

Red and Green

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Minot State University

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Russia's attack on Ukraine

Divine Daminabo Content Coordinator

For days now, we've been watching a dispute unfold in front of our eyes which could be the biggest attack on Europe since World War II.

Most of us have heard about the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. According to CNN, the first attack by Russia was experienced on Feb. 24 in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. That same day on NBC, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine reported 57 dead and 169 injured as a result of Russia's first attack on the nation.

There have been multiple refugee camps established across the country to keep people safe and, according to USA Today, Ukraine has placed bans on all male citizens ages 18 to 60 from leaving the country. This was announced by the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, according to their reports. This action came after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's declaration of martial law across the country after the invasion of Russia on Ukraine and its major cities. This means that military officers are now in charge of enforcing the law, not civilian leaders or the police anymore. This is a law that is usually invoked in times of war so now we understand the gravity of what is about to escalate between Russia and Ukraine.

Regardless of the situation, President Biden will not be deploying forces to Ukraine as it's not part of the NATO nations. However, he and other concerned nations will be providing alms for the citizens being affected in the present dispute.

Sky News said a U.S. defense official confirmed that the U.S. will send 7,000 troops to Germany to help reassure NATO allies who are part of a larger contingent that had already been put on alert earlier this year.

Biden has placed sanctions on Russian financial institutions in the United States to limit their foreign financial benefits.

"Putin's aggression against Ukraine will end up costing Russia dearly, economically

and strategically we will make sure of that," Biden said as he defined this assault on Ukraine as a "pre-meditated attack" stating that Putin is the oppressor.

"He rejected every good faith the United State and allies and partners made to address our mutual security concerns through dialog, to avoid needless conflict and avert human suffering," the president said after elaborating on Putin's dismissal on their efforts to avoid this war.

As the days go by, more information starts to unfold on the status of this war as attacks increase and more citizens become refugees. We don't know if Putin will stop at only Ukraine or go further to neighboring nations, including those under NATO. If this happens, the United States will have to get involved as it is a NATO nation. We hope that this de-escalates as unexpectedly as it started but until then, we can only sit and watch.



Protests in Israel against the invasion of Ukraine.

Photo via The Darien Times



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News in Brief

Drop-In Counseling

Drop-In Counseling continues this semester on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-2:30 p.m. in the Souris Room, located on the second floor of the Student Center, and from 3- 3:30 p.m. in the Wellness Center.

Peer Support Meeting

A Peer Support Meeting is held each Wednesday in the Fisher Room and provides connection with other students undergoing similar stressors.

Thursday, March 10

Waltz: The last session of the three-night dance lessons by the kinesiology crew will be held at Swain Hall in the pedagogy lab at 7 p.m.

Friday, March 11

Last day to add second 8-week courses.

Last day to drop a class or withdraw from all classes and receive a 100% refund for second 8 weeks classes.

Summer and fall graduation applications are due to the Registrar's office.

Saturday, March 12

Art and Architecture of the Middle Ages will be held at Hartnett Hall Room 330W and instructed by Andrea Donovan, associate professor of art, from 2-4 p.m. Cost is \$10.

March 14-18

Spring Break

Wednesday, March 16

Pickleball 101: Learn the basics of pickleball, a paddleball sport that combines the elements of badminton, table tennis, and tennis at 10 a.m. The classes will be held Wednesdays, March 16-April 10 at the Wellness Center.

Monday, March 21

Classes resume.

Hey, Where Did You Get That Shirt?: Design and screen print your unique T-shirt at this three-week class. Held on March 21, March 28, and April 4 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Hartnett Hall 215E, this workshop will guide you through the design and production of an original, wearable art item.

Tuesday, March 22

Frybread taco and bingo fundraiser: The MSU powwow committee invites you to bingo night with five merchandise games and on 50/50 blackout. The frybread taco sale begins at 5 p.m. with bingo starting at 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 24

Northwest Arts Center "Serendipity" reception and online viewing: The opening reception of "Serendipity," and exhibition of monotype prints by Sharon Linnehan, will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. with an artist's talk schedule for 7 p.m.

About the 'Don't Say Gay' bill

Hussein Abu-Lamzi Features Editor

On Tuesday, Feb. 8, President Joe Biden tweeted this in response to the "Don't Say Gay" Florida bill: "I want every member of the LGBTQI+ community — especially the kids who will be impacted by this hateful bill — to know that you are loved and accepted just as you are. I have your back, and my administration will continue to fight for the protections and safety you deserve."

The Parental Rights in Education Bill, what opponents have dubbed the "Don't Say Gay" bill, aims to prohibit discussions of sexual orientation and gender identity in the classroom. The bill passed on Thursday, Feb. 24. It specifically inhibits discussions of sexuality and gender from kindergarten to third grade. Parents are now also allowed to view information on changes

in their children, such as physical and mental ones. Prior to the bill, if such information was judged as something that might incite parental abuse, then it was withheld from the student's parents.

Proponents of the bill contradict their words in marketing it. CNN's Maegan Vazquez and Steve Contorno covered the topic and highlighted how the bill's proponents claimed the bill will not prevent teachers from having conversations should they arise in the classroom. Supporters of the bill also claimed that it does not aim to exclude LGBTQI+ school kids nor same-sex parents.

Paradoxically, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said that teacher and student conversations on sexual orientation and gender identity in the classroom are "entirely inappropriate."

What made the governor

concerned? He heard teachers telling students "Don't worry, don't pick your gender yet."

Besides President Biden's response on Twitter, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki summarized the case as such: "Every parent, as one myself too, hopes that our leaders will ensure their children's safety, protection, and freedom, and today, conservative politicians in Florida rejected those basic values by advancing legislation that is designed to target and attack the kids who need support the most, kids from the LGBTQI+ community, who are already vulnerable to bullying — and we've seen that in study after study — and violence, just for being themselves and just for being who they are."

Democratic news outlets all agreed that this bill represents the smaller parts of a larger political Republican attack.

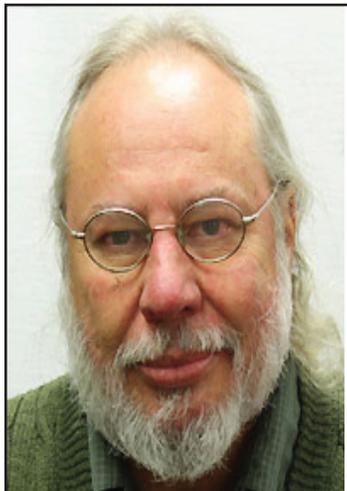


The "Don't say Gay" bill prompted Florida students all over the state to lead schoolwide walk outs in protest of the new bill.

Photo via nbcnews.com

Back when: Ronald Fischer

Hussein Abu-Lamzi
Features Editor



Submitted photo
Professor Ronald Fischer.

Professor Ronald Fischer, English, is finishing his last term of teaching at Minot State University. He will retire from teaching and move into addiction counseling, a degree he'd been working toward over the last few years, by taking one to two courses a term.

This seemingly lifelong habit of learning grew within Fischer over the years of his education.

"Believe it or not, I was considering West Point, which meant free college," he said. "So, I thought, that's how I can go to college."

He read biographies of generals, aspiring to have a military career like them.

However, in a high school science trip to Detroit in April 1968, Fischer was caught in the riots which Martin Luther King's assassination incited.

"Police on horses, beating protesters, that

woke me up," he said. "I realized there is a lot of hurt in our country. And I started losing this military idea."

In 1970, following graduation and the Kent State shooting, Fischer was discouraged from the war.

"It put me in a state of limbo. I was faced with the Vietnam War. I was thinking of my options, where a lot of my classmates joined the military. I could have gone as a medic, but never as infantry. Still, at the time, I had a low draft number," he said. "No interest in going to college, because they were going to pull me out. I considered Canada or refusing to step out when they swore me in,

which would have meant they put me in prison."

Having avoided the Vietnam War, Fischer had the opportunity to work many different jobs. He worked odd jobs, including night shifts at hotels and as a chauffeur.

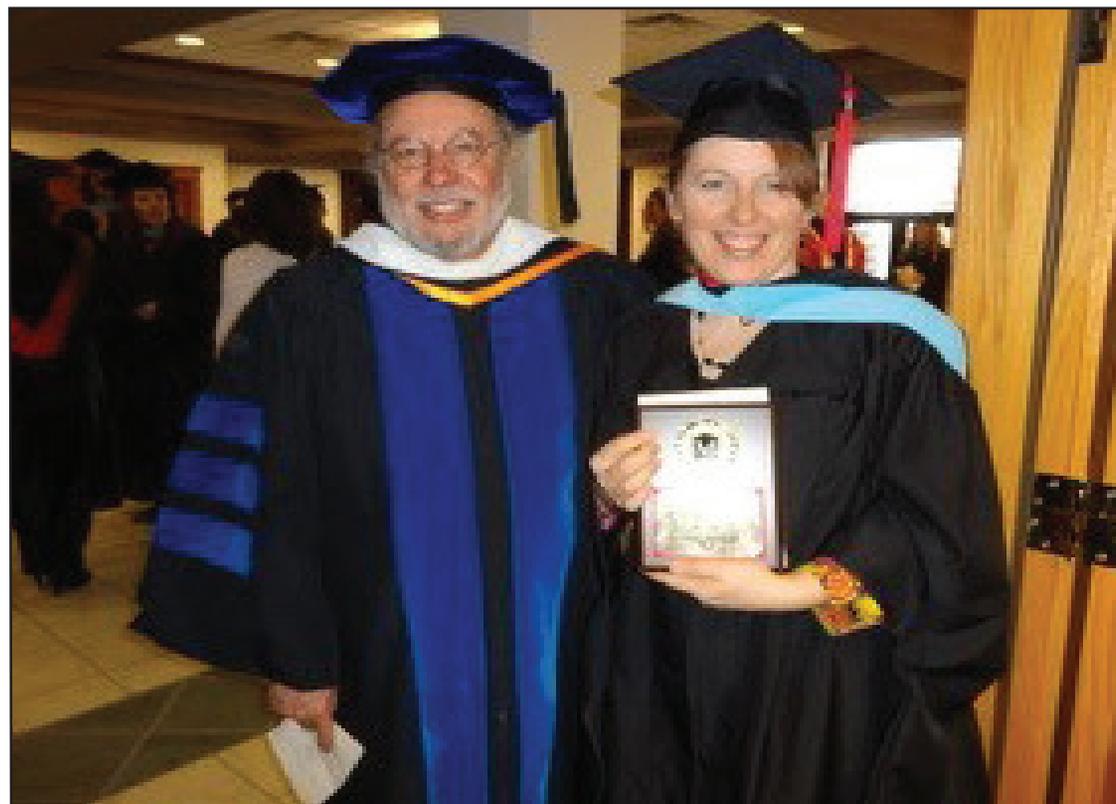
"My brother, who was younger than me, told me, you're too smart for these jobs. You should go to college," Fischer said. "But what I was doing in that limbo was reading literature."

Later, at the Montana College of Science and Technology, Fischer met his first wife and found his purpose in life: teaching.

He also discovered the American poet Richard

Hugo, who wrote about everyday life, such as passing through a curve and by a patrol unit. He took that style of romanticizing everyday life to heart. Alongside his teaching career, Fischer joined writing groups that served as support systems for him.

"Experiences of pain and hurt that we climb out of turn us into learners. Getting education degrees that get you a job is just part of the journey," he said. "Degrees give opportunities. They open doors for you. But they do not give you a life. You give yourself a life."



Submitted photo

Professor Ronald Fischer will retire from Minot State following the Spring 2022 semester.

Spirit Week

Hussein Abu-Lamzi
Features Editor

To represent school spirit, the Minot State University Staff Senate held a campus-community-inclusive Spirit Week from Feb. 7 to 11, where they hosted office Olympics, played trivia, provided free food, organized professional sessions, and introduced dress up days for the week, among other things.

In the office Olympics, offices played games such as the coffee mug marathon, where members filled their coffee mugs and raced through the office. Speed finger skating involved using typingtest.com to see which office member typed the fastest with the least typos.

Staff Senate President Janese Lehman, business office student accounts and receivables, oversaw the event. Her other duties involve overseeing staff senate committees and acting as liaison between them and MSU President Steven W. Shirley.

"Spirit Week was campus wide. We invited students and had pizza put out for them," Lehman said. "Coordinating with Student Government Association (SGA), we also invited them to the scavenger hunt. We wanted everyone involved — bringing people together, that was the point."

Similarly, in an effort to connect with the student body, Staff Senate welcomes an SGA representative to their meetings to keep the two campus communities in touch with one another.

RG Editorial

Mental health of college athletes

In the wake of the death of Katie Meyer, the world of college athletics has once again become abuzz with talk of mental health.

What disturbs me about this the most is that in every headline, Meyer is first referred to as Stanford star soccer player, not Katie Meyer. It seems like no matter how often we see college athletes take their lives, what is mourned first is the death of an athlete, not a young person.

In many cases, including Meyer's family members, people attribute mental health difficulties or reasons for committing suicide as stress or over working. When, in reality, if people really took the time to speak with other college athletes, they would know that, though those things can sometimes negatively

impact our lives, suicide is so much bigger than that.

We must find a way to stop the stigma of college athletics and mental health. Mental health is so much more than stress or over working. Suicide is so much bigger than college athletics. We must stop reducing the mental health struggles and illnesses of our college athletes down to the sport they play. Each of us are more than the sport we play, and should be treated as such.

Meyer's mental health was so much bigger than soccer. Meyer was more than a star soccer player.

National suicide prevention hotline:
1-800-273-8255

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

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Squid Games

Saif Khan
Staff Writer

On Feb. 28, MSU Life members and coordinators held a great event which attracted hundreds of Minot State students.

Squid Games, a series of mentally and physically challenging games where you had two lives, meant that every round won got you closer to the grand prize — a 65-inch TV.

In the first round, a classic red light green light game was played. This is where the contestants are given a certain time to get to the other side of the football field. The catch is you were only allowed to move when the MSU representative said green light, and not allowed to move a muscle when they said, red light. Students who moved had a life taken away.

After finishing the first round, the second round got more difficult. Tug of war, a game based on pure strength, was played in the second round and a few survivors moved on to the next round.

The third round, puzzles, was designed to test quick thinking and patience. Upon passing the third round, the fourth round was a game of cross the bridge. This is where students had to be lucky and not step on a box which was covered but had water in it. Many failed to clear this round.

The lucky few who went into the final round of the Squid Games had a chance to win the grand prize. The last round was a good old game of musical chairs.

The lucky student who won it all was a freshman track & field athlete named Nino Damain.

It was great to see so many MSU students come out to play this game, which made this a very memorable event.

Misunderstandings about COVID-19 absences

Hussein Abu-Lamzi
Features Editor

With the continuation of COVID-19 cases across campus and on a national level, students and professors might end up in disagreements caused by misunderstandings between the two parties. While university communications sends a weekly email detailing quarantine protocols for cases — positive for COVID-19 and close contacts — as the COVID-19 Committee dictates them, some measures and professor-issued decisions lack clear guidelines.

Countless students have had issues with COVID-19-related absences being counted against them leaving frustrated students and professors alike. The tricky thing is knowing where the balance lies and how to continue to create an open and understanding way of teaching and learning in a world where COVID-19 may affect universities for years to come.

MSU follows statewide guidelines, as well as their own guidelines. Confusingly enough, students-athletes on campus must also follow the guidelines given to them by the NCAA as well as their trainers, who in turn are given guidelines to follow from Trinity Hospital. One student-athlete remembers a time where there was confusion that almost resulted in a week's worth of unexcused COVID-19-related absences.

Having been told by their trainer to quarantine due to being a close contact they complied, but MSU no longer does close contact, hence where the confusion began.

Asked on their retrospective take on the situation, the

student said, "I can see other students using COVID-19 as an excuse for absences. It is a tough balance. And with the rapid change in protocol everywhere over the last year and a half, some students might call in sick to unrightfully skip class on an unofficial basis. Still, for student-athletes in particular, if they email their professors and connect with their trainers and student health, they should solve matters like this smoothly."

According to the university communications emails, positive COVID-19 cases should isolate for five days or until symptoms subside. They also should continue to wear a mask around others following their isolation. Should symptoms continue, the case needs to keep extending their isolation on a day-to-day basis.

As for close-contact cases, those who are vaccinated or boosted, or for those of whom it has been less than six months since Pfizer/Moderna or less than two months since a Johnson & Johnson vaccine or within 90 days of previous infection, they should wear a mask for 10 days. They should also test on the fifth day, if possible.

As for those who are unvaccinated or not boosted or for whom it has been more than six months since Pfizer/Moderna or more than two months since a Johnson & Johnson vaccine, they should quarantine for five days and wear a mask for the five days following quarantine. If the person cannot quarantine, however, the COVID-19 Committee advises that they wear a mask for 10 days following their close contact with a positive-COVID case.

North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities

Divine Daminabo Content Coordinator

The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities is a name most of us are already familiar with. The thing about any establishment made to help society is that there's always a story behind it and so much more to learn about that story.

Lori Garnes, executive director of the NDCPD, spoke on the personal and professional aspects of the University Center of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities.

Every state has a university center of excellence and for North Dakota, Minot State University is the chosen one. The federal grant for the NDCPD to be on campus was approved in 1990 and since then till now, this program has gathered 235 grants and contracts, resulting to a total of \$41,905,504. They have been involved in many projects both nationally and internationally.

"NDCPD brings good works into the state of North Dakota on behalf of the entire state about best practices and how to train teachers and other professionals to be good professionals in the field and make sure that the services are exemplary for people with developmental disabilities and all disabilities," said Garnes.

Garnes' involvement with the NDCPD started in 1996 with her as a research associate. Originally from Ohio, she was already a trained special education

teacher, earning degrees in elementary education, learning disabilities, and intellectual developmental disabilities from Bowling Green State University in Ohio before coming to Minot. She started at Kalix, an agency in Minot that works with disabled adults.

She did that for eight years and received her Master of Science in Severe Multiple Disabilities at Minot State University and later her doctorate in special education from Utah State University.

Garnes has been the NDCPD executive director since January 2021 and so far, she loves her job and appreciates giving many people with developmental disabilities opportunities to be productive individuals in society.

ASTEP — Advancing Students Toward Education and Employment Program — is one of the NDCPD projects prominent on campus. This was established 13 years ago, in 2009, and now the program currently works with up to 20 students with disabilities on campus.

Leaving home, a place you're comfortable in, to college is not the easiest transition, especially if you require specific accommodations. ASTEP's goal is to help all those involved be the best they can be within the duration of their college time both on campus with classes and extracurricular activities and off campus with employment opportunities. ASTEP also has employment for students without developmental

disabilities with its mentor employment opportunity. This can be relevant for all majors, especially those in fields like nursing, physical therapy, special education, speech-language pathology, and teaching.

Aside from ASTEP, the NDCPD has 49 other projects ranging from infants to the elderly. One of these

projects is Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI).

As the name implies, this project provides hearing tests for newborn babies of North Dakota so they can start treatment, if needed, to prevent damage and control the situation.

The Medicaid Patrol is another project which has been put in place to help

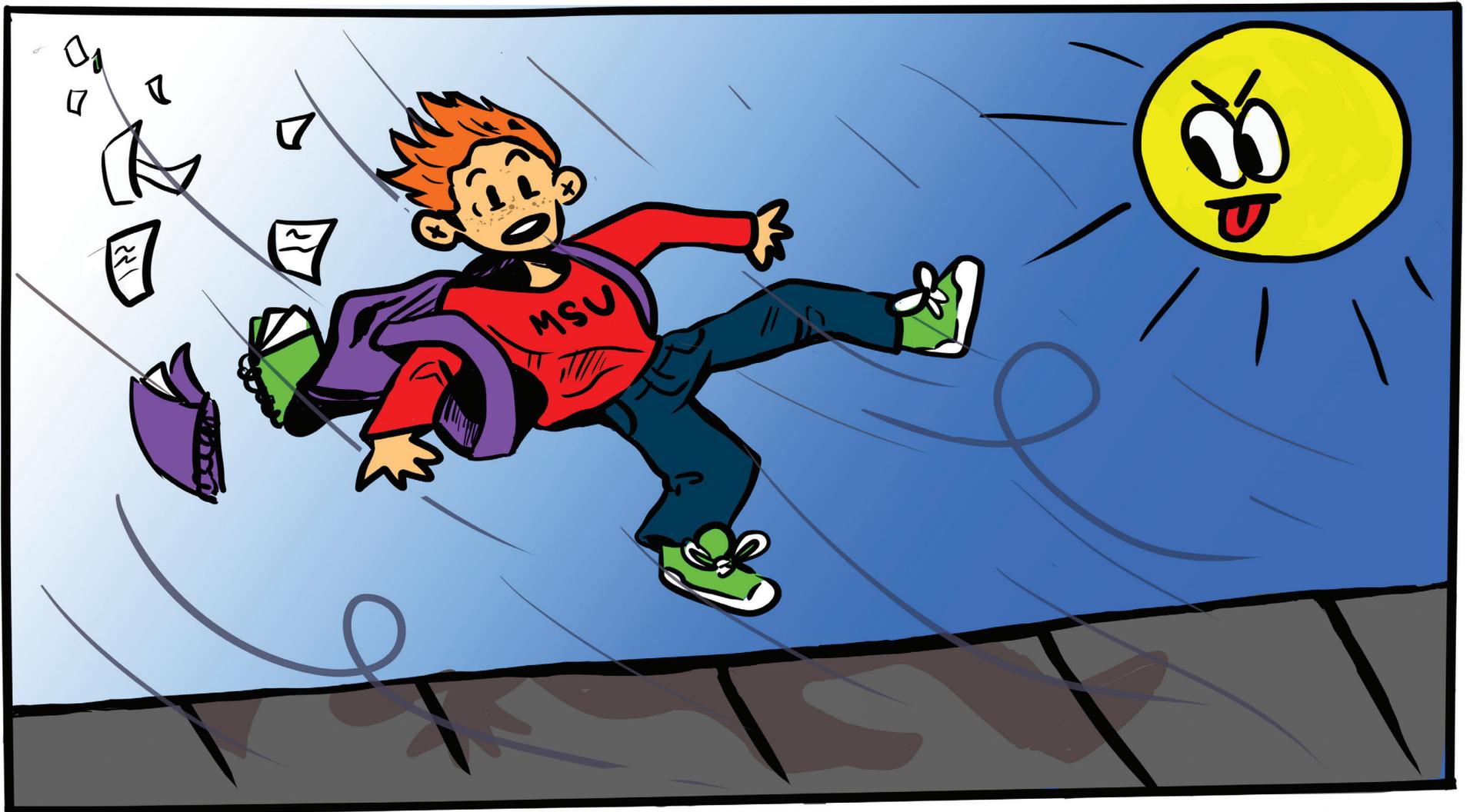
elderly victims of fraud or abuse with health insurance scammers or any other deceptive online personnel. The NDCPD also has cool perks like tracking bracelets provided to kids with conditions like autism, to make sure they are safe and reachable at any given time.



Photos via NDCPD Facebook page

North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD) is located in Memorial Hall on Minot State's campus.





If it weren't for the wind, it would be nice

Cartoon by Jessica Lee

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The tragedy of Rayan, the 5-year old Moroccan boy

Hussein Abu-Lamzi
Features Editor

Amidst current world breaking news, all of which got the MSU community in active discussions, the tragedy of Rayan Oram, the 5-year-old Moroccan boy who died trapped in a 104-foot deep well, did not make the scene.

Major Western news channels picked up the boy's desperate and tragic story for survival earlier in February, such as CNN, BBC, Daily Mail, and France 24. These channels and other Middle Eastern outlets spurred wide coverage of the Orams' tragedy, who sent their son with his father to the well for fetching water on Feb. 1, where he accidentally fell down the well's narrow opening.

In Chefchaouen, Morocco, fears of landslides and other geologic factors thwarted rescuing attempts. Regardless, through the Royal Palace, King Mohammed VI of Morocco ordered the authorities to exert all their capabilities in trying to save the 5-year-old.

In the end, with hundreds watching live at the scene — and millions watching on live stream — the authorities dug out a tunnel to rescue the boy. A medical team with a helicopter was waiting for the rescue. And through a live camera that the authorities reeled down into the well by Oram, the authorities were able to check on the boy but were still not able to confirm his health

condition. Nonetheless, the Red Crescent fed oxygen and water through two tubes that ran down the well to the boy.

On the evening of Friday, Feb. 4, his father, Khaled Oram, said this to the news: "I keep up hope that my child will get out of the well alive. I thank everyone involved and those supporting us in Morocco and elsewhere."

Millions of other people also showed their online support from all over the world.

Sadly, however, the authorities pulled out the five-year-old boy's corpse on Saturday, Feb. 5, wrapped in a yellow blanket. In a phone call, Mohammed VI expressed his condolences to the boy's father and mother, Wassima Khersheesh.

Despite the tragedy of the situation, the 5-year-old boy's bravery in surviving the 104-foot fall for more than three days brought many people together in a show of solidarity and a tribute to humanity. His case also shone light on the poverty-ridden conditions of Chefchaouen.

In addition, the manner in which people across the country gathered in support of the authorities' efforts to save the child reflected a bittersweet moment of how and when people come together for doing good, something that often goes ignored for the larger, vaguer pictures nowadays.



Photo via [gulfnews.com](https://www.gulfnews.com)

Rayan Oram's mother , Wassima Khersheesh, is escorted away from well her 5-year-old son fell down while fetching water with his father.



Photo via [Morocco Latest News](https://www.moroccolatestnews.com)

Rayan Oram, a 5-year-old boy from Chefchaouen, Morocco, fell down a 104-foot well Feb. 1.

RG Editorial

America's pastime: a thing of the past

Philip Green
Sports Editor

With no reasonable offer on the table and Major League Baseball failing to see the fault in their own actions, it seems all but certain this MLB lockout will prevent the season from starting on time, maybe even at all. Baseball is often referred to as America's pastime, but a lot of time has passed since the sport had any actual relevance in the greater sports culture.

Recently, baseball great Derek Jeter chose to step down immediately as CEO of the Miami Marlins following what could be described as nothing more than a failure during his time as CEO, and all major sports outlets will gloss over it. The National Football League will get more coverage on hypotheticals for next season than baseball will get on what is happening right now.

The higher ups in baseball have failed the game. What used to be synonymous with American culture now can't even get a 10 minute spot about lockout negotiations on a TV show dedicated to covering news about sports. Baseball needs a revamp; the sport is dying right in front of our eyes. The sport handcuffs its athletes with over emphasized unwritten rules and prevents any opportunity for fun.

Hitters aren't allowed to show any emotion without the expectation of getting ejected or hit with a pitch the next at bat. It's frowned upon for pitchers to celebrate a strike out. The MLB expects players to play with absolutely no emotion.

Emotions on display is one of the best things about sports. Fans don't come to watch players standing there monotoned with blank stares on their faces. We want to see the agony when someone loses, and we want to join in on the passion when our favorite player succeeds. Foot-

ball and basketball allow for this, but in baseball, the traditionalist will persecute you if don't act like you've been there before.

It is pretty safe to say baseball won't catch football in viewership any time soon, but if changes are not made in the near future, there won't be anyone watching the game at all.

Baseball traditionalists need to make their way into a new age for the game. Allow and encourage players to use the game they so passionately love as an outlet for their emotions. Let players know it's okay to bat flip a homerun and expect the pitcher to dance when he strikes a player out.

Make games more accessible to fans. Few can go watch a game in the middle of the week that starts in the afternoon. That takes out a huge chunk of viewership that works full time. Follow the NBA and NHL model, where the majority of games start at night. Stop charging extra to watch games on TV. The MLB already blacks out a ton of games. Why, as an avid baseball fan, would I pay for an exclusive membership to watch all games just for some to be blacked out? Offer cheap viewership packages, illegal streams have already made watching games less and less possible so don't give fans another reason not to watch. Highlight the game's best players more. Baseball has some of the world's best athletes and most interesting personalities, it is a shame that an average sports fan doesn't get to experience them more.

Commissioner Rob Manfred and Major League Baseball continue to stand their ground in this lockout. If changes are not made, America's pastime is going to be just that, a thing of the past.

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

Basketball loses in a heartbreaker

Jordan Rodriguez
COMM 281

Minot State men's basketball lost in the first round of the MSU NSIC Tournament in the MSU Dome on Wednesday, Feb. 23 to Southwest Minnesota State.

Minot State came in as the fourth seed on their respective side of the bracket and were paired up with five-seed SMSU, a team they never got to face off against in the regular season due to COVID-19 protocols.

Minot State kept it close in the first half, trailing by a score of

42-38. This game was the tale of two teams that would not quit. Minot State had a much better three-point field goal percentage at 58%, making 10 of 17, and had one less turnover than SMSU, but Southwest Minnesota found a way to significantly outscore the Beavers.

When the buzzer sounded, Minot walked off the court with an 89-75 loss and Max Cody leading the Beavers with 23 points.

MSU seniors Cody, Melvin Newbern, Kody Dwyer, Sam Ohlrich, and Eli Cave complet-

ed their successful careers at Minot State and left their mark as they all scored in their final game wearing red and green.

Cody, who was sixth in the nation in assists per game with an average of 6.4, was selected First Team All-NSIC and Newbern was selected Second Team All-NSIC.

Although this chapter has closed and multiple key players that may be considered some of the best in MSU history are done, the future for Minot State looks promising.



Photo from MSU Basketball's Twitter
MSU men's hoops had their season come to an end in the first round of the NSIC conference tournament. The Beavers fell to the Mustangs of Southwest Minnesota State University on Feb. 23 at the MSU Dome with a 89-75 loss.

Big win on Senior Night for MSU wrestling

Venissa Adeti
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Feb. 9, the Minot State University Wrestling team hosted Seniors Night in their final collegiate home dual against the Dickinson State Blue Hawks.

Seniors Isaac Bertalotto, Keegan Berry, Marcio Fallah, Lincoln Stormer, Noe Garcia, Brandon Meikel, and Jordan Will were celebrated that night.

That night was a success for

the MSU wrestling team as they took down their in-state rivals 46-0, not losing a single match even when it went into extra matches.

Our very own Meikel took home four points for the Beavers in a 13-0 major decision over Aiden Painter from Dickinson. Stormer took the 9-4 decision over Dante Venema to give the Beaver a 13-0 lead. Berry did not disappoint and ended his Beaver wrestling career

with a 11-0 major decision over Tanner Jarrett which brought the Beavers lead to 39-0. Garcia dished out an 8-6 win over Kon Speelmon which sent us 42-0. Lastly, Will shut down the show for the Beavers with the 10-0 major decision over Kyle Anderson.

A spectacular duel from our MSU Beaver Wrestlers and we wish the seniors nothing but the best in their future endeavors!

A look ahead to the upcoming NFL free agency

Parker Striha
COMM 281

The 2021 NFL season came to a close on Feb. 13 as the Los Angeles Rams defeated the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20 to win the franchise's second Super Bowl.

Almost a month after the confetti fell, the next step for all NFL teams is free agency. The legal tampering period will begin on March 14 and that means all teams are able to start having discussions and negotiations with free agent players. Teams and players will be able to officially put pen to paper on the 16th when free agency truly starts. With that said, it is time to preview some of the biggest names on the offensive side of the ball who could be available once the clock strikes midnight on March 13.

Quarterback: Jameis Winston, New Orleans Saints. This year's quarterback market is extremely weak compared to years prior. Most of the available quarterbacks have been career backups so they won't be in high demand. A guy like Winston has started a substantial number of games and could be a solid backup or starter for any team that wants him. After being selected with the first overall pick in the 2015 NFL draft, Winston spent his first five seasons in Tampa Bay. After an average first four seasons, he lit the league up in 2019. He led the league in yards, came second in touchdowns, and also led the league in interceptions by a substantial amount. He then went to New Orleans to become Drew Brees' backup in 2020 before becoming the Saints' starter in 2021. A knee injury in the 2021 season could damage his value on the open market but he will likely be the top available quarterback.

Running back: Cordarrelle Patterson, Atlanta Falcons. Like the quarterbacks, the available running backs this year aren't that special compared to previous years. The top running back is likely Patterson. He was the 26th over-

all pick in the 2013 NFL draft by the Minnesota Vikings. He quickly became one of the most feared returners in the league despite not putting up crazy receiving numbers. After leaving Minnesota, Patterson bounced around the league for a couple years as he transitioned into more of a running back role. He ended up in Atlanta for the 2021 season and his versatility was truly shown. In 2021, Patterson touched the ball 205 times for 1,166 total yards and 11 touchdowns. He also returned kicks 18 times for 434 yards. He likely won't be expecting a massive contract so he should have a long list of suitors.

Wide receiver: Davante Adams, Green Bay Packers. Unlike the first two positions, the wide receiver class does have some premier players available. Adams is easily the top dog available this year. Adams, a former second-round pick in 2014, has evolved into arguably the best wide receiver in the league. He started his career with four sub-1,000-yard seasons before eclipsing 1,300 yards in three of the next four years. His route running is as sharp as a knife, and he is one of the most reliable receivers in the game. He has been the key-piece in two Aaron Rodgers' MVP seasons. If Green Bay doesn't resign him, he will almost certainly receive a record-breaking contract from another team.

Tight end: Mike Gesicki, Miami Dolphins. Although he doesn't have the career numbers of other tight ends on the market, Gesicki's potential is through the roof. The 2018 second-round pick boasts an impressive 4.54 40-yard dash and an even more impressive 41.5" vertical jump. His athleticism makes him a top target for whatever team he is on, and he can potentially become a top tight end in the league with better quarterback play. His 2,255 receiving yards are the fourth-most by a tight end since 2018 and his 16 touchdowns are top-20 in the same time span. His services will

be in high demand with plenty of teams looking for a premier tight end.

Offensive tackle: Terron Armstead, New Orleans Saints. Since being drafted in the third round of the 2013 NFL Draft, Armstead has been a stalwart of the New Orleans Saints' offensive line. Although he has never played a full season, he has started 93 of the 97 games he has played. With the Saints being roughly \$60 million below the salary cap, it is extremely unlikely that they'll be able to resign Armstead but crazier things have happened. At only 30 years old, he will likely still get a large contract from a team in need of a premier left tackle.

Offensive guard: Brandon Scherff, Washington Commanders. Like Armstead, Scherff has been a stalwart of the newly named Washington Commanders' offensive line. He has started all 89 games that he has played, and he is widely considered as one of the best guards in the league. The former number five overall pick will likely be looking for a massive contract after being franchise tagged by the Commanders last season.

Center: Jason Kelce, Philadelphia Eagles. Kelce, despite being 34 years old, is still one of the best centers in the league. He has been an iron man for the Eagles since they selected him 191st overall in 2011. He has started 158 of the 159 games he has played in, and he has been the one key piece in every Eagles' line since he was drafted. Teammates love him, and the energy he shows on the field is unmatched. He will most likely remain in Philadelphia, but he could easily go to another team in hopes of winning another ring.

The end of the 2021 season has come and gone with Super Bowl 56, but the action in the NFL never rests. Football fans will have their eyes open for big offseason moves with the start of free agency nearing on March 16.

Students broadcast Minot State basketball double header

Alex Koontz
Staff Writer

In Minot State basketball's final week, professional communications students were able to put their knowledge to use and broadcast the Beaver basketball's double header on Friday, Feb. 11 against Minnesota St. Cloud.

The professional communication program at Minot State is very hands on. This allows students to make podcasts, radio and tv shows, and conduct their own personal projects just for fun. Organizations on the MSU campus, like Media Ink and KMSU Radio, are possible with this type of teaching.

The broadcast on Feb. 11 was overseen by professors Neil Roberts and Lee Johnson, but the students were the ones really in charge. Any student in the professional communication department could participate. Students in public relations and journalism to students in sports production started their work a week before the St. Cloud game.

Beginning with assigning positions, getting sponsors, and writ-

ing down all home and away team information, as well as contacting possible interviewees for the day of the games, the work was full of learning opportunities.

The day of is a whole different story; half of the students were broadcasting pregame, halftime, and postgame information in what is known as the Bat Cave in the department, where hosts updated viewers and graphics were displayed providing viewers with incoming statistics from the MSU Dome team.

The students in the Dome worked with cameras on the first floor, providing close up shots, as well as cameras on the third floor providing full screen viewing and overhead close-up shots. Each team had a director in charge of telling the technical director when to switch cameras for viewing and when each camera was live.

When diving deep into this production you realize how big it actually is, and these students did it all, thanks to the amazing professional communication department here at Minot State.



Photo from Minot State University's Facebook
Every spring semester, the professional communications department live broadcasts a double header of the men's and women's basketball teams.

MSU Diversity and Inclusion Council striving to make an impact

Janie Wunderlich
Social Media Director

Something that Minot State University strives to do is make sure each student feels included and has a place. MSU Diversity and Inclusion is a council that does as much as they can to make sure this is done and that the campus is a welcoming environment for all.

This committee includes over 30 faculty, staff, and students whose mission is to promote and build a diverse and inclusive university climate by extending diversity and inclusion awareness throughout the campus community.

Pitcher on the MSU softball team, and president of the club, senior Zoya Robbins speaks very passionately about her role and why she takes part in the council.

"I'm involved in MSU Diver-

sity because it feels like a group that supports me," Robbins said. "It makes me, and others, feel heard and important."

She goes on to explain that there are a lot more people at Minot State that feel uncomfortable, and this council gives those people a chance to speak up and be heard.

"The whole purpose is to highlight the diversity on campus and in the athletic teams," she said. "Our goal is to promote inclusiveness, anti-racism, and ultimately, give a safe space for anyone on campus to come speak to us about problems concerning diversity and inclusion."

During their monthly meetings, the council discusses ideas and ways to make students feel as if they're making the campus more inclusive for others. It isn't just about one person there, but rather an entire community of

people who want to make a difference.

According to the Minot State website, when it comes to specific goals, the council does a few different things to do their part including promoting and sponsoring activities and events to support diversity, advocating for a diverse and inclusive campus community, and forwarding to the university president recommendations that enhance a diverse and inclusive campus. Students in the council help run these promotional events and generate different ideas to help make the campus better.

A couple of the more recent projects MSU Diversity and Inclusion has implemented include a circular patch given out that say United As One with three hands of different colors holding onto one another. They also sold apparel this past fall that said

Equality on them to demonstrate that each person is just as worthy as the person sitting next to them. Students were able to scan a QR code found over campus that took them directly to the page to purchase this apparel.

Things are not always easy going for the council. In fact, Robbins explains how it can be tough to try to get your point across.

"Sometimes you feel like you're doing nothing or aren't necessarily heard thoroughly. You get denied and knocked down a lot," she said. "Believing that the work you're doing, big or small, is important and it does matter."

Even though it's tough to get points across sometimes, Robbins continues to look at the positives.

"I like leading positive things," she said. "Being involved in the community and feeling like the other council members can

count on me is important to me."

Robbins will graduate this spring with a bachelor's in criminal justice, and after traveling to the Czech Republic to play softball for a few months, she'll be on the hunt to find a job in corrections.

Looking to the future, the council is brainstorming ideas such as having potential speaking panels with committee members so they can answer questions to other staff, faculty, and students. They believe this will bring more awareness to the council and help everyone else get a better understanding of what diversity and inclusion is. They also may search for volunteer opportunities to go out into the community and spread diversity awareness.

The council has big hopes and dreams and look to continue the strong foundation they've built during the years to come.



Photo by Janie Wunderlich

Sporting their MSU Beaver Equality apparel that they helped bring to Minot State, are members of the MSU Diversity and Inclusions Council. From left to right stands Zoya Robbins, also a member of the softball team; Anya Ross, a member of the golf team; Fadzai Madavo, a member of the track & field team; and Alex Koontz, a member of the volleyball team.

Stanford mourns death of Katie Meyer

Kylie Koontz
Editor

Katie Meyer was found Tuesday, March 1 in her college dorm. News of her death was released the next day, shocking the Stanford community.

Over the following days, information was released that Meyer's cause of death was self-inflicted. Her parents told NBC News that "the last couple days are like a parent's worst nightmare."

Meyer was known for

being a hard worker as well as someone who stood up for what they believe in. Meyer's parents believe that something that could have led their daughter to such a dark place is that she was being punished by the university for standing up for a fellow teammate over an incident. No additional details have been released by the university or my Meyer's parents at this time.

Being on the Presidents List, as well as a star in

women's college athletics, Meyer's parents believed that she sometimes pushed herself too hard, not giving herself room to slow down.

As news of her death spread locally and nationally, soccer teams all over the nation honored her on social media and wore her initials taped on their wrists during games. The Pac-12 Conference, National Women's Soccer League, as well as U.S. Soccer posted on Twitter in her memory.



Photo via metro.co.uk

Katie Meyer's death on March 1 was self-inflicted.



Photo via eonline.com

Meyer was a soccer star for Stanford.



Photo via eonline.com

Meyer in position during soccer.

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The Minot State University Writing Center is now open in the lower-level of the Gordon B. Olson Library. Check MinotStateU.edu/WritingCenter for open times or to make an appointment.



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