawaii University and had a short stint playing in the CFL.

The Beavers will play their first spring game under the new coaching staff on Saturday, April 22 in the MSU Air-Supported Dome.

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



## Nelson breaks record again

**Juan Gutierrez**  
**COMM 281**

Leif Nelson, a student-athlete at Minot State University, is on the road to success with his outstanding performances on the field.

Nelson grew up in Devils Lake with the dream of becoming a professional basketball player. With his 6'4 height and incredible talent, he was a sensation on the court.

While having multiple back spasms and aches, doctors told him that he'd have to go a couple of years without playing in order to allow his back to properly heal. Eventually it came to a point where Nelson had to put a stop to his basketball career and try something new where he doesn't cause himself any back pain. Little did he know that picking up the javelin would unlock many opportunities ahead.

After his first year at throwing for Minot State, he placed second at a track & field conference meet, falling short of a first-place podium finish but with a new DII school record.

His second year, he continued to show his excellence while throwing a bit farther and making it to nationals for the first time and placing 12th, which made him a 2nd Team All American.

Going into this year, he has already beat his previous DII record by 5 meters and also overtook the previous school record that was held by Ed Boos. Boos has held that record since 1982.

"I really wanted to focus on getting better in the javelin this year so I dedicated my whole summer to working out and practicing," Nelson said.

He not only took off of work to

better his craft but revolved his life around the javelin to achieve these big goals he had in mind.

"My first goal was to throw over 70 meters and break that barrier," he said. "I knew it would happen soon; it was just a matter of when. Now I am looking towards winning the NCAA meet and hopefully qualifying for USATF and soon becoming an Olympian."

In his first javelin throw this season, he threw 67.84 meters. Only a week later, he ended up throwing 72.28 meters which has him sitting ranked fourth in the nation for the javelin. This following week, he will be competing over in California in hopes to bettering his record and get closer to the 76-meter mark in order to have a shot at making it into USATF.

## MSU distance runner competes against DI athletes and Olympians

**Alex Koontz**  
**Staff Writer**

The weekend of April 14 was a big success for MSU distance runner Sidra Sadowsky.

At the Bryan Clay Invitational, Sadowsky finished 89th in the meet, competing against D1 and Olympic athletes, besting her previous

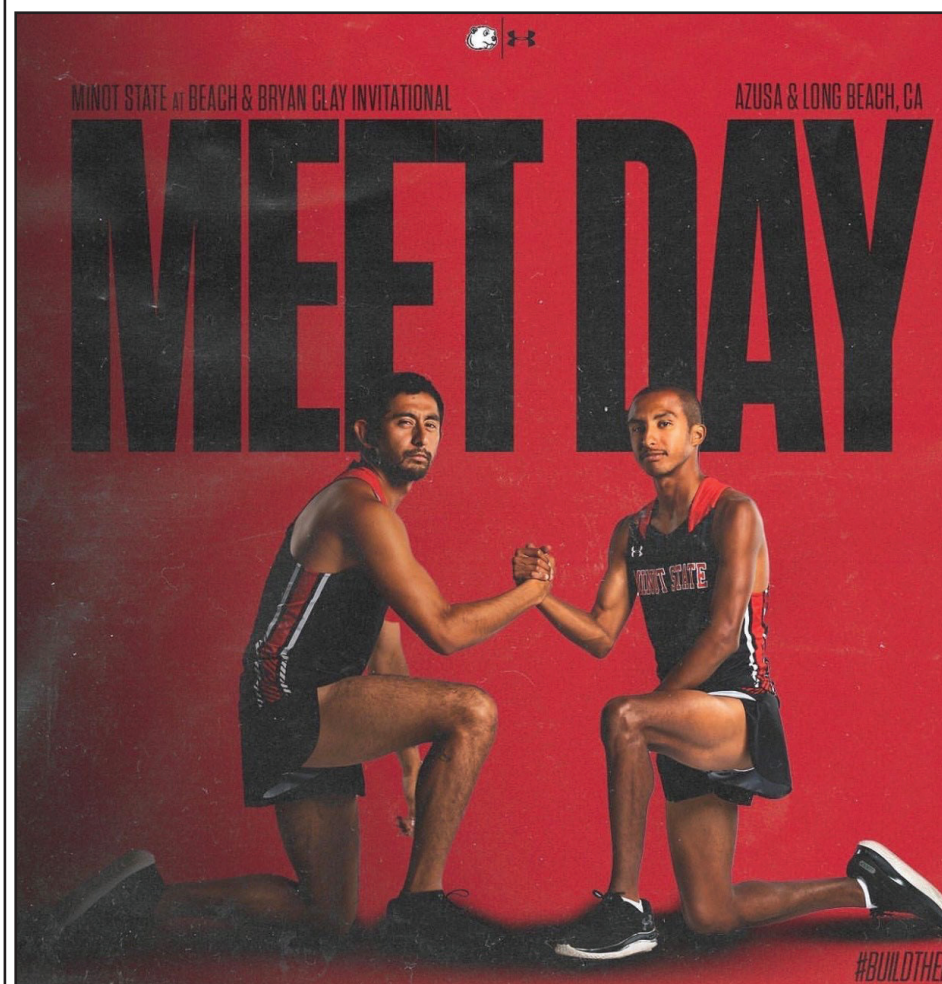
top time, as well as the school record and shattered the women's 800-meter NCAA D2 area record with a time of 2 minutes, 16.57 seconds. Sadowsky is now ranked 7th in the NSIC.

The rest of the XC, track & field team is doing well this season as well.

Leif Nelson hit the

provisional qualifying mark in javelin and Chase Snyder broke a school record in shot put, to name a few.

Even at the end of their season, athletes still continue to qualify and break records. Congratulations to the XC, track & field teams! Roll Beavs!



Meet day announcement post.

Photo via MSU track & field Instagram





Photo via MSU track & field Instagram  
Successful meet for the Minot State track & field team.

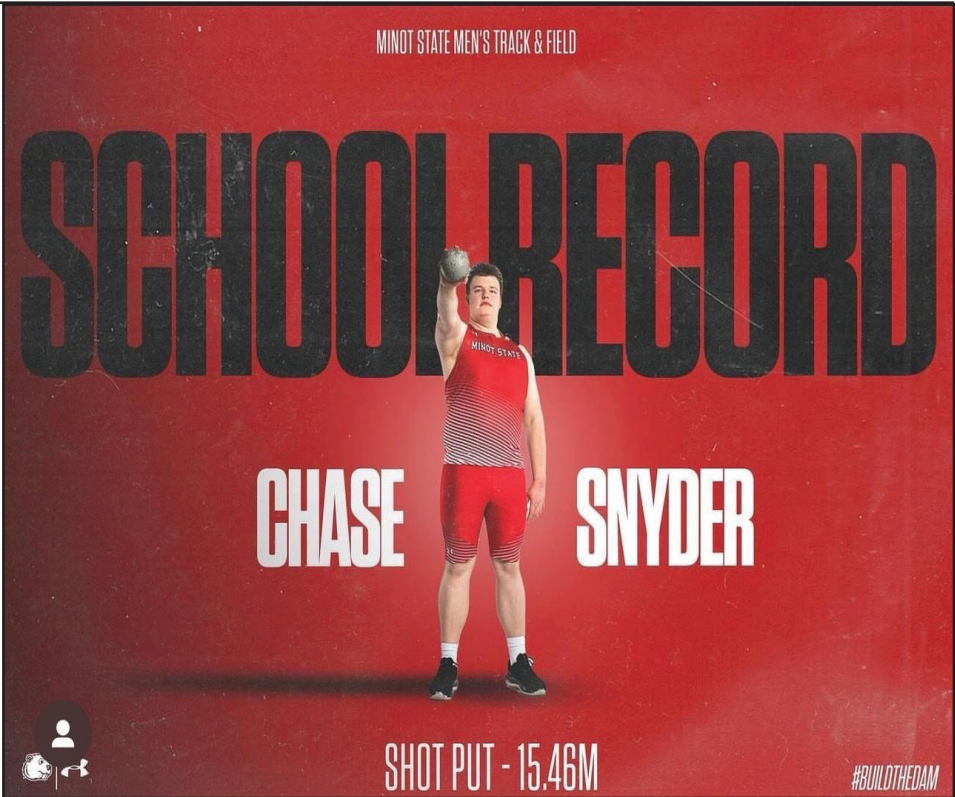


Photo via MSU track and field Instagram  
New school record broken by Chase Snyder.



Photo by Cole Clementich  
MSU baseball celebrates in the dugout.



Photo by Cole Clementich  
MSU baseball player Mark Ossanna up to bat.



### ..NBA continued from page 1

up to Minot State to set forth as a grad assistant for the Beavers.

After starting out in the sports information route, he realized quickly that writing was not his strong suit. The other half was tracking stats. Having a mind built for sports makes that part of the job easier. But when it came down to writing for game reports, press releases, and other important stories, it was a tall task. Luckily for him, there was a niche out there for the taking.

It was that moment when his idea for videography started to garner interest, especially creating media content for the athletic teams on campus. Hype videos and the media day presence were soon to be a reality.

The camera technology and resources were limited at

the end of his sports information tenure but anything that Spencer was able to get his hands on, he did.

When establishing his new passion for production and creating content, he knew it was going to take time and practice to get better in the art of videography. The best trait anyone can possess is patience, and Spencer was no different. After getting approved by athletics to switch roles, the first project he shot was a hype video for the wrestling team on campus.

He got rolling in turning his ideas into a reality, but the downside was shooting the film in the wrong format. A big learning curve no doubt. But the biggest curveball in life hit at the worst possible time: COVID-19.

With no sporting events to shoot for and having to work in the summer,

he had a limited amount of time to consider what he wanted to do in life following graduate school.

After the NSIC canceled fall sports in 2020, options were running out quickly. However, there was a sign of hope. Working for Door Dash and Lyft bought him time and money to look at and purchase video equipment. His resilience continued to pay off with a huge opportunity in the making.

One of the men's basketball grad assistant coaches at the time, Joel Wallace, had ties with NFL prospect Trey Lance. Before the NFL draft, Wallace acted as liaison and both Spencer and Lance got the chance to do a collaboration on an edit.

Spencer gave Lance his own hype video as a platform to showcase his talent and highlights right before

the draft. It was his breakthrough moment of the summer, and it was only getting started for the videographer. Then more opportunities came calling.

The North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) made the call to play on. Local teams like Minot High School, Bishop Ryan, Our Redeemer's, and Nedrose opened a new wave of potential for the MSU graduate student. For Spencer wanting to get reps, it was the perfect

time to strike by putting in work, gaining valuable experience, and making connections with local athletic directors, like Roger Coleman at the time.

He got the green light to enter the games while making highlight reels for every match that he attended. The schedule looked a lot like Bishop Ryan Lions football and Nedrose Cardinal's volleyball. Not only was it for his benefit, but a little extra publicity for the smaller

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**continued from page 12**

schools does not hurt one bit. The more Spencer's reps grew, the more opportunities emerged. With perseverance in the fall, came another chance to shine in the winter with the return of MSU sports.

Despite COVID-19 regulations limiting bodies on the court, Spencer had a bona fide impact on the athletic department. His college film skyrocketed and portfolio assembling a variety of several types of games. In the process, he used campus connections for honest critique and how to better his craft. One resource was KMSU's own Neil Roberts, associate professor. By sending in his video for viewing, he gained new ideas on the filming and editing process.

With his talent expanding through each project, it gave way to an early ap-

pearance in the work force.

During the last half of taking classes, an opportunity arose with an agency in Cincinnati, Ohio called 4th Floor Creative. This marks Spencer's fast rise within the creative industry. Consisting of solo creatives, he built on the company's award-winning legacy while applying his work into the real world for the first time.

While working at 4th Floor, the adjustment from in-person to online courses allowed him his first professional sports experience with shooting for Major League Soccer's FC Cincinnati.

After a short stint, the Gators from University of Florida came calling. Their softball and women's soccer teams were seeking his skill and kickstarted his professional career even further.

What benefited Spencer was that he

was able to assist in other sports at times, so it was not solely the two teams although those were his focus areas. To work for an NCAA Division One school in the Southeastern Conference is tre-

mendous given the success in major sports for that side of the country.

All that buildup has led to where Spencer is today, and that is with the Phoenix Suns and Mercury.

As a content producer, he gets to continue fulfilling his dream in videography at the highest level of professional basketball. When working closely with some of the NBA and WNBA's bright-

est stars, the world is Spencer's oyster.

You can find him and all his work on social media through Twitter and Instagram by searching [@gaspenca\\_](#), and he also owns a personal Facebook page.



Greg Spencer working at his new Phoenix Suns job.

Photo submitted by Greg Spencer