

ALONE AND AFRAID



MADDIE BEHRENS • The Reporter

Val Weber, who is a freshman at MSU, is a longtime wheelchair user who experienced complications with Campus Security involving evacuation.

Student claims protocols not followed during fire alarm

By ASHLEY OPINA
Staff Writer

While the residents of Pre-ska Residence Community evacuated the building on Aug. 30, 2021 at the sound of a fire alarm, one student remained behind.

But not by choice. Minnesota State University, Mankato freshman Val Weber, a long time wheelchair user due to a rare bone disorder, found herself alone on the second floor of the building she considers home — despite her multiple unanswered calls for help.

As alarms blared, Weber said she felt a rush of fear and sadness overtake her. She watched the last two residents of her building make their way

down a flight of stairs to meet the others outside.

Knowing she couldn't do the same with her wheelchair, and that elevators are unsafe to use during a fire, Weber did the only thing she knew she could do: she followed protocol.

The protocol states that, in case of a fire, individuals who use wheelchairs should remain in their rooms and call Campus Security for assistance. This protocol was emailed to Weber by Assistant Director

of Accessibility Resources Beth Clausen before Weber arrived on campus.

But Weber said Campus Security, which says it stands by its handling of the situation, ultimately failed Weber, and she was left alone during what could have been a life-threatening situation.

"I called security and they told me they would send people," she said. "I told them my name, my location, and that **WHEELCHAIR on page 3**

New isolation guidelines announced

By JULIA BARTON
News Director

As of January 2022, Minnesota State University, Mankato's new COVID-19 isolation guidelines now suggest only having to quarantine for five days after signs of a student's first symptom.

MSU's Instagram page (msuhealthymaverick) posted a week ago that if all three conditions ring true then students may resume normal, but slightly limited, activities on day six.

The three conditions state: 1. If it has been five days since a student first felt sick (day zero being the day symptoms started), 2. The student has no fever or their temperature is below 100.4 for at least 24 hours without the use of medication, 3. The student feels better and their symptoms, such as a cough or shortness of breath, have decreased then they may resume most activities on day six.

The post then continues to **COVID on page 5**

Student Gov. preps for the budget season

By MAX MAYLEBEN
Editor in Chief

Yesterday, the Minnesota State University, Mankato Student Government met with a vacancy election and a presentation to prepare the senators for the upcoming budget season.

John Bulcock and Emi Menk, advisors for the government, presented to the senate to lay the groundwork of information that senators will need to know as budget season approaches.

Currently, organizations that are funded by the Student Activities Fee are presenting to the Student Allocations Committee to make their case as to what funding they should be allocated in from the budget next year.

After these presentations, the Student Allocations Committee works to find a recommendation of how much money should be allocated to each organization. After this recommendation is given, the **STU GOV on page 5**

MSU's Community Fair seeks volunteers

By JULIA BARTON
News Director

A variety of booths lined Mav Ave Tuesday as the Spring 2022 Community Fair at Mankato State University, Mankato was seeking to recruit those who are interested in volunteering in the Mankato area.

One of those booths included the YMCA program, where their goal was to offer opportunities to mentor kids in the

Brother/Sister Program.

"We are trying to recruit mentors for the youth and help the youth in our community who need that additional support," Chriss Page, YMCA's Brother and Sister coordinator said.

The YMCA Brother/Sister Program was created to form a bridge to connect adult mentors to the youth to enhance their self confidence and communication skills.

"I found the Y when I was in



MAX MAYLEBEN • The Reporter

college while I was studying elementary education and wanting to work with kids. I like the non traditional teaching that

we do and our summer camp programs," Dustin Slaughter, youth activities director said.

COMMUNITY on page 5

MSU Housing Fair opens new doors to students



JENNA PETERSON • The Reporter

The Housing Fair at MSU allows students to explore a variety of different apartments and living spaces in the Mankato area.

By JENNA PETERSON
Staff Writer

Minnesota State University, Mankato students were given the opportunity yesterday to explore housing options available to them through the January 2022 Housing Fair. Here, students were able to talk with various property managers about what their housing has to offer and learn which options are best for them.

Sophomore Jared Anderson has been living in the dorms, but is open to other housing options available.

“I live in the dorms right now. I don’t know if living off campus is the best fit for me right now, the possibility is open,” Anderson stated.

While looking at the possibility of living off campus,

Anderson is looking for key aspects that will help determine the decision.

“I look for location, accessibility, and overall, just the comfortability of the place. I think about how accessible the place is for me, how much I want to live there, and how safe the place is,” Anderson commented. “I’ve looked at Highland Hills mostly, and then also The Lofts. Those are both close to campus, so I’m easily able to walk from there to campus.”

Similarly, freshman Lexi Emery is looking at what off-campus housing options are available. When it comes to house hunting, Emery has some requirements in mind.

“I definitely want a room with my own space and my own privacy, that’s really im-

HOUSING on page 5▶

Fed to raise rates to cool inflation

By CHRIS RUGABER
Associated Press

The Federal Reserve signaled Wednesday that it plans to begin raising its benchmark interest rate as soon as March, a key step in reversing its pandemic-era low-rate policies that have fueled hiring and growth but also escalated inflation.

With high inflation squeezing consumers and businesses and unemployment falling steadily, the Fed also said it would phase out its monthly bond purchases, which have been intended to lower longer-term rates, in March.

In a statement issued after its latest policy meeting, the Fed it “expects it will soon be appropriate” to raise rates.

Though the statement didn’t specifically mention March, half the Fed’s policymakers have expressed a willingness to raise rates by then, including some members who have long favored low rates to support hiring.

Speaking at a news conference, Chair Jerome Powell expressed his view, as he has before, that controlling inflation is vital to a strong job market.

“We believe that the best thing we can do to support continued labor market gains,” Powell said, “is to promote a long expansion, and that will require price stability.”

The Fed on Wednesday also set out principles it will follow once it decides to reduce its nearly \$9 trillion in bond holdings, a sum that has more than doubled since the pandemic struck nearly two years ago.

Some analysts expect the



TED SHAFFREY • Associated Press

Traders work on the New York Stock Exchange floor in New York, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022. Stocks are closing lower on Wall Street Tuesday after another volatile day of trading.

Fed to begin doing so as soon as July, a move that would contribute to tighter credit.

The central bank’s actions are sure to make a wide range of borrowing — from mortgages and credit cards to auto loans and corporate credit — costlier over time.

Those higher borrowing costs, in turn, could slow consumer spending and hiring. The gravest risk is that the Fed’s abandonment of low rates could trigger another recession.

The central bank’s latest policy statement follows dizzying gyrations in the stock market as investors have been gripped by fear and uncertainty over just how fast and far the Fed will go to reverse its low-rate policies, which have nurtured the economy and the markets for years.

High inflation has also become a serious political threat to President Joe Biden and

congressional Democrats, with Republicans pointing to rising prices as one of their principal lines of attack as they look toward the November elections.

Yet Biden said last week that it was “appropriate” for Powell to adjust the Fed’s policies.

And congressional Republicans have endorsed Powell’s plans to raise rates, providing the Fed with rare bipartisan support for tightening credit.

The Fed’s bond purchases have been intended to reduce longer-term interest rates to spur borrowing and spending. Many investors also saw the bond buying as helping fuel stock market gains by pouring cash into the financial system.

Earlier this month, minutes of the Fed’s December meeting revealed that the central bank was considering reducing its bond holdings by not replacing bonds that mature.

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◀WHEELCHAIR *from page 1*
I was trapped on the second floor.”

Nearly 20 minutes went by and Weber was still stuck in the building alone. She called security again.

“They told me it wasn’t a real fire and that it was being taken care of, but I was still trapped in the building,” she said. “I told them, ‘Hey, you told me you’d send people, I’m trapped on the second floor. I use a wheelchair and I can’t use the elevators,’ and they said ‘We didn’t hear anything about a wheelchair.’ But trapped is still trapped. It shouldn’t matter whether you’re in a wheelchair or not.”

Within the first week of the event occurring, Weber took it upon herself to call Campus Security and explain the situation, letting them know she considered their lack of response to her plight unacceptable.

“They told me I didn’t say enough, like my name and stating that it’s in my protocol,” she said. “I did all of those things. So I asked them if the call was recorded and he said that it was, so I told him to listen to it because I did say enough.”

Despite her efforts, Weber realized she wasn’t getting anywhere by talking to one person from Campus Security on the phone. She decided to reach out to head of Campus Security Sandi Schnorenberg to see if she would be more understanding about the situation that occurred. “I told her what happened and that I would like to meet with her about it,” Weber said. “She said that she would create a poll with times that she was available. The times were all in September and October and I voted for a few that worked for me but I didn’t hear back about any.”

When no word about the

meeting came her way, Weber reached out to Schnorenberg again.

“She replied within the next week and told me she would try again,” she said. “We finally got a meeting scheduled a week after that. But the process took so long, about two months.”

Pushing her frustration aside, Weber showed up to the meeting hopeful. With MSU Social Work Professor Nancy Fitzsimons by her side, she said she expected to leave with a resolution to the problem. Instead, Weber found herself leaving defeated and disappointed.

“Sandi said she was really glad I could get my emotions out, but that wasn’t why I came,” she said. “I felt gaslighted the entire time.”

Weber said she went to the meeting hoping for some form of assurance or resolution, but instead was greeted by a group of individuals who worked for Campus Security and the University who she says made her feel as though she was at fault.

“They told me I couldn’t rely on 911 because they would take longer than security would to get there and that they would be receiving a lot of calls from other people about a fire,” Weber said. She was also told she couldn’t rely on Campus Security because they could take awhile to get to her.

Confused about what she should do in that situation, Weber asked them for guidance. She said an individual advised her to rely on others in the building, such as fellow students and faculty, to evacuate her.

“I thought that was ridiculous,” she said. “Those people are untrained and don’t know anything about me or my wheelchair. They’re also probably scared and panicking themselves, and I don’t want to have

to rely on them when they’re in that state.”

Weber says she told them she refused to have no one to rely on except for the strangers around her. She says Schnorenberg’s response was “It gets to a point where we have to look out for ourselves.” According to Schnorenberg, what she meant by that statement is that, in a



MADDIE BEHRENS • The Reporter

time of an emergency when Plan A fails, such as seeking help elsewhere, then Plan B must be executed, such as helping yourself.

Weber began using a wheelchair 15 years ago. She suffers from a rare bone disorder called osteogenesis imperfecta (OI). The disease causes her bones to break easily, and she has had up to 20 bone fractures throughout her life.

“At this point in my life, I can stand and walk very short distances,” she said. “But my muscles aren’t used to walking or using my legs so I get tired very easily and need a wheelchair.”

Although her disease is rare and the use of a wheelchair may not be needed by most, it’s not unheard of. As stated by the US National Library of Medicine National Institute of Health, approximately 2.7 million people

in the United States are wheelchair users, 27,000 of whom are in Minnesota, so the chances of them attending the University as a student, faculty, or visiting as a guest are high. Weber believes that their access and aid on campus should be as well.

“At the end of it all, nothing was solved,” she said. “They told me to keep the same pro-

cedure didn’t use to have any kind of plan for students and this is really the first time, within the last year, that we’re hearing from students that may need more help when things happen.”

Due to how relatively new individual procedures and plans are on campus, it’s still undergoing some changes in order to make it better.

“Like any program that starts something new, things need to evolve, improve, and be talked about and exercised,” Schnorenberg said. “That’s what preparedness is all about; putting together a plan, exercising that plan, and whatever doesn’t work gets changed and fixed as ability, training, and knowledge changes as well.”

Schnorenberg also explains that she cannot simply ask an individual if they have a disability and need assistance. Individuals must advocate for what they need, which is where the helping yourself motto comes in.

“We [as a University] have to rely on them to come forward and say ‘I’m a disabled person and I want you to know that I need help’ because once they do that, then Accessibility Resources can work with them to develop a plan,” she said. “They also need to give permission to share that information so we can use it.”

Schnorenberg said the University will continue to make and tweak emergency procedures and plans as needed and that she and her team are always available to students who need them.

“I have every confidence in my staff that, even if we don’t have a plan, we’re going to figure something out,” she said. “We’re going to do something to help people in some way shape or form. It may not be pretty, but we’ll get there.”

“We [as a University] are making progress,” she said. “We

protocol I was taught because there would be communication issues if a new one was created. But the one in place doesn’t even work.”

Regardless, Weber said she would continue to advocate for herself and others like her in hopes of making the hard situations a little easier.

“I wish people in authoritative places and those who protect and serve would just listen and help,” she said. “I pay a lot of tuition for things I can’t even use on campus, and that’s not OK.”

Although University officials cannot comment on the specific incident or speak about individuals such as Weber due to privacy laws in place, Schnorenberg did offer some clarity on emergency procedures and plans.

“We [as a University] are making progress,” she said. “We

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

THE MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO
REPORTER

SPRING 2022

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New COVID guidelines raise concern

EDITORIAL

With COVID variants multiplying every few seconds, so are the new guidelines that humans need to follow.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center of Disease Control and Prevention has been on top of what humans need to do in order to keep the general public safe.

Two years ago, the world went on lockdown, forcing everyone to stay inside their homes to binge Netflix all day and to only venture out when retrieving essential supplies or medical services. The world held their breath, anticipating how they could catch the virus and if they would have enough toilet paper to last them for a few months, minimizing their human contact.

The more information we learned, the more we started to venture out while wearing face masks and toting hand sanitizer.

After the first semester of maintaining control on the COVID numbers surrounding campus through the use of masks in all indoor facilities, holding vaccine clinics and distanced classes, the start of the new semester came with updated campus guidelines. According to a Instagram spread on msuhealthymaverick, if students have symptoms and test positive, they only have to stay away from others and monitor their symptoms for five days.

When their quarantine



AP Photo

period is up, students are encouraged to avoid travel, stay away from high-risk people and to avoid going places, like restaurants, where they will have to take off their mask as they should wear them as often as possible, even at their own homes.

Quarantining in college is difficult, no matter how healthy you feel. Whether in a dorm room or an apartment, it can be hard to isolate from others. For those who live in dorms and are sent to the isolation rooms,

it can become overwhelming and lonely to those who are not able to leave for the duration of their quarantine.

However, it is necessary to do so in order to prevent spreading the virus to others.

Not being able to attend class, whether online or in-person, is a common concern for students. If students contract the virus, they have to immediately send out emails to their professors regarding their status and when they will be able to return.

We as students should not

have to worry every time we enter a classroom, a store or a facility that we might contract the COVID virus. For those who are asymptomatic, they could be carrying it and no one would know until they started feeling under the weather. By then, they have to run out and find the nearest clinic not only before they feel worse, but before they spread it to others.

With the risks running higher, the protocols and guidelines should not be lessened; if anything, they should be greatly enforced.

PULSE

“What do you think about the new COVID-19 guidelines?”

Compiled by Maddie Behrens



**RYAN SCHMIDT,
FRESHMAN**

“Appropriate because the new variant is not as deadly and doesn't last as long.”



**AAMER SHAIBU,
FRESHMAN**

“The new variant is not as severe, and it makes sense to have a shorter quarantine.”



**LOGAN JENSEN,
FRESHMAN**

“I agree with it because then you don't have to be stuck in your room for so long.”



**ELLIOT HUH,
FRESHMAN**

“If you quarantine responsibly it should work.”



**EMILY LOGUE,
FRESHMAN**

“I find it strange that they just randomly changed it to five days instead of ten.”

COMMUNITY FAIR SEEKS VOLUNTEERS



MAXWELL MAYLEBEN • The Reporter

◀**COMMUNITY** from page 1

Expressing that volunteers are much needed, Page said there are roughly 60 boys on the waiting list. The wait time is about three years for kids to get paired up.

Another organization that participated in the community fair was the YWCA. Their main goal is to empower women and promote peace.

Lydia Jagodzinski, youth programming coordinator “I think our 5K is a really memorable event we host and being

able to see the kids flourish.”

The YWCA also offers volunteer hours students are able to participate in during the week each semester.

“Everything they stand for I really believe in, especially with empowering young girls. I feel like growing up with social media especially when you’re younger you can feel like you don’t fit in so these activities help boost their confidence,” Maddy Olson, senior at MSU who is majoring in Child Development shared.

Continuing with the theme of uplifting the youth, Mankato Area Public Schools were also searching for students who may be able to lend a hand in service learning activities.

“We have a lot of volunteer opportunities for people to participate in. We have K-12 and adult programs which include weekly classroom math and reading tutors and also some for adults,” said Alisa Boswell, Mankato Area Public School volunteer placement specialist.

◀**COVID** from page 1

voice that if a student still feels sick after the five days they should continue to stay home until all three conditions are true.

The post also states that a negative COVID test is not needed to return to work or school. Although, if a student is asymptomatic and tests positive for COVID they should

still stay home and away from others for five days (day zero is the day they got tested).

If a student later develops symptoms after their positive test comes back, then day zero is the day their symptoms started.

After the five days are up, MSU recommends the student continue to take initiatives for another five days to contain

the spread such as wearing a well-fitted mask even at home, staying away from others who are at risk or may get severely sick from the COVID-19 virus, and avoiding unnecessary traveling.

For any questions regarding COVID-19, contact the Student Health Services COVID Healthcare Hotline at 507-389-5591.

◀**STU GOV** from page 1

Student Government deliberates and votes on the final budget.

That budget is then sent to higher administration for approval, and finally approved by the President of the University.

The other budgets that are voted on by the Student Government include the Intercollegiate Athletics Fee, the Student Health Services fee, and the Student Union Fee. These budgets are developed and proposed by the Athletics Department.

Newly elected Senator Darlington presented to the senate, discussing conversations that he had with students about large concerns. These concerns include international student’s confusion on obtain-

ing a social security number as well as health insurance issues amongst international students.

Student Government veteran Senator Haq also presented, discussing the success and progress of her project regarding providing free feminine hygiene products in the bathrooms on campus.

“We have been able to work it through to the University to have free feminine hygiene products” said Haq.

There was also a vacancy election held at the meeting. Anabelle Einhorn, a remote student who recently transferred to MSU, ran for the College of Allied Health and Nursing senate seat. She was sworn into the senate via Zoom.

Bulcock will be going on

sabbatical for the remainder of the semester starting on Sunday. During his sabbatical, Bulcock plans to travel throughout Europe, starting in London.

“I’m excited about the opportunity to recharge and develop professionally,” said Bulcock, “I’ll miss the people I get to see on a day to day basis, but the opportunity to do this is something I look forward to.”

Emi Menk, who currently works as the assistant director for RSOs, leadership, and nontraditional students, will be taking his place for the rest of the semester as the faculty advisor.

“I have big shoes to fill,” said Menk about taking Bulcock’s place. “It’s a new experience, but I am excited.”

◀**HOUSING** from page 2

portant since I’m going to be paying for it. I want to get along with my roommates, those are the two most important things I’m looking for right now,” Emery stated.

Emery has found that looking for a new place to live isn’t as easy as it seems.

“I know I’m looking at Highland Hills, and honestly just everywhere. I want to see my options before I stick to one place. I’ve been looking off and on, but now I’m like ‘Okay Lexi, you have to start doing something.’ It’s getting kind of close to the end of the year, and that’s kind of stressful since it’s on my mind,” Emery explained.

Highland Hills was one of the properties tabling at the fair and leasing agents Stephaine Finger and Ben Evansteiner had some advice for students who are searching for a place to live off campus.

Finger discussed how early students should begin looking for a place to live.

“We think students should start looking right away. We do open our applications starting in November, so that’s a great time to start looking. As we get closer to the spring is when some of our unit cells will start to fill up. If you’re applying more in April and May, that’s when you begin running into the ‘Is the apartment style I want still available’ situation,” Finger explained.

Both agents gave some advice to students who are beginning their housing search and talked about the different things students should look for in a future home.

“I would say proximity to campus is the best thing to look for, especially in cold weather like this you don’t want to be outside walking for very long,”

Evansteiner stated.

Finger added to this, “Students should make sure they’re doing their research to make sure they’re getting everything they want out of an apartment. They should also talk to their parents who might have a little more experience on how leases work.”

Junior Tyler Pickel and senior Anna Thevnot have experience when it comes to searching for housing options and gave some words of advice to those who are looking to live off campus for the first time.

Pickel’s main focus circled around the location of the property. “You should decide how far you’re willing to drive. The farther you go the less campus housing you get and the cheaper you get,” he explained. “If you’re willing to drive 20 minutes away, you can get a much nicer place for cheaper and, a lot of times, landlords are nicer because they treat you like people, not just like a college student.”

Bouncing off of this, Thevnot expressed the importance of living with people that reflect the same living style.

“If you stay up late studying, sign with people who also stay up late studying. If you go to bed early, sign with people who go to bed early. That way you don’t run into problems later in the year,” Thevnot stated.

As someone who has lived at various property places in Mankato, Thevnot strongly urges students to keep their housing options open.

“Make sure you’re looking at tours and doing research. Shop around, don’t just sign for the first place you look at. There are definitely places around Mankato that are better to live at than others.”

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SPORTS

Arizona State up next for Mavs

By KOLE BUELOW
Sports Editor

As the Hockey Day Minnesota festivities come to an end, it is now time for the Minnesota State men's hockey team to look forward to their upcoming series against Arizona State. The Mavericks will remain home for this series, but will return back to the Mayo Clinic Health System Events Center after their one game stint at Blakeslee Stadium on campus.

The Mavs most recently reclaimed their No. 1 spot in NCAA Division I hockey due mostly in part to former No. 1 Quinnipiac's overtime loss to No. 8 Cornell and MSU's sweep of St. Thomas this past weekend. The Mavericks and Sun Devils do not play each other very often as out of conference opponents, but they have competed three times against each other in recent years.

The Mavs have won the past two meetings between the two teams, where they claimed 5-0 and 4-1 wins over the Sun Devils in the 2019-20 season. Their first matchup went in favor of ASU however, where the two teams skated into a 2-2 overtime tie before the Sun Devils won the match in a shootout.

Arizona State made the jump to Division I a short seven years ago and has been an independent organization ever since meaning they are not claimed by a conference. Minnesota State is doing very well in their conference this season, the CCHA,

where they sit in first place with a 17-3-0 record in CCHA play.

The No. 1 Mavericks come into the series 23-5-0 overall in comparison to unranked Arizona State's 15-12-0 record. With their recently claimed No. 1 spot back, MSU has now been rated first for the eighth time this year.

In addition, the team has been rated in the top five of all 16 polls released by the USCHO and USA Hockey Magazine this year. As we come closer to the NCAA tournament, it is also important to note where the team stands in the USCHO PairWise Rankings.

This system of rankings is used to seed teams in the NCAA tournament and is truly the only one that matters when it comes to the final week in the season. The PairWise Rankings currently have MSU ranked at No. 2 behind the Michigan Wolverines, with Denver, Western Michigan, and St. Cloud rounding out the top five.

Out-of-conference foe Arizona State currently sits at No. 21, and will need to make a push into the top 16 in order to have any chance at making the NCAA tournament. Since the Sun Devils are also an independent team, they will not be able to earn an NCAA bid by winning their conference, making it that much more important the team cracks into the top 16 soon and stays there for the rest of the year.

Senior netminder Dryden McKay has earned his spot as one of the best in college hock-



MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter

Mavericks' senior netminder Dryden McKay (29) has a .930 save percentage on the year as well as a 1.24 goals against average. McKay is the NCAA Division I shutouts leader and is closing in on 100 career wins.

ey once again this season thanks to his .930 save percentage and 1.24 goals against average. The NCAA career shutouts leader is 23-4-0 on the season and is closing in on his 100 career win where he currently sits at 98.

Three-time CCHA Forward of the Week Nathan Smith leads Division I hockey in scoring with 15 goals and 23 assists for a monstrous 38 point total heading into the series against Arizona State. The junior for-

ward's 15 goals on the season is tied for first with junior forward Ryan Sandelin who sits comfortably at 23 points on the year.

Senior winger Julian Napravnik has been having a great year for the Mavericks as well, where he recently moved into a tie for third in scoring in NCAA Division I hockey at 32 points. Junior center Brendan Furry has also most recently cracked the top ten with 30.

Despite being far from

ranked No. 1 in college hockey, the Sun Devils have some offensive power of their own behind graduate forward Colin Theisen and sophomore forward Matthew Kopperud. The two Arizona State forwards come into the series with 32 and 31 points of their own, which both crack the top ten.

The Sun Devils impressively fare well against top 20 ranked teams, with wins over No. 11

ON TOP on page 9▶

Women's hockey looks to stay rolling against No. 5 UMD

By KOLE BUELOW • Sports Editor

Despite losing to No. 4 Minnesota on Jan. 14, the Minnesota State women's hockey team has been on a tear ever since. The Mavericks have only played in three games since their blowout loss to the Gophers on Jan. 14, but have seemed to find their stride as they have won three straight.

Jan. 15 marked a historic date for the women's program, where they snapped a 53-game losing streak to the Gophers in overtime 5-4. The team has been riding the high of the win ever since, most recently sweeping a new WCHA foe in St. Thomas.

The Mavericks took game one of the series in St. Paul 4-1, and came back home to Mankato for their Hockey Day Minnesota game at Blakeslee Stadium. The Mavs defeated UST once again on the outdoor rink, capturing a 3-1 victory before heading into their away series against Minnesota Duluth this weekend.

With their final win over the Tommies, MSU moved back above .500 for the first time since Nov. of 2021 with an overall record of 12-11-1.

The Bulldogs come into the series ranked No. 5 in the most recent USCHO Women's Poll behind a 14-8-0 record. The Mavs have not received a vote in the USCHO Poll since the new year, but with a win or sweep over the Bulldogs this weekend they could prove themselves worthy of consideration.

The two teams played earlier in the season as a part of Duluth's first two games of the year, where the opponents split the series in Mankato. The Bulldogs won the first game of the series handedly 7-0, but the Mavs turned it around in game two to split the series with a 4-2 victory.

The Mavericks and Bulldogs sit right next to each other in the WCHA standings, with Duluth at No. 4 and Minnesota State at No. 5. The Bulldogs have a seven point lead over the

Mavericks, but that could be erased to one point with two regulation wins by the Mavs this weekend.

If Duluth pulls off the sweep, they would come closer to the No. 3 spot which is currently held by Wisconsin.

The most recent WCHA Defenseman of the Week Charlotte Akervik has been great for the Mavericks all season. The junior defenseman is having one of her best seasons this year and currently sits third for Mavericks' scoring with 21 points on seven goals and 14 assists.

Junior forward Kelsey King is also having a great year and is sitting second in scoring for MSU with 26 points. King has a team-high 13 goals to go along with her 13 assists. King has become a prominent scoring threat within the WCHA and will look to add onto her total this weekend.

The current MSU scoring leader is senior center Brittny Fleming, who



MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter

Charlotte Akervik (8) received WCHA honors vs UST.

HOCKEY on page 9▶

Women's hoops nears 15 wins on the season

By KOLE BUELOW
Sports Editor

After a weekend road trip to N.D. to take on Minot State and the University of Mary this past weekend, the Minnesota State women's basketball team now returns back to the Taylor Center to face MSU Moorhead and Northern State. The Mavericks finished off the weekend of Jan. 22 coming home with a 71-81 loss to Minot State and a 74-60 win over UMary.

The Beavers came in as home underdogs to the Mavericks, but thanks to a 30-point performance from junior forward Amber Stevahn, Minot State was able to come out on top. Both teams did not shoot well from the field, each shooting under 40 percent from the field and under 30 percent from the three-point line.

Mavs' leading scorer Joey Batt went 0-7 from the field against the Beavers, while senior guard Maddy Olson and freshman guard Destinee Bursch buried 18 points each. It was not enough however, as Minot State handed MSU their fourth loss of the season.

The next day the Mavericks took on UMary in Bismarck, N.D. at the McDowell Activity Center.

The Mavs fared much better in this one, capturing win No.



MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter

Senior forward Maddy Olson (10) scored 32 total points this past weekend against Minot State and UMary.

13 on the season behind Olson's 15 points.

It was a team effort for the Mavs in this one, where eight scorers each made a significant mark from the field. MSU did great from the free throw line, shooting 81.8 percent while also getting their field goal percentage above 40 percent.

For UMary, senior forward Lexie Schneider's team-leading 13 points was not enough to get the job done as the Marauders fell to 10-12 overall on the season with the loss.

Minnesota State now heads into this weekend with an overall record of 13-4 and an NSIC record of 9-4. With the weekend

split of games, the Mavericks sit third in the NSIC standings, shortly behind Minnesota Duluth and St. Cloud State.

The Mavs now get matchups with MSU Moorhead and Northern State this weekend who both sit middle of the pack in the NSIC with conference records of 5-5 and 7-6 respec-

tively. Based on overall record, Northern State imposes more of a threat to the NSIC's No. 3 Mavericks.

The MSUM Dragons are up first this weekend, who are 6-8 overall on the season. The Dragons have an impressive upset over No. 20 St. Cloud State but have struggled to stay above .500.

Moorhead is led by junior center Peyton Boom, who leads the team in scoring at 16.1 points while also grabbing 6.6 rebounds per game.

Northern State is 10-8 overall on the season with one win over Sioux Falls and a four-point loss to ranked Minnesota Duluth. The Wolves leading scorer is sophomore forward Kalie Olverson who averages 13.9 points per game.

Despite having a rough weekend a few days ago, Batt remains the Mavericks leading scorer while averaging 16.2 points per game as well as 3.5 rebounds. A few points behind her is freshman Bursch, who is a real scoring threat from off the bench. The backup guard averages 11.4 points per game.

With two wins this weekend the Mavericks can come closer to St. Cloud State and Minnesota Duluth in the NSIC standings while also giving themselves the chance at reaching 15 wins before the end of January.

◀ON TOP from page 8

Northeastern, a sweep of No. 9 Cornell, a sweep of No. 18 Clarkson, and a win over No. 20 Bemidji State. The No. 1 Mavericks now become their most difficult test to date.

Mike Hastings expressed his concern in a press conference over ASU's reputation saying, "We need to be on our A game."

Both teams come into the series riding a three-game win streak, where the Mavericks most recently swept St. Thomas, and the Sun Devils swept the RIT Tigers.

◀HOCKEY from page 8

was the first Maverick to reach the 30-point mark this season behind her 11 goals and team-leading 19 assists.

The Bulldogs come into the series with one of the best lines in Division I women's hockey, which is led by senior forward Gabbie Hughes. Hughes has a monstrous 40 points on the year through 22 games played, which tallies out into 14 goals and 26 assists.

Fifth-year seniors Elizabeth Giguere and Anna Klein come in second and third in Bulldogs' scoring, with 37 and 33 points respectively. Klein presents herself as the scoring threat of the team with a team-leading 16 goals, while Giguere has collected 26 assists.

Mavericks return home to break losing skid

By KOLE BUELOW
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State men's basketball team traveled to N.D. this past weekend to take on Minot State and UMary with the hopes of returning home on a four-game win streak. The Mavericks came home empty handed however, losing both games.

The Mavs first traveled to Minot State's home court where the Beavers blew out MSU 69-97. Minnesota State's top scorer and sophomore guard Quincy Anderson struggled to sink baskets, going 3-10 from the field.

Freshman Tyrell Stuttley stepped up for the team coming off the bench, but his 18 points and four rebounds were not able to help the Mavs keep up with the Beavers. Minot State could barely miss, shooting 60.3 percent from the field while having five double-digit scorers.

Senior guard Max Cody led the way for the Beavers with 18 points but teammates Camron Dunfee and Melvin Newbern followed closely behind with

17 and 15 points of their own.

Minnesota State then got a swing at the UMary Marauders who handed MSU their second loss of the weekend 60-65. The Mavs switched up their starting lineup for the game, having common starters like Anderson, and juniors Kelly Kramer and Devonte Thedford come off the bench.

Sophomore Shawn Hopkins took advantage of the opportunity, turning 31 minutes into 17 points and nine rebounds for MSU. Freshman Harrison Braudis also did well, scoring 13 points in 29 minutes.

MSU as a whole did not shoot well, only hitting 36 percent of their shots from the field. The Marauders took advantage of that while shooting 44 percent to upset the Mavs.

Sophomore guard Matthew Johnson led UMary in scoring from off the bench, totaling 14 points and six rebounds in 31 minutes of action.

With the losses, the Mavericks fall to 10-6 overall and 4-6 in the NSIC with two home games against MSU Moorhead and Northern State coming up this weekend. The Mavs



MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter

Shawn Hopkins (15) took advantage of his first start this season scoring 17 points. The Mavericks now look to the weekend in hopes of snapping their losing streak against either MSU Moorhead or Northern State.

are now in the bottom half of the NSIC standings but have a chance to jump Moorhead with two wins this weekend.

Up first are the Dragons, who are 10-9 overall and 5-5 in conference play. MSUM is supported by a balanced scoring attack with three scorers averaging double-digit numbers.

The Mavs then move onto the Northern State Wolves who are 13-9 overall with a confer-

ence record of 7-7. The Wolves most recently had their three-game win streak snapped by Winona State, but during the run they took down top three NSIC opponent Upper Iowa. NSU relies on yet another balanced offensive attack, with four players averaging double-digit point numbers. Junior guard Sam Masten leads that group, averaging 15.7 points and 5.2 rebounds per game.



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VARIETY

Curtains rise on “Wounded Healers”

By EMMA JOHNSON
Variety Editor

In the first theatre performance of the new semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato, “Wounded Healers” intertwines Black history and culture through captivating storytelling.

“Wounded Healers” focuses on four griots, the African word for storyteller, as they deliver a historical chronology on racialized trauma and toxicity from systemic racism and the pathways to healing bred from creative expression. The play is split into five segments of historical importance, detailing key moments in Black History.

MSU’s Interim Associate VP for Faculty Affairs and Equity Initiatives, Dr. Timothy Berry, not only wrote the show, but he directed the show as well as performs as the musician on stage. His inspiration for the production was based on personal experiences along with research on Black history.

“What inspired me was looking back at all the great examples of people doing these expressive things that helped them process. Blues music came out of trauma that [African Americans] didn’t sit on; they used it to come through it,” shared Berry. “It’s not about holding onto the trauma as you might think. It’s about getting to the healing that’s more important.”



EMMA JOHNSON • The Reporter

The cast of “Wounded Healers” hold up protest signs to demonstrate some of the struggles that African Americans have gone through throughout history. The show includes both Black culture and history through creative outlets.

The storytellers deliver a poetic powerhouse of pain through biting dialogue. Lines such as “white fear produces black death” detail the trauma that African Americans have been through. Junior Joaquin Warren describes his position of a storyteller as someone who explains the history and trauma, but also the truths.

“We come in everyday and we’re living through, sharing and explaining history while teaching these truths about people who have suffered brutal things,” said Warren. “To me, my character is everything [African Americans] have gone through and everything I’ve gone through.”

Having representation in

the arts was one of the reasons that sophomore Lyreshia Ghostlon-Green wanted to join the cast.

“When I first saw [the show] in the program last spring, I immediately wanted to do it. I am for my people and I thought ‘what a better way to be a part of something that actually means

HEAL on page 11 ▶

How to brave the Minnesota cold this winter

By LILLY SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

With the outside temperatures in the negatives, the last thing students want to do is walk outside in the cold and chilling wind.

Some students at Minnesota State University, Mankato are avoiding going outside as much as possible.

MSU student Jenna Nieman limits her time outside as much as possible. In order to avoid the cold, Nieman takes advantage of the buses, shuttles, and tunnel system on campus.

“I use [the tunnels] every day because I go over to Trafton,” said Nieman. “I’ll take the bus and it’ll drop me off at the CSU and I can go straight through. Honestly I just don’t go outside, besides when I walk out to the bus stop.”

Leonardo De Souza is a Crawford Community Advisor. As part of his class touring responsibilities, he points out tunnel options to the students and where they lead to.

“They have them from the

dorms. Not necessarily downstairs, but upstairs as well. They have connections,” said Souza.

Maps of the tunnel system can be found on the MSU website. Students can use this to plan their path to classes. Like Nieman, Souza often uses the tunnels.

“I think it’s very beneficial because, being someone that hates the cold weather, I think it’s important not to go outside, especially when it’s cold like it is right now,” said Souza. “I use it all the time. I love the tunnel system.”

Although the tunnels may seem like a maze at first, they’re helpful to keep students warm while walking around campus to their classes.

“You can always ask around. Like, ‘how do I get to Armstrong? How do I get to the CSU?’” Souza pointed out.

For students who need to access their cars or get around the city, the buses and shuttles are constantly being driven around the campus.

“Most students have parking here or in lot 16, but most



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Nobody wants to walk outside in the winter more than they have to. Make sure to utilize resources such as the tunnel system and coffee shops on campus to easily warm up and stay away out from the cold.

of them, as well, have parking in lots one and two, which is way over there by the baseball field. [The shuttles and buses] make it easy so you don’t have to walk there,” said Souza. “You can also go to Walmart or downtown with the shuttles they have, you can go everywhere.”

Riding the bus is free for stu-

dents with proof of their MavCard. Their routes and times can be found on the MSU website.

However, if you do have to go outside, bundle up against the cold and wind to avoid getting frostbite.

To warm up, there are always places to snag coffee and

WINTER on page 11 ▶

Rex makes a comeback with “KEEP IT UP”

By JENNA PETERSON
Staff Writer

British singer and songwriter Alex O’Connor, famously known as Rex Orange County, has finally made his musical re-appearance with his new song “KEEP IT UP”, along with the music video for the song.

With the new content being released yesterday fans, such as myself, are thrilled to see what the new Rex era will look like.

The singer’s return comes after two years of silence when his album “Pony” dropped back in October of 2019.

Following the album release, Rex was in the middle of his North America tour when it came to a sudden stop due to COVID-19.

Since then, Rex has been back and forth with his social media presence, with his eight-month Instagram absence being broken to promote the new song.

“KEEP IT UP” is a song that seems to focus on the idea of healing one’s emotions following a traumatic relationship.

This relationship could have been with a friend, a lover or even a toxic relationship with oneself.

In the first verse, there are lines such as “Every time I open my mouth, I have regrets in my mind” and “It’s making me feel so depressed” that show Rex’s emotions of feeling emotionally drained from the past relationship(s) he has endured.

Leading into the chorus, Rex says “You no longer owe the strangers”, telling listeners that they need to live their lives for themselves and that they don’t owe a perfect life to anyone.

He has also come to this realization himself that he shouldn’t let other people influence the way he lives his life.

In the chorus, Rex is encouraging himself and others that they need to “Keep it up and go on” with the paths they choose to create for themselves.

It also feels like a reassurance that if you choose to go on, it will be worth all the frustrations you have experienced.

SONG on page 11 ▶

Cardi B awarded \$1.25 million in lawsuit

By KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

A federal jury in Atlanta has awarded \$1.25 million to Cardi B in a defamation lawsuit against a celebrity news blogger who she says posted videos falsely stating the Grammy-winning rapper used cocaine, had contracted herpes and engaged in prostitution.

The jury on Monday found Latasha Kebe, known online as Tasha K, and a company she owns liable for defamation, invasion of privacy and intentional infliction of emotional distress against the rapper, whose given name is Belcalis Almanzar.

Kebe's lawyers said in an email Tuesday that they disagree with the verdict and will file an appeal.

The jury awarded Cardi B \$1 million in general damages for pain and suffering and/or reputational injury and \$250,000 in medical expenses.

Kebe, who lives in the Atlanta area, produces, hosts and publishes a YouTube channel called unWinewithTashaK.

Kebe began targeting Cardi B in early 2018, making "degrading and harassing statements" about her, the lawsuit says.

On Sept. 19, 2018 Kebe published a video of an interview she did with a woman who said she'd known Cardi B before her music career.

The video includes the "false, malicious and defamatory" statements that Cardi B was a prostitute, has herpes and had suffered outbreaks on her mouth, and used cocaine.



JORDAN STRAUSS • Associated Press

Cardi B arrives at a photo call for "Hustlers" on Aug. 25, 2019, in Beverly Hills, Calif. A federal jury in Atlanta has awarded \$1.25 million to Cardi B in a defamation lawsuit against a celebrity news blogger.

"None of the aforementioned statements about Plaintiff are true," the lawsuit says.

"Plaintiff was never a prostitute or a user of cocaine. Plaintiff has never, and does not now, have herpes, nor has she had herpes outbreaks on her mouth."

Shortly after the video was published, Cardi B's lawyer sent a cease and desist letter to Kebe demanding its immediate removal.

Instead, Kebe published another video on Sept. 21, 2018, claiming that everything said in the video two days earlier was accurate and also asserting that the rapper was cheating on her husband, the lawsuit says.

Kebe then proceeded to attack Cardi B and make false statements about her on social media for months, the lawsuit says.

The statements caused Car-

di B to "suffer embarrassment, humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional distress," the lawsuit says.

They also "caused damage to (Cardi B's) reputation and character within her profession and industry, including but not limited to among her fans and with prospective business relations."

Kebe knew the statements she published about Cardi B were false, or was aware they were likely false, when she published them, the lawsuit says.

Cardi B originally filed the lawsuit against Kebe in March 2019. The woman Kebe had interviewed in the September 2018 video was initially a defendant as well, but the claim against her was terminated on Nov. 11, 2020, according to a filing by the judge in the case.

◀SONG from page 10

Continuing throughout the song, Rex has lines in the verses that show he has struggled being in places both mentally and physically, but despite these setbacks he gives himself the confidence that he is worth being there.

Based on this song, I believe this new era Rex is entering will be far different than the ones of

the past.

This era will be one of acceptance and healing. It seems that Rex is recognizing the challenges he has faced in the past and after the mourning comes the rebuilding of his confidence and happiness.

If this is the direction the rest of the new album will go on, I'm enthusiastic to go on this healing journey with Rex.

This album comes at a time where I am also going through a healing journey, and this will be nice to have right at my side.

The new album titled "Who Cares?" will feature "KEEP IT UP" along with 10 other songs, with one of those featuring Tyler, the Creator, whom Rex has recorded songs with before.

"Who Cares?" will be released on March 11.

◀HEAL from page 10

something to me and when will I ever get a chance to do something like this here at MSU ever again?" said Ghostlon-Green. "It seemed like an opportunity that I could not miss."

With Black History Month approaching, it was important for sophomore Marquise Myles to get involved with the production as the concept of the show gives acknowledgement to the wounded incidences that have happened to African Americans.

"I think Black History is encapsulating the achievements and high points of African Americans in American history," shared Myles. "To give acknowledgement of the healing process is very important to have accurately represented in

a month that's a little watered down for mass consumption."

Unlike most shows, after each performance, attendees are encouraged to stay for the talkback discussion where the cast will take questions from the audience. Berry hopes that audiences will gain exposure about subjects they might want to learn more about.

"We want the audience to ask us questions about anything that might have come up as they witness the piece," said Berry. "My only desire for this performance is that [the audience] would be willing to engage in discussion."

The cast hopes that audiences leave with enlightened minds and changed perspectives along with a better understanding of what Black history.

"I hope everyone can be enlightened and have a new perspective on how our society came to be how it is and the history that came into the current America and that we as people have gone through more than they can even imagine," shared Warren.

"I hope they leave with [previous] biases and stereotypes erased and that they can give us a little more credit for everything we've been through," shared Ghostlon-Green.

"Wounded Healers" runs in the Andreas Theatre starting Jan. 27 through Jan. 29 and again Feb. 2 through Feb. 5. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and children under 16 and \$12 for MSU students.

Prince Andrew renews his attempt to get suit dismissed



STEVE PARSONS • Associated Press

Prince Andrew wants a jury to decide a lawsuit against him by his sexual assault accuser Virginia Giuffre. The request from his lawyers Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, was inside a formal response to the lawsuit.

By LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

Prince Andrew's lawyers asked a U.S. court again Wednesday to throw out a lawsuit accusing him of sexual abuse, citing multiple legal defenses.

Among them: The lawyers said that if any sexual activity did occur between the prince and Virginia Giuffre, it was consensual.

The court filing made clear that Andrew wasn't admitting sexual contact with Giuffre.

But it said if the case wasn't dismissed, the defense wants a trial in which it would argue that her abuse claims "are barred by the doctrine of consent."

Attorney David Boies, representing Giuffre, responded in a statement asserting Andrew "continues his approach of denying any knowledge or information concerning the claims against him, and purporting to

blame the victim of the abuse for somehow bringing it on herself."

The defense request was filed in federal court in Manhattan, where Giuffre sued Andrew in August.

The American accused the British royal of sexually abusing her when she was 17 while she traveled with financier Jeffrey Epstein.

Andrew has strenuously denied Giuffre's allegations and attempted to get the lawsuit tossed.

Earlier this month, Judge Lewis A. Kaplan rejected his attempt to win an early dismissal, allowing depositions and other evidence gathering by both parties to move forward.

Wednesday's response was filed by Los Angeles attorneys Andrew Brettler and Melissa Lerner.

They say the suit should also be dismissed on several other grounds.

◀WINTER from page 10

hot cocoa on campus. Places like Jazzman's in the Centennial Student Union and Einstein Bagels in the Taylor Center are great places to grab some warm treats.

"I like the mocha that Jazzman's has," said Souza.

Nieman opts for the other coffee location on campus, "I love the Einstein Bagels in the Taylor Center. They have good coffee there."

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