

THE MAVS HAVE LANDED



MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter

Minnesota State forward Brendan Furry forward and the Mavericks arrived in Boston for the Frozen Four Tuesday evening. The Mavs will face Minnesota today at the TD Garden.

Die hard Maverick hockey fans gear up for a wild Frozen Four tournament

By JENNA PETERSON
Copy Editor

For the second year in a row, and the second time in school history, the Minnesota State University, Mankato men's hockey team will be battling for the championship in the NCAA Frozen Four Tournament. MSU stu-

dents and organizations are planning the best ways to watch the game and show their Maverick pride. The Herd, MSU's student section, has planned a watch party in the Centennial Student Union Bullpen for hockey fans on campus. The Herd President Lauren Letnes and Vice President Jagger Cossette discussed how they wanted to

give students the opportunity to watch the big game in an accessible area.

"With our new leadership we've been focusing on recruitment and building our membership, so we really wanted to do a watch party that was pretty easy for a lot of students to access," Letnes explained. "We decided that doing that on campus was the best option for us so there was no need for transportation for most students. The Bullpen is the atmosphere that we're looking for in terms of a sports bar without the bar part of it."

Anyone is welcome to join The Herd in The Bullpen to watch tonight's game, as the group is looking to fill the area with Maverick fans.

The Herd is also preparing plans for Saturday's championship game if the Mavericks advance.

"I know the athletics department was talking about something similar to the Buffalo Wild Wings again. Obviously it's not as accessible to a lot of people, but it can hold a bigger area so that might be something we're consid-

MAVERICKS on page 3▶

Greek Life concerns highlighted at Stu Gov.

By MAXWELL MAYLEBEN
Editor in Chief

Rarely is there standing room only during Student Government meetings. But that was not the case last night.

Members of MSU's Fraternity and Sorority Life attended the meeting in numbers to express their anger about the senate's decision to cut their funding during the annual

budget meeting. Immediately following their presentation, a former member of the Greek community who left due to concerns of bias amongst her sorority spoke to the senate.

Both presentations were in reference to comments made during the March 16 budget meeting that decided funding levels for several organizations funded by the Student Activities Fee.

The comments in question referred to accusations made against Fraternity and Sorority Life about concerns on biases against Christianity, as well as questions as to the necessity of a yearly conference attended by Fraternity and Sorority Life leaders.

Both claims were made during discussion on their budget, and in turn resulted in following the **STU GOV on page 6▶**



Tim Tucheck (left) and Lauren Wojack address the senate.

MAX MAYLEBEN • The Reporter

No charges filed in the killing of Amir Locke

By STEVE KARNOWSKI
Associated Press

Minnesota prosecutors declined to file charges Wednesday against a Minneapolis police SWAT team officer who fatally shot Amir Locke while executing an early morning no-knock search warrant in a downtown apartment in February.

Locke, 22, who was Black, was staying on a couch in his cousin's apartment when authorities entered it on Feb. 2 without knocking as part of an investigation into a homicide in neighboring St. Paul.

Prosecutors said body camera video showed that Locke pointed a gun at Officer Mark Hanneman, justifying his use of deadly force. Locke's family has disputed that, arguing that the footage suggests Locke was startled awake and that he grabbed for a gun he was licensed to carry.

Locke's mother, Karen Wells, said she was disgusted by the decision. At a news conference in New York with attorney Ben Crump and civil rights leader the Rev. Al Sharpton, she vowed to keep up pressure on Minneapolis city leaders and spoke directly to Hanneman.

"This is not over. You may have been found not guilty, but in the eyes of me, being the mother who I am, you are



CHRISTIAN MONTERROSA • Associated Press

People march at a rally for Amir Locke on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, in Minneapolis. Minnesota prosecutors declined to file charges Wednesday, April 6, 2022, against a Minneapolis police SWAT team officer.

guilty," Wells said. "And I'm not going to give up. Continue to have your restless nights, because I know you do."

Locke was shot seconds after officers entered the apartment. The body camera footage shows that Locke was holding a gun before he was shot. Attorney

General Keith Ellison and Hennepin County Attorney Michael Freeman, whose offices reviewed the case, said Locke might never have been shot if not for the no-knock warrant.

But they said there was insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that

Hanneman violated the state statute governing when police can use deadly force.

"It would be unethical for us to file charges in a case in which we know that we will not be able to prevail because the law does not support the charges," Ellison said. Locke's death came

as three former Minneapolis police officers were on trial in federal court in St. Paul in George Floyd's killing.

It sparked protests and a re-examination of no-knock search warrants. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey announced an immediate moratorium on such warrants, and on Tuesday, he formalized a new policy requiring officers to knock and wait before entering a residence, with limited exceptions. Some lawmakers have been pushing for a statewide ban on no-knock warrants, except in rare circumstances.

The department issued a statement from Interim Chief Amelia Huffman saying that Hanneman returned to active duty on Feb. 28 but is no longer on a SWAT team. She did not comment directly on Hanneman's actions but said, "Officers never want to face split-second decisions that end in the loss of life."

Locke's family was angry that police initially described him as a suspect, which police later said was a mistake.

"Our investigation found no evidence that he had any role in the homicide investigation that brought the police to his door at 6:48 on Feb. 2," Ellison said. "Amir was a victim. He never should have been called a suspect."

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SAAM at MSU host conversions

By ALEXANDRA TOSTRUD
Staff Writer

April is sexual assault awareness month, and different events at Minnesota State University, Mankato, aim to encourage open conversation about the subject.

These events are being put on by the Violence Awareness & Response Program at MSU, housed in the Women's Center in the Centennial Student Union.

This year marks 21 years of the movement, but the concept itself connects back to the Civil Rights Movement, which opened the doors for topics of sexual assault, domestic abuse, and emotional health in relationships.

In more recent years, the focus has shifted from general awareness to providing resources as well as preventative matters.

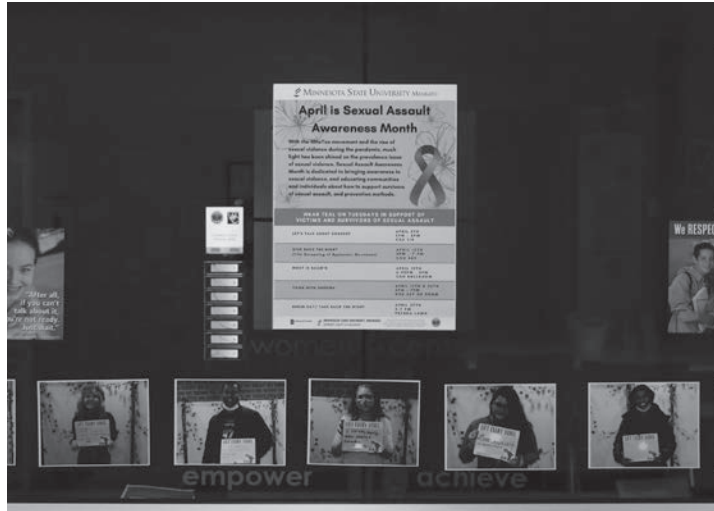
Shadow Rolan, the interim director of VARP, plans to fill the month of April with education opportunities on the subject, centered around the Teal Tuesday campaign.

People can show support for victims of sexual assault by wearing a teal ribbon on their clothes, which can be picked up at the Women's Center.

The first planned program, which discusses consent in relationships, was scheduled to take place on April 5 but needed to be rescheduled for later in the month due to a lack of attendance.

An update on the rescheduled event will be announced soon.

"It's an hour-long program where we talk about what



JULIA BARTON • The Reporter

The Violence Awareness & Response Program at MSU is located in a shared space in the Women's Center room 218. They will be hosting conversations on various topics about sexual assault throughout the month.

students believe a healthy relationship is and what they think healthy consensual sex is.

"We will go through different scenarios about power dynamics, relationship dynamics, and coercion dynamics," said Rolan.

"You can't give consent if you are under the influence or if there is a power dynamic. You always need to have consent in a relationship; just because you have been in a relationship for ten years and it's a yes to one thing, feelings change," she went on to say.

Mai Ker Thao is the graduate assistant for VARP and has a hand in many of the events for this month.

"People often overlap established relationships with consent, and feel like there's no need for consent. I had a person argue with me that he does not need to ask for consent from his girlfriend," Thao said.

"I think we need to raise awareness of what consent is, and what it is not. It's important in an environment where alcohol is involved. A lot of sexual assault issues arise when alcohol is present. Permission for one act does not mean permission for another act,"

In addition to the consent talk, the program will be hosting events such as boundary setting through yoga on April 12 and 26, a showing of Give Back the Night on April 13, and an event on the dining hall lawn to support victims of sexual assault.

"Consent should never be an awkward thing. We use it in our everyday lives so it should be just as normal when it comes to having sexual or romantic relationships," said Rolan, who hopes that students can apply knowledge from this month's events to their own life.

◀MAVERICKS from page 1
ering as well," Letnes stated.

Jagger added that The Bullpen is another likely possibility for Saturday's watch party, as it's the most accessible option for students.

Tonight's game will also be playing in the Ostrander Auditorium, following the Greek Week Lip Sync.

While many will be watching the game on the screens, some enthusiastic Maverick fans will be in Boston for the weekend, including MSU senior Sydney Randel.

"Growing up, my family and I have been a hockey family," Randel explained.

"I've always been a fan of the Mavericks, so when I started attending the school I obviously followed them and got season tickets and everything."

Randel and her family are taking advantage of the Frozen Four opportunity this year to represent their Maverick pride in Boston, as last year wasn't ideal.

"I really wanted to go [to the Frozen Four] last year, but because of COVID that wasn't an option. When given the opportunity to make it there, it's like our family trip to go do that. It was my love for the Mavericks and my love for hockey and going with my family, it's kind of the big reason for going to Boston," Randel stated.

No matter what happens in tonight's game, Randel and her family will be at the rink

"Be[ing] able to watch that level of play is cool in the first place, so regardless if they [the Mavericks] win or not we'll still stay and watch the other games and see how that plays out."

The Mavericks are set to play against the University of Minnesota Gophers tonight with the puck dropping tonight at 7:30 p.m. CT.

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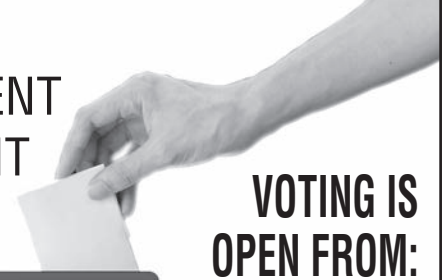
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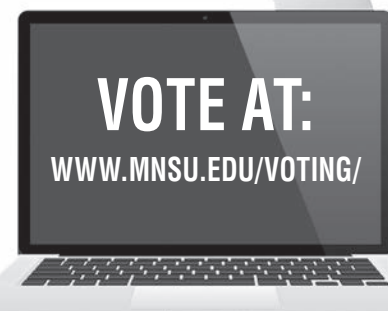
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Fed signals more aggressive steps to fight inflation

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

Federal Reserve officials are signaling that they will take an aggressive approach to fighting high inflation in the coming months — actions that will make borrowing sharply more expensive for consumers and businesses and heighten risks to the economy.

In minutes from their March policy meeting, released Wednesday, Fed officials said that half-point interest rate hikes, rather than traditional quarter-point increases, “could be appropriate” multiple times this year. At last month’s meeting, many of the Fed’s policymakers favored a half-point increase, the minutes said, but held off then because of the uncertainties created by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Instead, the Fed raised its key short-term rate by a quarter-point and signaled that it planned to continue raising rates well into next year. The minutes said the Fed is also moving toward rapidly shrinking its huge \$9 trillion stockpile of bonds in the coming months, a move that would contribute to higher borrowing costs. The policymakers said they would likely cut those holdings by about \$95 billion a month — nearly double the pace they implemented five years ago, when they last shrank their balance sheet.

The plan to quickly draw down their bond holdings marks the latest move by Fed officials to accelerate their inflation-fighting efforts. Prices are surging at the fastest pace

in four decades, and officials have expressed increasing concern about inflation.

The Fed’s plans “reflect their great discomfort with the rapid pace of inflation,” said Kathy Bostjancic, chief U.S. financial economist at Oxford Economics. The Fed is “increasingly worried” that consumers and businesses will start expecting price surges to persist, Bostjancic added, a trend that can itself prolong high inflation.

Many economists have said they worry the Fed has waited too long to start raising rates and could be forced to respond so aggressively as to trigger a recession. Indeed, economists at Deutsche Bank predict that the economy will tumble into a recession late next year, noting that the Fed, “finding itself now well behind the curve, has given clear signals that it is shifting to a more aggressive tightening mode.”

The stock market sold off when the minutes were released but later rebounded from its worst levels. Still, the S&P 500 index closed down nearly 1% after a sharp drop on Tuesday.

Markets now expect much steeper rate hikes this year than Fed officials had signaled as recently as their meeting in mid-March. At that meeting, the policymakers projected that their benchmark rate would remain below 2% by the end of this year and 2.8% at the end of 2023, up from its current level below 0.5%. But Wall Street now foresees the Fed’s rate reaching 2.6% by year’s end, with further hikes next year.

Texas takes new border action

By ACACIA CORONADO
Associated Press

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Wednesday delivered new orders along the U.S.-Mexico border and promised more to come as former Trump administration officials press him to declare an “invasion” and give state troopers and National Guard members authority to turn back migrants.

The two-term Republican governor did not say whether he supports such a concept, which constitutional scholars say is legally dubious, nearly unprecedented and would almost certainly face swift court challenges.

But for now, Abbott said state troopers would begin stopping and inspecting commercial vehicles that come across the border, which he acknowledged would “dramatically slow” vehicle traffic near U.S. ports of entry. He also said bus charters to Washington, D.C., would be offered to migrants who volunteer for them, in a dig at President Joe Biden and Congress, who Abbott has criticized for not doing enough.

Abbott said the inspection stops would occur on Texas roadways and follow the law. “But of course, everyone always files a lawsuit,” he said.

The new directives amount to the “unprecedented actions” that Abbott promised in response to the Biden administration winding down a public health law — now set to expire in May — that has limited asylum-seekers in the name of preventing the spread of COVID-19. When that happens, it is expected to draw



ERIC GRAY • Associated Press

National Guardsmen stands watch over a fence near the International bridge where thousands of Haitian migrants have created a makeshift camp, on Sept. 18, 2021, in Del Rio, Texas.

more migrants to the southern border.

Texas officials also said they would begin “increased military activity” on the border and install razor wire at some low-water along the river to deter migrants from crossing.

The orders further expand a multibillion-dollar Texas border security mission that Abbott, who is running for reelection in November, has made the cornerstone of his administration. Already, Texas has deployed thousands of troopers and National Guard members, installed new border barrier and jailed migrants on trespassing charges.

Still, the efforts do not go far enough for some former Trump administration officials, who want Abbott to essentially bestow on troopers and Guard members enforcement powers that have been a federal responsibility. Border Patrol officials

say they are planning for as many as 18,000 arrivals daily once the health policy, known as the Title 42 authority, expires in May. Last week, about 7,100 migrants were coming a day to the southern U.S. border.

But the way former Trump immigration officials see it, Texas and Arizona can pick up where the federal government leaves off. Their plan involves a novel interpretation of the U.S. Constitution to have the National Guard or state police forcibly send migrants to Mexico, without regard to immigration laws and law enforcement procedures. Border enforcement has always been a federal responsibility, and in Texas, state leaders have not been pushing for such a move.

Tom Homan, the former acting director for Immigration and Customs Enforcement under Trump, told an audience in

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BLUE LINE CLUB

Groups charge 'ethnic cleansing' in Ethiopia

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA
Associated Press

Widespread abuses against civilians in the western part of Ethiopia's embattled Tigray region amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have charged in a new report.

The crimes were perpetrated by security officials and civilian authorities from the neighboring Amhara region, sometimes "with the acquiescence and possible participation of Ethiopian federal forces," the rights groups say in the report released Wednesday.

The abuses are "part of a widespread and systematic attack against the Tigrayan civilian population that amount to crimes against humanity as well as war crimes," the report says.

Ethiopian federal authorities strongly refute allegations they have deliberately targeted Tigrayans for violent attacks. They said at the outbreak of the war in Nov. 2020 that their objective was to disarm the rebellious leaders of Tigray.

Ethiopian authorities said Wednesday that they are "carefully examining" allegations in the rights groups' report.

While the report has "ideas that are not useful for any peace effort, the government will reaf-



NARIMAN EL-MOFTY • Associated Press

Refugees who fled the conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region ride a bus going to the Village 8 temporary shelter, near the Sudan-Ethiopia border, in Hamdayet, eastern Sudan on Dec. 1, 2020.

firm its determination to investigate all human rights violations and make public the results," said a statement from the Government Communication Service.

The report, the result of a months-long investigation including more than 400 inter-

views, charges that hundreds of thousands of Tigrayans have been forced to leave their homes in a violent campaign of unlawful killings, sexual assaults, mass arbitrary detentions, livestock pillaging, and the denial of humanitarian assistance. Widespread atrocities have been

reported in the Tigray war, with Ethiopian government troops and their allies, including troops from neighboring Eritrea, facing most of the charges.

Fighters loyal to the party of Tigray's leaders — the Tigray People's Liberation Front, or TPLF — also have been accused

of committing abuses as the war spread into neighboring regions. Fighters affiliated with the TPLF deliberately killed dozens of people, gang-raped dozens of women and pillaged property for a period of several weeks last year in Amhara region, Amnesty said in a report released in February.

The new report by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International focuses on attacks targeting Tigrayans in western Tigray and describes them as "ethnic cleansing," a term that refers to forcing a population from a region through expulsions and other violence, often including killings and rapes.

Publicly displayed signs in several towns across western Tigray urged Tigrayans to leave, and local officials in meetings discussed plans to remove Tigrayans, according to the report. Pamphlets appeared to give Tigrayans urgent ultimatums to leave or be killed, the report says.

"They kept saying every night, 'We will kill you ... Go out of the area,'" said one woman from the town of Baeker, speaking of threats she faced from an Amhara militia group, according to the report.

Western Tigray has long been contested territory.

Amhara authorities say the **TIGRAY** on page 6▶

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area was under their control until the 1990s when the TPLF-led federal government redrew internal boundaries that put the territory within Tigray's borders.

Amhara officials moved swiftly to take over the region when the war broke out.

The outbreak of the war "brought these longstanding and unaddressed grievances to the fore: Amhara regional forces, along with Ethiopian federal forces, seized these territories and displaced Tigrayan civilians in a brutal ethnic cleansing campaign," the report says.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken asserted in March 2021 that ethnic cleansing had taken place in western Tigray, marking the first time a top official in the international community openly described the situation as such.

That allegation was dismissed by Ethiopian authorities as "a completely unfounded and spurious verdict against the Ethiopian government."

The new report corroborates reporting by The Associated Press on atrocities in the war, which affects 6 million people in Tigray alone.

In June Ethiopia's government cut off almost all access to food aid, medical supplies, cash and fuel in Tigray.

The war has spilled into Amhara and Afar regions, with Tigrayan leaders saying they are fighting to ease the blockade and to protect themselves from further attacks.

Facing growing international pressure, Ethiopian authorities on March 24 announced a humanitarian truce for Tigray, saying the action was necessary to allow unimpeded relief supplies into the area.

Trucks bearing food supplies have since arrived in the region.

The AP last year confirmed the first starvation deaths under the blockade along with the government's ban on humanitarian workers bringing medicines into Tigray.

Estimated tens of thousands of people have been killed in the war. But there is little hope for peace talks as Ethiopian authorities have outlawed the TPLF, effectively making its leaders fugitives on the run.

Among their recommendations, the rights groups call for a "neutral protection force" in western Tigray, possibly with the deployment of an African Union-backed peacekeeping mission, "with a robust civilian protection mandate."

Their report also urges the U.N. Security Council to impose an arms embargo targeting all the warring parties.

Nursing home care funding needed

By MATT SEDENSKY
Associated Press

Nursing home residents are subjected to ineffective care and poor staffing, while facility finances are shrouded in secrecy and regulatory lapses go unenforced, according to a report Wednesday that called for wholesale changes in an industry whose failures have been spotlighted by the pandemic. To anyone who saw the scourge of COVID-19 on the country's most vulnerable, the findings of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine might seem sobering but unsurprising, as the long-term care system's inadequacies were made plain by more than 150,000 resident deaths. The authors of the 605-page report insist it could be an impetus to

address issues that have gotten little more than lip service for decades. "The public is so concerned about the quality of care that most people really fear their family having to be in a nursing home," said Betty Ferrell, a nurse who chaired the report committee. "We're very optimistic that our government officials will respond to what has really been a travesty." The report covers a vast cross-section of long-term care, from granular details such as the way facilities are designed to foundational issues that would require massive political capital and investment to address. Among them: the authors advocate for creating a new national long-term care system that would exist outside of Medicaid, the program that is at the center of most long-term care financing. The likelihood



JOHN MINCHILLO • Associated Press

A woman holds onto the walker once belonging to her mother who died of COVID-19 while at a nursing home, as her family prays before Thanksgiving dinner, Nov. 26, 2020, in Deer Park, N.Y.

of such a proposal successfully winding its way through Con-

gress seems low in the current political climate.

◀STU GOV from page 1

udent Allocation Committee's recommendation of cutting their base pay by \$5,000, or one third of their fee allocation. With the viewing gallery overflowing into the hallway with supporters and members of various fraternities and sororities, Interfraternity Council President Tim Tucheck and Panhellenic Council President Lauren Wojack showcased a powerpoint presentation accusing the senate's comments during the budget hearing as being bigoted baseless. With the definition of "bigot" on the screen behind her, Wojack said, "The biased and baseless accusations that were directed toward the fraternity and sorority community here on campus from some of the senators here on Student Government is the

exact definition of being a bigot." During the presentation, they spoke on the various advantages that having Fraternity and Sorority Life at MNSU has, including academic and community philanthropy.

The speakers went on to present a slideshow of all the fraternities and sororities on campus, their active members, and their philanthropic endeavors.

"Before voting, speaking on behalf of students, as representatives of the student body, aren't you supposed to have intimate knowledge of those communities?" said Tucheck.

"The FSL community is greatly disappointed and angered by the actions of the student government at the budget meeting on March 16," said Tucheck. Accepting no ques-

tions, the presenters proceeded to leave the meeting room, and were followed by their supporters. Following that presentation, ZhiZhi Patterson spoke during an open forum about her experience in Gamma Phi Beta as a BEDI Chairholder.

BEDI stands for Belonging, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and in that role, Patterson was asked to bring in a speaker for Black History Month.

According to Patterson, the speaker spoke about her experience as an African American woman who is Christian, and challenges that come with that, especially in small, predominantly white communities. After the meeting, Patterson stated that she was confronted by fellow sorority members with concerns about the topic of Chris-

tianity. "I personally received messages from some of the girls saying comments such as 'As BEDI Chair, I feel it is important to be inclusive,'" said Patterson, "As an Asian American, receiving this message from caucasian girls, it really hurt me."

Following the incident, Patterson filed a Bias Incident Report to bring light to her situation. After this experience though, she felt disheartened in the organization as a whole, and decided to drop out of her sorority.

After each of the impassioned speeches, Speaker Minahil Khan thanked them for their time.

While the Fraternity and Sorority Life were displeased with their budget outcome, because it has already passed, it cannot be changed by the senate this year.

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◀TEXAS from page 4

San Antonio last week that he had spoken with Abbott about the idea.

“We’ve had discussions with his attorneys in his office, ‘Is there a way to use this clause within the Constitution where it talks about invasion?’” Homan said during the Border Security Expo.

Homan said those talks took place about three months ago and described the governor’s office as “noncommittal but willing to listen.”

In Arizona, Republican Gov. Doug Ducey has also been under pressure within his party to declare that the state is being invaded and use extraordinary powers normally reserved for war. But Ducey, who is term-limited and not on the ballot in 2022, has not embraced the theory and has avoided commenting directly on it.

Driving the effort on the right is the Center for Renewing America, a conservative policy think tank led by former Trump administration officials. It includes Ken Cuccinelli, an immigration hard-liner and former Homeland Security official under Trump. He argued states are entitled to defend themselves from immediate danger or invasion, as it is defined by the “invasion clause,” under the “states self-defense clause.”

Cuccinelli said in practice, he envisions the plan would look similar to the enforcement of Title 42, which circumvented U.S. obligations under American law and international treaty to provide asylum. He said he has not spoken with Abbott and said the current Texas border mission, known as Operation Lone Star, has put little dent in migration. The mission has also drawn criticism from Guard members over long deployments and little to do, and some arrests have appeared to have no connection to border security.

“Until you are actually returning people to Mexico, what you are doing will have no effect,” Cuccinelli said. Emily Berman, who teaches constitutional law at the University of Houston, said the “invasion clause” cited by proponents is tucked into a broader constitutional assurance that the U.S. must defend states from invasion and domestic violence. Additionally, she said, the “state self-defense clause” says states cannot engage in warlike actions or foreign policy unless invaded. Berman said she hasn’t seen the constitutional clauses used since the 1990s, when the courts ruled that they did not have jurisdiction to decide what qualified an invasion, but believed that one could only be done by another governmental entity.

US hits Russia with ‘war’ sanctions

By AAMER MADHANI, SAMUEL PETREQUIN and JOSH BAOK
Associated Press

The U.S. rolled out a new wave of financial sanctions on Wednesday against Russia that President Joe Biden said would place a lasting penalty on the country’s economy.

The United Kingdom quickly followed suit, and more pain was coming from the European Union as the allies pressed forward with an escalating campaign to tighten the economic screws on Russian President Vladimir Putin for “war crimes” in Ukraine.

Making it personal, the U.S. sanctions singled out the Putin’s family, targeting his two adult daughters in addition to blocking two key Russian banks.

Biden said that “Russia has already failed in its initial war” after the country’s forces were turned back from the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv. He cautioned, however, that “this fight is far from over.”

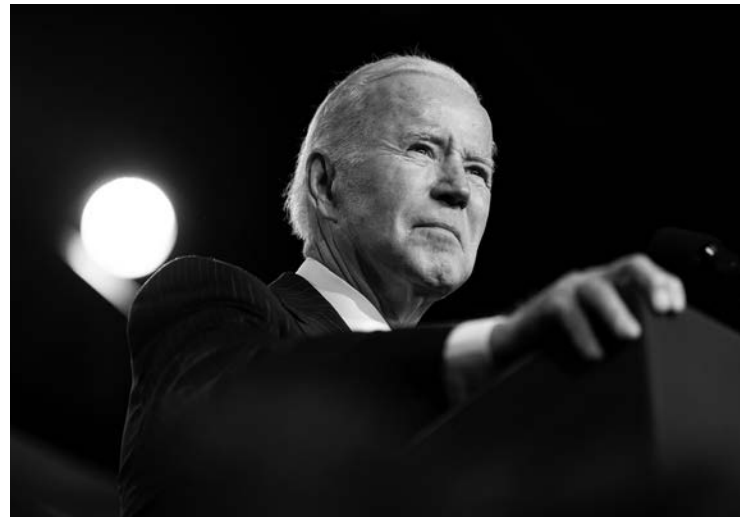
“This war could continue for a long time,” but the United States will continue to stand with Ukraine and Ukrainians in the fight for freedom, Biden said. “We’re going to stifle Russia’s ability to grow for years to come.” The latest sanctions underscore the financial pain that Russia faces, as evidence that its troops killed Ukrainian civilians has led to ever harsher penalties by the U.S. and its Western allies that are eroding Putin’s ability to fight. While rounds of increased sanctions have not forced Putin out of the war, they have put Russia in increasingly desper-

ate economic circumstances as Ukrainian forces withstand his barrages. Key to the effectiveness of the sanctions has been the unity between the U.S. and European nations. And the atrocities revealed in Ukraine have intensified pressure on Germany and other countries to go further and join the U.S. and Lithuania in blocking all Russian energy exports.

The U.K. piled on Wednesday with asset freezes against major banks, a ban on British investment in Russia and a pledge to end dependency on Russian coal and oil by yearend.

The European Union was also expected to soon take additional steps, including a ban on new investment in Russia and an embargo on coal, after the recent evidence of atrocities emerging in the wake of the retreat by Russian forces from the town of Bucha.

The U.S. acted against two of Russia’s largest banks, Sberbank and Alfa Bank, prohibiting assets from going through the U.S. financial system and barring Americans from doing business with those two institutions. In addition to sanctions aimed at Putin’s adult daughters, Mariya Putina and Katerina Tikhonova, the U.S. is targeting Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin; the wife and children of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov; and members of Russia’s Security Council, including Dmitry Medvedev, a former president and prime minister. The penalties cut off all of Putin’s close family members from the U.S. financial system and freeze any assets they hold in the United States.



CAROLYN KASTER • Associated Press

President Joe Biden speaks about the war in Ukraine at the North America’s Building Trades Unions (NABTU) Legislative Conference at the Washington Hilton in Washington, Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

Biden was expected to sign an executive order that would ban new investment in Russia by Americans no matter where they are living. The U.S. Treasury Department was preparing more sanctions against Russian state-owned enterprises, according to the White House.

Britain announced asset freezes targeting Sberbank and the Credit Bank of Moscow and designated eight Russian oligarchs whom it says Putin “uses to prop up his war economy.”

“Together with our allies, we are showing the Russian elite that they cannot wash their hands of the atrocities committed on Putin’s orders,” British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said.

Britain had already announced a plan to phase out Russian oil, which accounts for 8% of the U.K. supply. Russia is the top supplier of imported coal to the U.K., though British

demand for the polluting fuel has plummeted in the past decade.

Britain has not ended imports of Russian natural gas, which accounts for 4% of its supply, saying only that it will do so “as soon as possible.”

Videos and images of bodies in the streets of Bucha after it was recaptured from Russian forces have unleashed a wave of indignation among Western allies, who have drawn up new sanctions as a response.

The European Commission’s proposed ban on coal imports would be the first EU sanctions targeting Russia’s lucrative energy industry over its war in Ukraine.

EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell said energy was key to Putin’s war coffers. And because the war has pushed prices higher, Russia has benefited from

SANCTIONS on page 9▶

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Debate rising over neutral sites in NCAA

10,774 fans packed into the Minnesota Golden Gophers' home arena in Minneapolis for the 2022 Big Ten Championship game against Michigan. 5,126 fans filled the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center, a sold out crowd, in Mankato for the CCHA championship game featuring Minnesota State and Bemidji State.

Despite this being true, No. 1 Michigan and No. 2 Minnesota State would only see 6,705 total fans combined in their respective regional final games of the NCAA tournament the following weekend.

This raises the question: Should regional matchups be played at the home arenas of the region's respective No. 1 seed?

The NCAA used to entertain having regional games be at the site of the region's No. 1 seed beginning in 1977, but left behind the idea in 1991 for neutral sites. There are benefits and takeaways on both sides of the spectrum, but why not at least meet in the middle?

Teams and communities should be all in on the concept of playing regional sites, but it is a better idea to at least have those regional sites, well, regional. An argument that deflated the eventual switch to neutral sites was the unfair truth that some arenas are bigger and better than others. Neutral sites are generally similar in size as one another, but fail to find capacities close to full or even half full. Fans are generally required to spend a hefty pocket while traveling to see their favorite team play in the first two rounds of the tournament.

With neutral, but more regional to the No. 1 seed of the region, the issue could be diffused to a much smaller scale. The average allotted capacity of the four regional sites this year surpassed 10,000 in all occasions when the arenas were set up for hockey games. In relation to numerous sold out crowds across the nation for conference championships, it would be easier to fill a close, neutral site to the top seeded team. The benefits of a change surpass the takeaways effectively. The biggest one includes rewarding the top seed for their success during the season by giving them a close regional round tournament. It would take away travel costs for four teams across the 16-team tournament and promote bigger attendance numbers. In addition, the games would be more exciting to watch, not only for in-attendance fans but also viewers at home. It's one thing to see a full arena in person, but even more exciting to see a full arena through the big screen. Not only does it promote that there are people who physically want to go watch these games to the rest of the world, but it also promotes to new and potential hockey fans that this is a community that loves what they participate in.

The idea to keep regional games neutral is definitely a better option most of the time, but closer vicinities will help grow the sport of hockey.

Perspectives

Zero tolerance for Zero Tolerance



Section of The Reporter that was published on Feb. 23, 1995 with photo of flier announcing the bomb threat against the event "What Needs to Happen to Make This Campus More Queer Friendly."

JEREMY REDLIEN

WHY NOT TODAY?

Content Note: The following column discusses in depth threats of violence made against LGBTQ individuals. Selected quotes with slurs are used in this article.

On Apr. 1, a bomb threat was made against the Minnesota State University, Mankato community. As of the writing of this column, little information has been shared with the public regarding who made the threat or why.

Decades ago, in the mid 90s a series of bomb threats was made specifically against MSU's LGBTQ community. For several years, a group, or possibly a very dedicated but otherwise singular individual, going by the name Zero Tolerance, left threatening anti-queer fliers

and stickers around campus. No members were ever publicly identified, but they were known for leaving anti-lgbtq propaganda and fliers all around campus, starting in October of 1994 with a flier slid underneath the door of the Alternative Lifestyles Office, now known as the LGBT Center.

Their activities culminated in a bomb threat made in the middle of an event by lesbian comedian Gail Hand in April of 1996. According to The Reporter article about the incident, that bomb threat was the third threat made against LGBTQ or feminist related

events that year. The first bomb threat made by Zero Tolerance was in February of 1995 during an event called "What Needs to Happen to Make This Campus More Queer Friendly". Fliers were first discovered at the event from Zero Tolerance which read, "Faggot free zone. No more lezbos, no more fags! Get your ugly ass off campus now!" before the event began. The bomb threat was called in to University Security while the event was in progress. The fliers for Zero Tolerance tended to show up around Coming Out Week and other LGBTQ related events. While they tended to target the LGBTQ community, their material was also frequently sexist and racist.

While no individual was publicly identified as being a

COLUMN on page 10▶

PULSE

"Where are you planning on watching the Frozen Four game?"

Compiled by Dylan Long



JULIA HELMAN, SOPHOMORE

"507."



HENRY BOWRING-MCDONOUGH, SOPHOMORE

"Chets."



CATHERINE CANNON, SOPHOMORE

"507."



JULIAN VAN BEUSEKOM, FRESHMAN

"Chets."



KRESTIANE ABSHIR, SENIOR

"McElroy."



NAOMI KINNEY, FRESHMAN

"I'll be with my friends and family cheering loud."

◀**SANCTIONS** from page 7
being able to sell its natural gas and oil to the rest of the world.

“A billion euro is what we pay Putin every day for the energy he provides us since the beginning of the war. We have given him 35 billion euro. Compare that to the one billion that we have given to the Ukraine in arms and weapons,” Borrell said. The steady intensifying in sanctions is less a sign of their shortcomings than the building pressure against Russia as it seeks foreign investment and basic goods, Brian Deese, director of the White House National Economic Council, told reporters at a Wednesday breakfast. “We need to have patience and perspective when it comes to the impacts on Russia of this unprecedented and crippling sanctions regime,” Deese said at the event sponsored by The Christian Science Monitor.

Deese noted that Russian inflation is running at 2% weekly, which would compound to annual inflation above 200% annually. He noted that the Biden administration expects Russian prices will not ultimately rise more than 200% this year. While the White House has said Russia should not attend the G-20 meeting in Indonesia this November, he noted that it may drop out of the organization anyway because its economy has shrunk in size so dramatically.

After several European countries announced the expulsion of Russian diplomats, the European Commission proposed a fifth package of sanctions including a ban on coal imports that could be adopted once unanimously approved by the 27-nation bloc’s ambassadors.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the coal ban is worth 4 billion euros (\$4.4 billion) per year and that the EU has already started working on additional sanctions, including on oil imports. She didn’t mention natural gas, with consensus among the 27 EU countries on targeting the fuel used to generate electricity and heat homes difficult to secure amid opposition from gas-dependent members like Germany, the bloc’s largest economy.

But European Council President Charles Michel said the bloc should keep up the pressure on the Kremlin, suggesting that an embargo on gas imports should also be required at some point in the future.

“The new package includes a ban on coal imports,” Michel said on Wednesday. “I think that measures on oil, and even gas, will also be needed, sooner or later.”

Security with Solomons raise alarm

By **NICK PERRY** and **DAVID RISING**
Associated Press

A security alliance between China and the Solomon Islands has sent shudders throughout the South Pacific, with many worried it could set off a large-scale military buildup or that Western animosity to the deal could play into China’s hands.

What remains most unclear is the extent of China’s ambitions.

A Chinese military presence in the Solomons would put it not only on the doorstep of Australia and New Zealand but also in close proximity to Guam, with its massive U.S. military bases.

China so far operates just one acknowledged foreign military base, in the impoverished but strategically important Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti. Many believe that China’s People’s Liberation Army is busy establishing an overseas military network, even if they don’t use the term “base.” The Solomon Islands government says a draft of its agreement with China was initialed last week and will be “cleaned up” and signed soon.

The draft, which was leaked online, says that Chinese warships could stop in the Solomons for “logistical replenishment” and that China could send police, military personnel and other armed forces to the Solomons “to assist in maintaining social order.”

The draft agreement specifies China must approve what information is disclosed about joint security arrangements, including at media briefings.

The Solomon Islands, home

to about 700,000 people, switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to Beijing in 2019 — a move rejected by the most populous province and a contributing factor to riots last November.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken responded in February by saying that Washington would reopen its embassy in the capital, Honiara, which has been closed since 1993, to increase its influence in the Solomons before China becomes “strongly embedded.”

Both China and the Solomons have strongly denied the new pact will lead to the establishment of a Chinese military base. The Solomon Islands government said the pact is necessary because of its limited ability to deal with violent uprisings like the one in November.

“The country has been ruined by recurring internal violence for years,” the government said this week.

But Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. have all expressed alarm about the deal, with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern describing it as “gravely concerning.”

David Panuelo, the president of nearby Micronesia, which has close ties to the U.S., wrote an impassioned letter to Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare asking him to rethink the agreement.

He noted that both Micronesia and the Solomon Islands were battlegrounds during World War II, caught up in the clash of great powers.

“I am confident that neither of us wishes to see a conflict of that scope or scale ever



CHARLEY PIRINGI • Associated Press

Floodlights illuminate the Chinese Embassy after a rain in Honiara, Solomon Islands, April 1, 2022.

again, and most particularly in our own backyards,” Panuelo wrote.

But the Solomon Islands police minister mocked Panuelo’s concerns on social media, saying he should be more worried about his own atoll being swallowed by the ocean due to climate change. Sogavare has

likewise dismissed foreign criticism of the security agreement as insulting, while labeling those who leaked the draft as “lunatics.”

China’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson said the agreement aims to maintain the safety of people’s lives and proper

CHINA on page 10

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Zoos hiding birds as flu spreads

By JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

Zoos across North America are moving their birds indoors and away from people and wildlife as they try to protect them from the highly contagious and potentially deadly avian influenza. Penguins may be the only birds visitors to many zoos can see right now, because they already are kept inside and usually protected behind glass in their exhibits, making it harder for the bird flu to reach them.

Nearly 23 million chickens and turkeys have already been killed across the United States to limit the spread of the virus, and zoos are working hard to

prevent any of their birds from meeting the same fate. It would be especially upsetting for zoos to have to kill any of the endangered or threatened species in their care.

“It would be extremely devastating,” said Maria Franke, who is the manager of welfare science at Toronto Zoo, which has less than two dozen Loggerhead Shrike songbirds that it’s breeding with the hope of reintroducing them into the wild. “We take amazing care and the welfare and well being of our animals is the utmost importance. There’s a lot of staff that has close connections with the animals that they care for here at the zoo.”



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL • Associated Press

Magellan penguins stand in their enclosure at the Blank Park Zoo, Tuesday, April 5, 2022, in Des Moines, Iowa.

◀CHINA from page 9

ty, and “does not have any military overtones,” saying media speculation on the potential development of a base was groundless.

Euan Graham, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies based in Singapore, said China has been pursuing such a port facility for some five years as it aims to expand its naval presence in the South Pacific as part of Beijing’s long-game of seeking to become the dominant regional power.

“If they want to break out into the Pacific, at some point they will need the logistics capability to support that presence,” Graham said. “We’re not talking about war plans here; this is really about extending their presence and influence.” Unlike the base built in Djibouti, where China has commercial interests in the region to protect, Graham said any operation in the Solomon Islands would likely be less substantial.

“It’s quite a subtle and interesting geopolitical game that’s emerged in the South Pacific,” he added. “And I think the Chinese have been very successful, if you like, in outflanking the United States and Australia in an influence competition, not a military competition.”

China’s base in Djibouti was opened in 2017. China doesn’t call it a base, but rather a support facility for its naval operations fending off piracy in the Gulf of Aden and for its African peacekeeping operations. It boasts a 400-meter (1,300-foot) runway and a pier big enough to dock either of China’s two operating aircraft carriers.

The base, with 2,000 personnel, allows China to position supplies, troops and equipment in a strategically crucial region, while also keeping an eye on U.S. forces that are stationed nearby. Chief among other potential base candidates is Cambodia, whose authoritarian leader Hun Sen has long been a trusted Chinese ally and which reportedly signed a secret 2019 agreement permitting the establishment of a Chinese base.

China is dredging the harbor at Ream Naval Base to allow ships larger than any Cambodia possesses to dock, and is building new infrastructure to replace a U.S.-built naval tactical headquarters. A Chinese base in Cambodia would establish a chokepoint in the Gulf of Thailand close to the crucial Malacca Strait.

China has also funded projects at Gwadar in Pakistan, another close ally, and in Sri Lanka, where Chinese infrastructure lending has forced the government to hand over control of the southern port of Hambantota.

◀COLUMN from page 8

member of Zero Tolerance, Mankato Department of Public Safety claimed they were investigating a lead at the time involving Last Days Ministries, but no connection was ever confirmed.

Of course, threats against the local LGBTQ communities were not unique to Zero Tolerance. Jim Chalgren, the founder of MSU’s LGBT Center, was also the victim of multiple threats.

In an interview Chalgren gave in 1997 with Q Monthly writer Viki Galliard he said, “It was routine to get a death threat at least once a week, something like ‘fags should die’ or ‘I should come over and slit your throat right now. I know who you are and I know where you live.’” In 2018, two different lesbian couples in St. Peter

were the targets of letters that threatened extreme acts of violence against them including the threat to murder one of the lesbian’s unborn child. One of the letters also contained a threat to commit a mass shooting at a local LGBTQ pride event.

I know of other prominent, and not so prominent, LGBTQ individuals who have been the victims of threats and intimidation. Furthermore, I know one local LGBTQ activist who had an actual stalker. This goes to show how prevalent this issue still is in the Mankato community.

Of course, the violence faced by LGBTQ individuals is not limited to simple threats. I know of one transgender individual from Mankato who was subjected to corrective rape and

another who was physically assaulted. In 1981, Henry “Bud” Quimby, a gay radio DJ was murdered in North Mankato and in 1987, David Wagner was also murdered in Mankato because of his sexuality. I believe

there will come a day where LGBTQ individuals will be able to live in a world without having to fear violence being directed against us because we chose to be ourselves. Too bad that day is not today.

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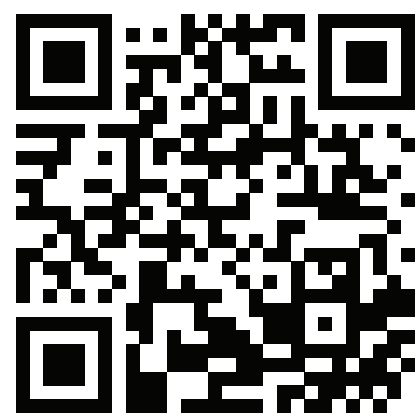


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\$226	DK. GREEN RES. HALL (9 MONTH)	MONDAY 9AM August 1st until gone
\$113	DK. GREEN RES. HALL (FALL)	MONDAY 9AM August 1st until gone

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Mavs practice in Boston, ready for the Gophers

By KOLE BUELOW • Sports Editor

The Minnesota State men's hockey team officially hit the ice for the first time this evening since arriving in Boston last night at around 5:15 local time.

The Mavericks were the third team to skate TD Garden today, behind Denver and Michigan. MSU's Frozen Four matchup, Minnesota, followed behind the Mavs to wrap up team practices a day ahead of the first games.

It was a normal practice for the team, which featured a ton of emotions from the players. Several roars of excitement rang throughout the nearly empty arena as the team first made their opening laps around the ice. The team then began drills, where they worked on transitions and speed with the puck before eventually wrapping up with one-on-one chances on the goaltenders.

The team then wrapped up at center ice atop the new 2022 NCAA Frozen Four logo before heading to media availability.

For the Mavericks, there is much more than the chance at a National Championship to be excited about this week. The ability to learn about a new city and enjoy a different culture is second to none for the team, and Mavericks' head coach Mike Hastings was quick to share appreciation for the Boston area today.

"We're excited about being in Boston. The trip has been seamless and the people have been fantastic," said Hastings. "Our entire group is excited about what is in front of us on Thursday."

PUCKS on page 17

2022 FROZEN FOUR

Minnesota State vs. Minnesota
8:30 p.m. ET
TD Garden, Boston



The Mavericks hit the ice for the first time on Wednesday, preparing for their game against the Minnesota Gophers today at the TD Garden in Boston. With a win, the Mavs will have a chance to advance to the title game on Saturday.

Photos by MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter

"We've got to do our best to hop on them early and enjoy the experience but know that there is a job at hand."

Wyatt Amodt,
Maverick senior defenseman

Silye returns to the East coast with title hopes

By KOLE BUELOW • Sports Editor

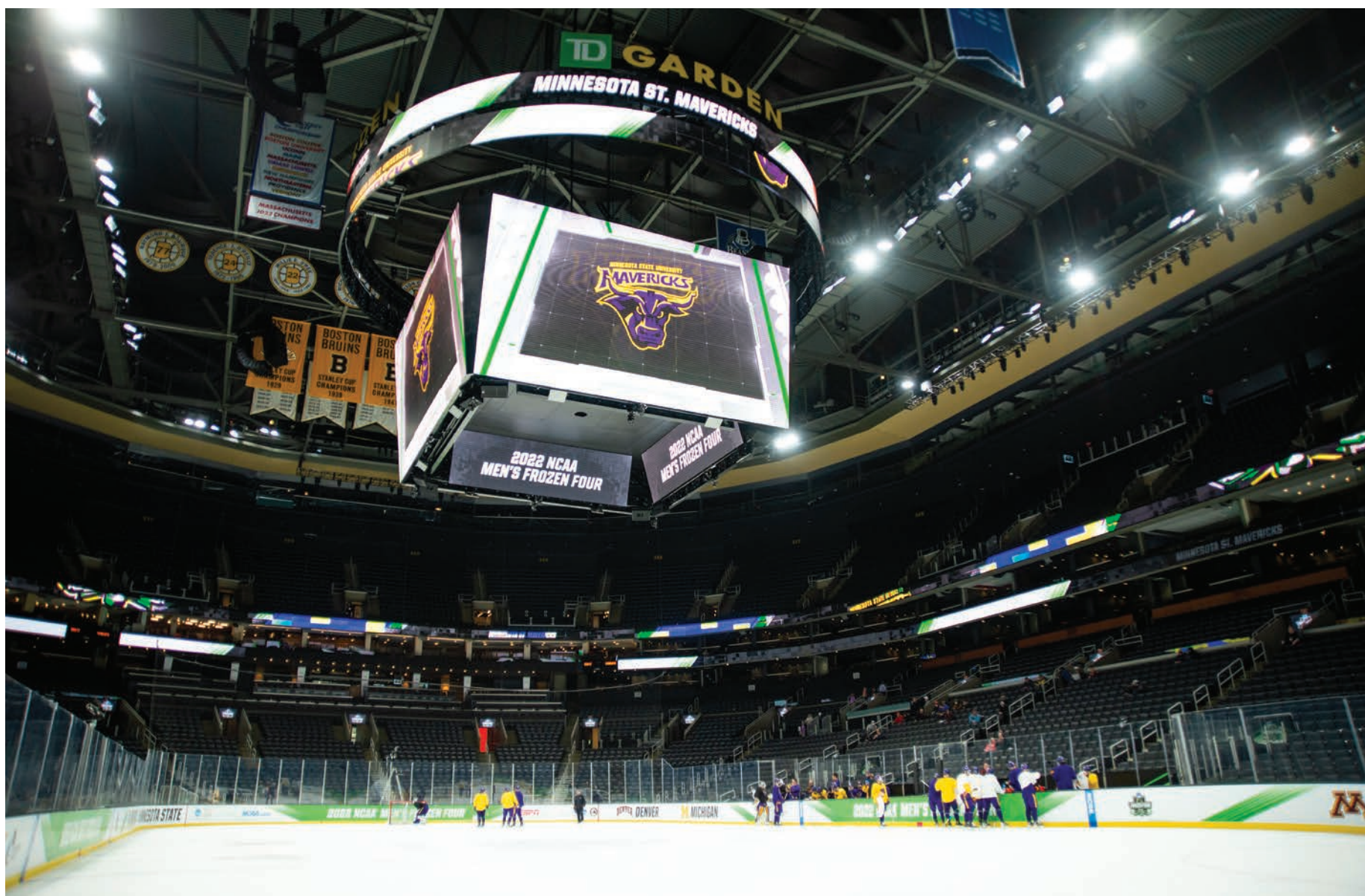
Minnesota State sophomore forward David Silye is just your normal hockey guy from Canada, but his journey back to the East coast is a special one.

Silye began his hockey career in the British Columbia Hockey League (BCHL), two years with the Penticton Vees and two with the Nanaimo Clippers. His time playing hockey did not remain solely in Canada, however, where Silye often made trips to the United States with his family. "We'd go down quite often to New England and Boston to play some hockey tournaments. But this experience, playing at the Garden, is second to none."

After his time in the BCHL, Silye committed to the University of Clarkson where he played in 17 games and recorded three assists in those games. Following the 2020-21 season, Silye had to make a tough choice to enter the transfer portal, as it was not guaranteed he would get a spot in the starting lineup the following season. "At the end of the year there were six centermen coming back, and there really was not room for me to be there," said Silye. "I decided to enter the portal late last summer at the end of June and found a nice home here at MSU."

A nice home it has been for the Clarkson transfer, who has increased his output this season substantially. Silye has tallied seven goals and eight assists up to this point in the season and will look to continue adding on to his 15-point total in the Frozen Four. Three of Silye's seven goals came during

SILYE on page 18



MINNESOTA STATE LOOKS FORWARD TO MAKING HISTORY

Boston is known for its storied sports teams and their history, and the Minnesota State Mavericks will now get their shot at adding to it. The Mavericks landed in Boston early evening Tuesday and got to practice at the TD Garden Wednesday afternoon. The Mavs worked on speed with the puck during weaving drills, with players moving in and out, and around the rink. They ended with breakaway opportunities and a huddle at center ice. At the post-practice press conference, head coach Mike Hastings discussed the team's treacherous journey to get back to the Frozen Four this year. Hastings went on to emphasize taking advantage of the opportunities this team has earned.

Photos by MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter



Baseball cruises past SMSU, eye Northern State Wolves



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Junior pitcher Nick Altermatt (right) has led the Mavericks' bats this season, averaging a .461 batting average to go along with 10 home runs.

By KARSON BUELOW
Staff Writer

After inclement weather forced the Minnesota State University, Mankato baseball team with a schedule change for the second straight week, they were still able to stay focused and defeat Southwest Minnesota State in an afternoon doubleheader yesterday. The Mavericks swept the Mustangs with a convincing 13-1 win in game one and a 6-2 win in game two.

Senior Cam Kline got the start for the Mavs in game one and earned his third win of the season. The Stacy, Minn. native let up only one run and four hits in his six innings pitched while tallying eight strikeouts in the process. Sophomore infielder Jackson Hauge con-

tributed on the Mavericks' first three runs of the game. Hauge started the scoring in the first inning with a two-run RBI single to left field and then added another marker in the third to give the Mavs a 3-0 lead.

The Mavericks' bats wouldn't stop there as they exploded for a four-run fourth inning to grab a commanding 7-0 lead. The Mustangs would finally get on the board in the bottom of the fourth inning when sophomore infielder Jaxon Haase went the distance for a solo homerun which cut the lead to 7-1.

MSU would answer back in the seventh with five runs of their own which were highlighted by junior infielder and pitcher Nick Altermatt's 10th home run of the season. The

BASEBALL on page 18▶

Softball sweeps SMSU Mustangs, prepare for NSIC road trip North

By KOLE BUELOW
Sports Editor

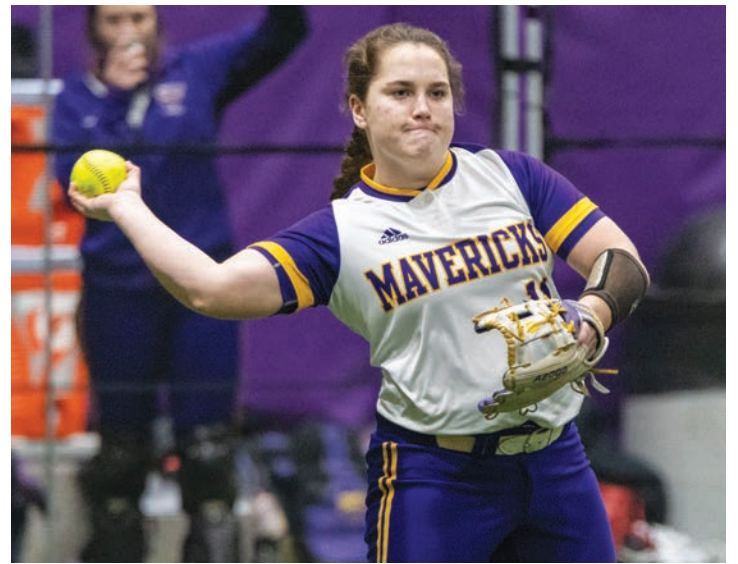
Despite the Southwest Minnesota State Mustangs coming into Wednesday's double header seven games under .500 at 11-18 overall, they put up a fight against the No. 18 Minnesota State softball team.

The two teams met for the first time this season at the Mavericks All-Sports Dome with MSU squeaking out two tight wins, 2-1 and 5-3. Young talent brought the Mavs home in both games, with freshman Cheyenne Behrends and sophomore Kylie Sullivan tallying important RBIs in both games.

With the two wins, the Mavs improved to 24-8 overall while also improving their Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference record to 6-2. Standout senior pitcher Mackenzie Ward earned the start on the mound for the Mavericks in game one, collecting 10 strikeouts on just one earned run in 25 batters faced. The two teams were held in a heated pitching battle, where there were only 10 combined hits in the contest.

Sullivan's double in the first inning drove home the first run of the game, which was later nullified in the fourth inning after a single by SMSU's Lileya Kebos helped Emily Tatur reach home. The Mavericks would respond quickly in the top of the fifth, which the Mustangs would never equalize.

Game two started soon after, where MSU would get on the board first once again. A pickle on the base line between



MADDIE BEHRENS • The Reporter

Freshman infielder Cheyenne Behrends has been solid at the plate in her first season, averaging a .303 batting average and totaling 11 RBIs.

third base and home plate broke out before SMSU pitcher Karlie Miller made an eventual throwing error. The error paved the way for two Maverick runners to score, which gave MSU the first lead of the contest in the third inning.

SMSU would respond with two runs of their own in the third, but the Mavs kept their distance for the remainder of the contest to take game two and a series sweep. MSU has a quick turnaround, where they are currently slated to face Minnesota Duluth and St. Cloud State this Saturday and Sunday respectively. The Mavericks will be traveling to opposing fields for both contests.

Duluth has had a successful season so far, holding a 20-9 overall record and 5-3 record

in NSIC play. The Bulldogs are led by sophomore catcher Kelly Swank, who bats a .358 batting average to go along with 11 RBIs. On the mound senior Sam Pederson and sophomore Lauren Dixon lead the charge, combining for a 15-6 record.

The Mavericks then travel to St. Cloud for a double header against the Huskies, who are 18-9 overall with a 6-0 record in NSIC action. Senior Sydney Trees is a leader at the plate for the Huskies, who averages a .303 batting average. Trees is one of the best at knocking the ball into home run territory, with a staggering 10 home runs in 89 at bats. SCSU's pitching crew is led by junior Trinity Junker, who has allowed a minimal 1.14 ERA in 92.1 innings pitched.

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THAT'S
WHAT
I LIKE

Johansen's 1st hat trick puts Preds over Minnesota Wild 6-2

By JIM DIAMOND
Associated Press

Ryan Johansen's first career hat trick led the Nashville Predators to a 6-2 victory over the Minnesota Wild on Tuesday night.

Roman Josi and Philip Tomasino had a goal and two assists, Matt Duchene had a goal and an assist and Juuse Saros made a season-high 47 saves for Nashville, winners of three of four as they try to keep pace in the tight Western Conference playoff race. Filip Forsberg had three assists and Mattias Ekholm added two.

"I think Juice was at the level that we need him to be at," Predators coach John Hynes said of Saraos. "He's an elite goalie in the league. He was elite tonight. That's nice to see. When he plays at that level, he gives us a chance to win every night."

Mats Zuccarello and Kirill Kaprizov each had a goal and an assist for Minnesota. Marc-Andre Fleury made 27 saves. The Wild were 9-0-1 in its previous 10 games.

Josi scored the game's first goal at 5:10 of the opening period. With the Predators on a power play, he snapped a wrist shot from just above the left faceoff dot that beat Fleury high to the far side.

Zuccarello made it 1-1 with about six and a half minutes left in the first, but Johansen answered 25 seconds later with another power-play goal for the Predators.

"We have to find a way



MARK HUMPHREY • Associated Press
Nashville Predators' Matt Luff (24) is defended by Minnesota Wild's Frederick Gaudreau (89) in the second period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, April 5, 2022, in Nashville, Tenn.

just to stay the hell out of the box because obviously, they've got special players and special power-play players and they hurt us," Minnesota coach Dean Evason said. "Our 5-on-5 game is great."

Johansen struck again with less than a minute left, his second on the power play, this time redirecting Josi's slap pass from the center of the blue line past Fleury.

"Yeah, awesome to get it in a big game, and at home here, too," Johansen said of his hat trick. "It was really cool."

Tomasino gave Nashville a 4-1 lead at 6:06 of the second.

Just seconds after another Wild power play expired, Josi carried the puck into the right circle and he slipped a back-

hand pass to Tomasino in the slot, where the rookie beat Fleury with a one-timer low to the stick side.

Kaprizov scored his 40th of the season at 17:51 of the second with the Wild on a two-man advantage.

Duchene scored at 13:28 of the third and Johansen scored his third into an empty net with 6.1 seconds remaining.

"We thrive on like hard, fast, competitive hockey," Duchene said. "We thrive on it, meaningful hockey."

It was the third matchup of the season between the Predators and Wild. Josi has posted 11 points (four goals, seven assists) in those three games. Three of the four goals have come on the power play.

Jayhawks' coach Bill Self masterminds epic comeback



DAVID PHILIP • Associated Press

Kansas head coach Bill Self cuts the net after their win against North Carolina in a college basketball game at the finals of the Men's Final Four NCAA tournament, Monday, April 4, 2022, in New Orleans.

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

In a national championship game nobody at Kansas will soon forget, Bill Self went from the Hall of Fame coach who far too often failed on the big stage to the brilliant mastermind of the biggest comeback in NCAA title-game history.

Blitzed by North Carolina for most of the first 20 minutes Monday night, and after digging a seemingly insurmountable 40-25 deficit, the senior-heavy Jayhawks rallied for a 72-69 victory over the Tar Heels inside the boisterous Superdome to raise another long-awaited banner to the rafters of historic Allen Fieldhouse.

"I think when you're the all-time winningest program —

just by a small margin — and when the inventor of the game was your first coach, and the likes of Adolph Rupp comes from Kansas and Dean Smith comes from Kansas and Wilt Chamberlain comes from Kansas, the expectations are where being good is OK but it's not enough," Self said.

"Nobody's ever put pressure on me that we've got to win another one," he added, "but I think I put pressure on myself knowing that this place deserves more than what we have won."

The Jayhawks, who trailed the Tar Heels by 16 late in the first half Monday night, eclipsed Loyola of Chicago's 15-point comeback to beat Cincinnati in overtime in 1963 for the biggest in title game history.

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NBA at 75: 2010s featured seismic shifts on, off the court



ASHLEY LANDIS • Associated Press

Members of the Orlando Magic and Brooklyn Nets kneel around a Black Lives Matter logo during the national anthem before the start of an NBA basketball game, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., July 31, 2020.

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

Two of the NBA's most significant dynasties emerged in the second decade of the 2000s.

LeBron James teamed up with Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh to form a Miami Heat super team that reached four straight finals, winning a pair of championships.

Then came the ascension of Steph Curry's fling-it-up-from-anywhere Golden State Warriors, who claimed three titles of their own and shredded all conventional wisdom on how far from the basket constituted a good shot.

There were also significant developments happening away from the court. With James, Curry and others setting the tone, NBA players increasingly led a clarion call for social justice in the 2010s.

James and Wade posed in hoodies with their Miami

teammates for a dramatic picture protesting the shooting death of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin.

Chris Paul and Jamal Crawford staged a silent protest that helped lead the NBA to issue a lifetime ban against Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling over racist comments that were caught on tape.

Players across the league donned "I Can't Breathe" T-shirts -- the last words of Eric Garner before his death after being placed in a chokehold by a New York City police officer.

The players of the WNBA also stepped up their activism, from wearing shirts that proclaimed "Black Lives Matter" to kneeling during the national anthem to show solidarity with Colin Kaepernick's NFL campaign against police violence. They even campaigned against one of their owners in a U.S. Senate election.

"I will not just shut up and

dribble," James said, in what could very well be the mantra of the decade. "I mean too much to so many kids that feel like they don't have a way out and they need someone to help lead them out of the situation they're in."

A decade of social activism merged seamlessly into America's racial reckoning in the summer of 2020, which again found the NBA in the middle of things.

That shouldn't have been a surprise, given the NBA has generally scored better than North America's other men's sports leagues on racial and gender equity issues.

Richard Lapchick, who issues an annual report card through The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida, credits long-time NBA Commissioner David Stern with establishing the culture that led to a decade of activism.

Rating Tiger Woods' most significant Masters wins



DAVID PHILIP • Associated Press

Tiger Woods reacts as he wins the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 14, 2019, in Augusta, Ga. In a survey, this rated as his second-most significant win of his five Masters titles.

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

Five wins 22 years apart, one similarity: A red shirt under a green jacket.

Tiger Woods won his first Masters 25 years ago this week, a watershed moment in golf as the first player of Black heritage to win at Augusta National and the manner in which he destroyed the field like no other before him or since then.

Equally remarkable, if not more, was his fifth green jacket in 2019 after Woods returned from four surgeries on a lower back — the last one to fuse his spine — in such bad shape that he feared he might never be able to play again.

In between was his most historic Masters victory — the Tiger Slam — when Woods

made it a clean sweep of the four professional majors in a span of 294 days. The feat remains his alone.

The most popular shot in televised history at the Masters? That would be his chip on the 16th hole in 2005 that scooted up the ridge, down the slope and paused on the edge of the cup for a full second before tumbling in for birdie.

And when Augusta National super-sized the course in 2002 — nine of the 18 holes were lengthened in the biggest overhaul in club history — Woods became only the third player to win back-to-back.

So which win was the most significant? The question was posed to 25 people — mostly media, some players and a few caddies — and the result was resounding.

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PRESIDENT EDWARD INCH

Frozen Four a clash of the Midwest and West

By **JIMMY GOLEN**
Associated Press

Denver's only other trip East this season didn't turn out too well, with losses to Boston College and Providence before the long flight back home. Now back for this weekend's Frozen Four, the Pioneers don't have to worry about the Eagles or Friars -- or any Eastern teams at all. Four schools from conferences in the Midwest and West will compete for the NCAA hockey championship at the home of the Boston Bruins.

It's the first time since 2011 that the East has been without a representative at the Frozen Four.

"There's good teams in every conference," Pioneers forward Bobby Brink said on Wednesday, a day before Denver's semifinal matchup with Michigan. "I wouldn't say there's really a divide; we don't really look at (it that way). Maybe some people do."

This weekend it will be hard to ignore, with the Pioneers and Wolverines followed by Minnesota State and Minnesota. All three finalists for the Hobey Baker Award -- including Brink, the nation's leading scorer -- are in Boston and from western teams. Only one team in this year's Elite Eight, Quinnipiac, was from the East. There were two last year, when UMass won it all in a Frozen Four that featured three Minnesota teams.

"And we weren't one of them," Minnesota coach Bob Motzko said. "They were going to enjoy that, with us not being there. If you're going to pick on one team, they're going to pick on the Gophers, I can tell you that."

"We got our shot this year," he said, "and we're back in it with them."

Minnesota State reached the Frozen Four last year, losing in the semifinals to St. Cloud State.

► **PUCKS** from page 12

With only one day of practices before what the team hopes to be the first of two big games this week, the team is also weary of game planning for the Golden Gophers. Senior defenseman Wyatt Aamodt commented on what the Mavericks have to do in order to be successful against Minnesota tomorrow.

"We've got to do our best to hop on them early and enjoy the experience but know that there is a job at hand," said Aamodt. "We have to take the game five minutes at a time and play our game."

'Winning Time' shows authentic side of Laker legends

By **JONATHAN LANDRUM**
Associated Press

John C. Reilly remembered being enthralled watching "Showtime" basketball with Magic Johnson's no-look passes and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's patented skyhook, but the actor never really knew the backstory behind the Los Angeles Lakers dynasty.

Reilly quickly found out after stepping into his role as late Laker owner Jerry Buss in the HBO series "Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty," which airs Sundays. The 10-episode series follows the professional and personal lives of the team donning purple and gold in the 1980s and how the franchise became one of the most revered in professional sports.

"That was the vehicle through which the entire (basketball) world was changed," said Reilly about the Lakers, which was bought by Buss in 1979. "From the world of basketball, it was a different thing once Jerry bought the team. He innovated so many things, and he changed the entire world of showbiz. When you think of Kobe, Shaq, Magic, these guys came to L.A. and became worldwide players. I don't know if that happens for every team."

The series stars Reilly along with Quincy Isaiah as Johnson, Jason Clarke as Jerry West, Solomon Hughes as Abdul-Jabbar, Sally Field as Jerry's mother, Jessie Buss, Hadley Robinson as the young Jeanie Buss and Adrien Brody, who plays Pat Riley. The story is based on the book "Showtime: Mag-



WARICK PAGE • HBO via Associated Press

This image released by HBO shows Brett Cullen, portraying Bill Sharman, left, and John C. Reilly, portraying Jerry Buss, standing, in a scene from the series "Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty."

ic, Kareem, Riley and the Los Angeles Lakers Dynasty of the 1980s" by Jeff Pearlman.

Sunday's show marked the midway point of its run, focusing on Abdul-Jabbar's religious journey. The fifth episode also touches on Jeanie Buss' recruitment of the Laker Girls -- including young dancer Paula Abdul -- and Jerry Buss wanting to improve the look of the franchise.

Before portraying Buss, Reilly had heard about his reputation as a self-made millionaire who became known in Los Angeles for his flamboyant demeanor and for bringing Hol-

lywood entertainment into the NBA landscape. But after reading the script and doing more research on Buss, he learned about him being a chemist, mathematician and just an overall mysterious person.

"It's like unpeeling the layers of an onion getting to know this guy," Reilly said. "There are the public facts of what he did, when he bought the team, how much he paid, what he had to do to accomplish that, the big setbacks they went through that first year. But after that first year, he became a private guy. He would get like one interview per year or like

a local reporter to talk about the team. Other than that, it was just this kind of mysterious image of this guy who was just really enjoying his life and dating a lot."

Field, a longtime Lakers fan, said she agreed to participate in the show before reading the script. The actor said the series helped her reminisce about the moments when the Lakers merged its basketball world with Hollywood.

"I am such a big basketball fan, but then the show was about so much more than that," said Field, who would attend games with her two sons.

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Tiger's back, but Lefty's nowhere to be found at the Masters



MATT YORK • Associated Press

Phil Mickelson plays his shot from the second tee during the second round of the Tournament of Champions golf event, Jan. 7, 2022, at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii.

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

Tiger Woods is getting ready to tee it up at Augusta National. Phil Mickelson is nowhere to be found.

This scenario was unimaginable just a few months ago, when Woods was still recovering from a horrific wreck, while Mickelson's enormous popularity had surged even more after he became golf's oldest major champion.

But Lefty's hubris got the best of him again, leading to a stunning fall from grace even as autocratic regimes such as Saudi Arabia find plenty of willing partners for their sportswashing schemes.

Now the big question is: Can Mickelson pull off a comeback of his own?

Of course he can, but who knows if he even wants to patch things up with the PGA Tour and his fellow players.

The more perplexing issue is why Mickelson took this path in the first place — one of the richest athletes on the planet,

coming off an inspiring victory at the 2021 PGA Championship just shy of his 51st birthday, embracing an upstart, Saudi-backed golf tour even while acknowledging the country's grim record on human rights.

These wounds were entirely self-inflicted.

"His scandal is, frankly, kind of bizarre," said Mike Lewis, a marketing professor at Emory University in Atlanta. "It's not just a scandal, it's a head-scratcher. You're like, 'Did I read that right?'"

To recap, Mickelson — whose net worth has been estimated at \$800 million — accused the PGA Tour of "obnoxious greed." Not long after, golf writer and author Alan Shipnuck published part of his upcoming biography on Mickelson that shed further insight into Lefty's involvement with Greg Norman and the Saudi-funded "Super Golf League."

Mickelson said the Saudis were "scary mother (expletive)," specifically mentioning the killing of Washington Post

columnist Jamal Khashoggi and the country's anti-LGBTQ laws.

Then, without skipping a beat, Mickelson said it was worth getting in bed with the Saudis if it meant changing the PGA Tour — which was essentially code for cashing even larger paychecks, an especially important consideration, apparently, for someone in the twilight of his career.

"Why would I even consider it?" he posed to Shipnuck. "Because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reshape how the PGA Tour operates."

In the understandable backlash to Lefty's spot-on impersonation of Mr. Burns, Mickelson lost most of his big-money sponsors and became a pariah in a large part of the golfing world.

He shut down his career, saying he "desperately needed" some time to reassess his priorities, and withdrew from the Masters — via text message, as we learned Wednesday from Augusta National Chairman Fred Ridley.

single to right field.

Kline brought the Mavericks' lead back to two runs in the fifth inning with an RBI single up the left side. The Mavs would add two more runs in the final four innings, beating the Mustangs by a 6-2 final.

The Mavericks will be back in action this weekend as they take on the Northern State Wolves for a three-game weekend series in Aberdeen, S.D. The Wolves come into this weekend's series with a 9-11 overall record and 4-3 record in Northern Sun intercollegiate conference play.

Junior outfielder Karson

Hesser leads the Wolves' batting this season with a .317 batting average. The Wahoo, Neb. native also holds nine runs off of 20 hits this season including one home run.

On the mound, sophomore Max Otto leads the Wolves this season with a 2.43 earned run average. Otto also owns a convincing 5-1 record on the season and has let up 33 hits in 37 innings pitched so far.

The Mavericks and Wolves will take part in a doubleheader Apr. 9 at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. They will then return to action the next day for a series finale at 12 p.m.

◀SILYE from page 12

Minnesota State's Hockey Day Minnesota game at Blakeslee Stadium, where Silye earned the first star of the game for his hat trick. "Being able to score a hat trick was pretty cool, but I have to thank my teammates for that one," said Silye with a laugh. "After my third goal I took a look up at the crowd and heard them chanting the 'Ole' song and that was super cool."

Now it is off to Boston for the Ontario native, where he will return to his freshman stomping grounds on the East coast of the United States. Silye played in the Eastern College Athletic Conference as a member of Clarkson, which is also the conference home to MSU's first round matchup, Harvard.

Although Silye has played and visited the East coast of the U.S. for hockey, he is counting on his teammates to show him around.

"As far as sight-seeing, I think the guys will be showing me more than I'll be showing them," said Silye with a laugh. "I'm really excited to go down there and feel the environment. I've heard Boston is a great city."

The Mavericks are set to play the Minnesota Gophers in the first round of the Frozen Four. The two teams met in the Loveland Regional finals last year, where the Mavs beat the Gophers 4-0 to advance to the 2021 Frozen Four in Pittsburgh.

Despite losing senior goaltender and captain Jack LaFontaine to the NHL following last season's end, the Gophers have maintained their success. Minnesota brings a 26-12-0 overall record into the Frozen Four matchup, but it is the regional vicinity of the two teams that makes the matchup most exciting. "We saw the Gophers last year in the tournament. Being so close, it is going to create a cool rivalry," said Silye.

Preparation has officially begun at TD Garden in Boston, Mass. and the Mavericks are more ready than ever to return to the ice for another shot at a Division I National Championship.

"We're all jacked up and all four lines are going," said Silye. "All four lines contributed two weekends ago and we are moving in a positive direction and everyone is super excited to finally play on Thursday."

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◀BASEBALL from page 14

Mavs would go on to win the game by a 13-1 final.

The Mavericks and Mustangs would have a short break before returning to the field for game two of their doubleheader. Minnesota State's bats continued to be hot from game one as they scored three runs in the first inning. SMSU would answer in the second inning, however, as freshman infielder Owen Latendresse brought the game to 3-1 off a solo homerun. The Mustangs would bring the game to within one run in the third as junior infielder Keenan Wenzel tallied an RBI

VARIETY

VIBES WITH VERDES



MADDIE BEHRENS • The Reporter

TikTok star Tai Verdes performed at the Bresnan Arena as a part of the Student Events Team Spring Concert. Verdes played songs from his debut album, “TV.”

Tai Verdes brought laidback vibes to MSU through his songs from his album “TV.”

By LILLY SCHMIDT • Staff Writer

Tai Verdes performed at the spring concert last night for Minnesota State University, Mankato. Over the pandemic, Verdes’ music blew up and brought him the opportunity to tour his music starting late last month through September.

MSU Junior Mikayla Witter has been a fan of Verdes’ music for a while after she found him on TikTok.

“I actually listened to his music before he got really big,” said Witter. “Then, I heard that he was coming here, and I was like, ‘oh my gosh, I have to see him.’”

Verdes’ music mixes influence from R&B, indie and hip-hop. MSU Senior Krystalyn Thimsen described his music as relatable. Thimsen was looking forward to having a great time with friends.

“I think he’s a very positive influence. Even if some of his songs are about drugs, he’s still very positive with everything else,” shared Thimsen. “I can’t wait to hear the crowd sing his music back to him.”

Thimsen was also hoping to hear her favorite song, “Drugs.”

“It’s catchy and it’s something you can sing your heart out too,” said Thimsen.

Witter’s favorite song is “A-O-K.” With the

concert, she was most looking forward to live music again.

“I haven’t been to a concert since COVID started, so I’m excited to be in this vibe and energy again,” said Witter. “I think it’s really authentic and you can feel every beat and moment. I enjoy that.”

Although Verdes got his start on TikTok, Witter said it didn’t impact the way that she viewed his music.

“I think it was another way for him to get his music out onto a different platform,” shared Witter. “It was a good way on his part to network to people who are on Tik Tok.”

VERDES on page 23 ▶



Maria (Faith Peterson) sings to the Von Trapp children.

AJAY KASAUDHAN • The Reporter

“The Sound of Music” returns to the theatre

By SYD BERGGREN
Staff Writer

This weekend holds the opening for Minnesota State University, Mankato’s fourth rendition of “The Sound of Music,” a renowned musical about love, music and surviving.

This show is a conglomeration of both the beloved movie and Broadway musical, bringing back

classic and well-known songs. MSU Grad Student RJ Magee plays Max Detweiler, the uncle of the Von Trapp children. Magee wanted to get involved in terms of the themes that are present in the show.

“It’s a very seminal piece, considered to have one of the best books in the world of musical theater. It’s very well written,” shared Magee.

“It addresses a lot of good universal themes in terms of personal

responsibility, love, and family.”

Since “The Sound of Music” is such a well loved piece, this is not the first time MSU has run the show. Director Matt Caron had to balance keeping true to the story, but still giving this production its own voice.

“One of my main goals for this show was that I really wanted people to feel like they were coming

THEATRE on page 23 ▶

Estelle Harris, 'Seinfeld' and 'Toy Story' actress, dead at 93



KATY WINN • Associated Press

Actress Estelle Harris, (right) who hollered her way into TV history as George Costanza's short-fused mother on TV's "Seinfeld" and voiced Mrs. Potato Head in the "Toy Story" franchise, has died. She was 93.

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

Estelle Harris, who hollered her way into TV history as George Costanza's short-fused mother on "Seinfeld" and voiced Mrs. Potato Head in the "Toy Story" franchise, has died. She was 93.

As middle-class matron Estelle Costanza, Harris put a memorable stamp on her recurring role in the smash 1990s sitcom. With her high-pitched voice and humorously overbearing attitude, she was an archetype of maternal indignation.

Trading insults and absurdities with her on-screen husband, played by Jerry Stiller, Harris helped create a parental pair that would leave even a psychiatrist helpless to do anything but hope they'd move to Florida — as their son, played by Jason Alexander, fruitlessly encouraged them to do.

Harris' agent Michael Eisenstadt confirmed the actor's death in Palm Desert, California, on Saturday evening.

Viewers of all backgrounds would tell her she was just like their own mothers, Harris often said.

"She is the mother that everybody loves, even though she's a pain in the neck," she told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in 1998.

The career-defining role

came after decades on stage and screen. Born April 22, 1928, in New York City, Harris grew up in the city and later in the Pittsburgh suburb of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, where her father owned a candy store. She started tapping her comedic talents in high school productions where she realized she "could make the audience get hysterical," as she told People magazine in 1995.

After the nine-season run of "Seinfeld" ended in 1998, Harris continued to appear on stage and screen. She voiced Mrs. Potato Head in the 1999 animated blockbuster "Toy Story 2" and played the recurring character Muriel in the popular Disney Channel sitcom "The Suite Life of Zack & Cody," among other roles.

She had stopped pursuing show business when she married in the early 1950s but resumed acting in amateur groups, dinner theater and commercials as her three

children grew ("I had to get out of diapers and bottles and blah-blah baby talk," she told People). Eventually, she began appearing in guest roles on TV shows including the legal comedy "Night Court," and in films including director Sergio Leone's 1984 gangland epic "Once Upon a Time in America."

Her "Seinfeld" debut came in one of the show's most celebrated episodes: the Emmy Award-winning 1992 "The Contest," in which the four central characters challenge each other to refrain from doing what is artfully described only as "that."

Harris would go on to appear in dozens more episodes of the "show about nothing." She seethed over snubbed pella, screeched about George's hanky-panky in the parental bed and laid out the spread for screen husband Frank's idiosyncratic holiday, Festivus.

Grammys barely move the needle in television ratings



CHRIS PIZZELLO • Associated Press

Jon Batiste is seen in the audience before going on stage to accept the award for best music video for "Freedom" at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards. The award show received one of the lowest viewerships.

By DAVID BAUDER
Associated Press

Despite a night of feel-good vibes and performances by the music industry's top acts, the Grammy Awards barely moved the needle as a television attraction.

The show reached just under 9.6 million viewers on Sunday, the Nielsen company said. That's a 4% increase over 2021's broadcast, a more intimate affair because of the pandemic, and the smallest-ever audience for the Grammys by a wide margin.

Any year-to-year viewership increase is usually a cause for celebration in today's television world.

But that has to be considered a disappointing showing when you consider the previous week's Academy Awards increased its audience by 58% over 2021.

Jon Batiste was the biggest winner at the Grammys on CBS, which featured performances by Billie Eilish, Olivia Rodrigo, BTS, Chris Stapleton, Justin Bieber and others.

"Don't even think of it as an awards show," host Trevor Noah said at one point. "Think of it as a concert where

we're giving out awards."

On the sports front, the much-awaited NCAA Final Four contest between Duke and North Carolina reached a total of 16.25 million people Saturday night over several Turner cable networks, Nielsen said.

Sunday's NCAA championship game in women's basketball, won by South Carolina over Connecticut, was seen by 4.47 million people on ESPN.

CBS won the week in prime time, averaging 5.3 million viewers.

ABC had 3.2 million, NBC had 2.4 million, Fox had 2.1 million, Univision had 1.5 million, Ion Television had 1 million and Telemundo had 920,000.

Fox News Channel was the most-watched cable network in prime time, averaging 2.5 million viewers.

TBS had 1.99 million, ESPN had 1.67 million, TNT had 1.47 million and HGTV had 1.1 million.

ABC's "World News Tonight" won the evening news ratings race with an average of 8.4 million viewers.

NBC's "Nightly News" had 7 million viewers and the "CBS Evening News" had 5 million.

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New radio station helps Ukrainian refugees

By KAREL JANICEK
Associated Press

This is Radio Ukraine calling. A new Prague-based internet radio station has started to broadcast news, information and music tailored to the day-to-day concerns of some 300,000 Ukrainian refugees who have arrived in the Czech Republic since Russia launched its military assault against Ukraine.

In a studio at the heart of the Czech capital, radio veterans work together with absolute beginners to provide the refugees with what they need to know to settle as smoothly as possible in a new country.

The staff of 10 combines people who have fled Ukraine in recent weeks with those who have been living abroad for years. No matter who they are, their common goal is to help fellow Ukrainians and their homeland facing the brutal Russian invasion.

Natalia Churikova, an experienced journalist with Prague-based Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, said she couldn't say no to an offer to become the broadcaster's editor-in-chief.

"It was for my people. For people who really needed help, who really needed support, something that would help them start a new life or restart their lives here after they have lived through very bad things trying to escape from Ukraine," Churikova said.

Staffer Sofia Tatomyr is one of those who left to escape the war. The 22-year-old from the western town of Kalush was making plans to move to another city in Ukraine when a friend



PETR DAVID JOSEK • Associated Press

Natalia Churikova editor in chief of Radio Ukraine speaks at the studio in Prague, Czech Republic. The new Prague-based internet radio has started to broadcast news, information and music tailored to address refugees.

called one morning: "Sofia, the war has just begun."

Her parents and older brother opted to stay home, but they wanted her to join her aunt in Prague.

"It happened all of a sudden," she said. She boarded a bus alone in Cherniutsi and arrived 28 hours later in the Czech capital, a city she'd never visited.

"When I was already abroad, I remember the moment that I was crying and I was trying to buy a ticket and I couldn't spell what ticket I need. It was really difficult," she said.

Tatomyr worked as graphic

designer and singer in Ukraine after getting a degree as a publisher and media editor. Radio broadcasting was part of her university training.

To her surprise, her aunt's brother found an announcement about jobs for a new Ukrainian radio station.

She said she needed "some time to understand that not everybody can be at the frontline at the war and everybody has to do what he or she can do the best."

"So this is how I'm cheering myself up: That I'm doing my profession, that I'm doing what

I can do the best, and this is the best way I can help our people, I can help Ukraine," she said.

Safe in Prague, she was still trying to come to terms with the invasion of her homeland.

"It's horrible," she said. "I can't still find any logical explanation for what they're doing and why they're doing it. In the 21st century, a war? Why? We were a peaceful nation."

Another announcer, Marharyta Golobrodska, was working as a copywriter for a software company when she received a call from Churikova, whom she knew from an internship at Ra-

dio Free Europe.

"I used to consider those who get up early to be ready to work from 6 a.m. crazy, but that's what I do now and I thoroughly enjoy it," Golobrodska said.

"That's what I always wanted to do, to be helpful for my country, even though I live so far away."

For 12 hours each weekday — and 11 hours on weekends — Radio Ukraine plays Ukrainian and western music while presenting news of Ukraine and the Czech Republic together with information for refugees every 15 minutes. It includes details about where they can get the documents they need from local authorities, how to get a job or medical treatment, or how to find a place for children at schools. Children can also listen to Ukrainian fairy tales.

After the invasion, she traveled to western Ukraine to meet her mother and 9-year-old sister and drive them to safety. In Prague, she got them involved in her broadcast.

"My mum, for example, told me she'd like to hear what she's not supposed to do here. For example, that she can't park the car anywhere she wants to, like in Ukraine," she said.

Bohemia Media, which operates several radio stations in the Czech Republic, came up with the idea to launch the station. It provided a studio and its people cooperated with the Ukrainian embassy, the local Ukrainian community and others to make it reality in just three weeks.

Lukas Nadvornik, the director of the project, said the plan is for the station to remain on air as long as it's needed.

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Music stars return to Venezuela after years

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

The ground shook at the instant the voice of Mexican music star Alejandro Fernandez collided with the deafening cheers of fans gathered for his first concert in Venezuela in over a decade.

After an initial shocked pause at seeing the artist finally take the stage, the crowd, cellphones in hand, joined him in singing “Sin Tantita Pena” — “Without Too Much Pity.”

“It’s beautiful to be in Venezuela,” he said to screams and whistles from the sold-out audience, some of whom had taken out loans to see him perform last month at a 5,000-capacity theater in Caracas, the capital. “Beautiful, dear, Venezuela that I always carry in my heart.”

Prominent artists are returning to stages in the South American country this year after leaving it out of tours for years. Multilingual vocal group Il Divo and Latin Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Kany Garcia are among those with scheduled concerts.

But with ticket prices ranging from \$55 to upward of \$600, the events are symbols



ARIANA CUBILLOS • Associated Press

People line up to get into the concert of Mexican singer Alejandro Fernandez and Colombian singer Jessi Uribe in Caracas, Venezuela, March 3, 2022. Major artists are returning to Venezuelan stages after leaving it out of tours.

of great inequality in an impoverished nation. Superstars like the Backstreet Boys once drew fans to sleep outside a Caracas arena for days as they lined up

for tickets. Guns N’ Roses and Shakira came to town. So did Juanes, whose 2008 tour included multiple cities in Venezuela.

Major concerts, however,

became more sporadic starting around 2010.

They vanished almost completely a few years later when the country fell into a political,

social and economic crisis that eliminated jobs even as inflation collapsed the purchasing power of millions.

Today, about three quarters of Venezuela’s population still lives on less than \$1.90 a day, considered the international standard for extreme poverty.

But for those who have found good private-sector jobs, entered the gig economy or have a business, particularly in Caracas, things are looking up.

The change is partly due to the government’s decision to give up its long and complicated efforts to restrict transactions in U.S. dollars in favor of the local bolivar, whose value has been obliterated by inflation.

That means promoters once again sense people have money to spend on music — and the changed rules make it possible again to finance the events.

“They’re going to book cities and venues based on venues they could sell,” said Jeffrey Dorenfeld, music industry professor at Berklee College of Music in Boston.

“Artists are not going to want to play the half houses. They don’t like to see empty chairs. The objective is to fill the room with paid attendance.”

Rapper Tory Lanez jailed again

By ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

Rapper Tory Lanez was briefly jailed Tuesday after a judge said he had violated a protective order in a felony assault case in which he is charged with shooting rapper Megan Thee Stallion in the feet.

Lanez, 29, whose legal name is Daystar Peterson, was handcuffed in a Los Angeles courtroom and taken to jail. He posted bail and was released several hours later.

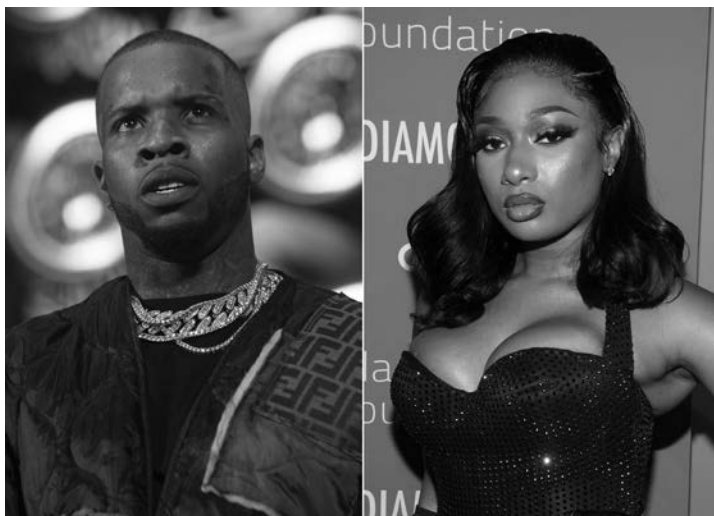
At the hearing, Superior Court Judge David Herriford found that Peterson had violated orders that he not contact or harass Megan and that he not discuss evidence with outside parties.

While Peterson didn’t directly contact Megan, Herriford said some of his tweets appeared to be clear messages to her, and he ordered Peterson not to mention her in any social media.

Peterson’s lawyer, Shawn Holley, said in court that he did not supply information to a Twitter user who posted in February that Peterson’s DNA was not found on the weapon in the case.

In her argument, Holley said the tweet, now deleted, was not entirely accurate. She said that an investigation showed there were four DNA contributors on the handgun, making it inconclusive whether

Peterson’s DNA was found. She said his DNA was definite-



SCOTT ROTH and CHARLES SYKES • Associated Press

Rapper Tory Lanez was briefly jailed Tuesday, April 5, 2022, after a judge said he had violated a protective order in a felony assault case in which he is charged with shooting rapper Megan Thee Stallion in the feet.

ly not found to be on the gun’s magazine.

The prosecution had asked that Peterson’s bail be revoked entirely or increased to \$5 million.

“We are pleased that the Court rejected those outrageous requests,” Holly said in an email after the hearing.

The judge instead increased bail from the \$250,000 Peterson posted after his 2020 arrest to \$350,000.

A September trial date was selected, and Peterson was told to return for a June hearing. He has pleaded not guilty.

Peterson, Megan and others were in an SUV in the Hollywood Hills after a party on July 12, 2020.

Authorities allege he fired at

her feet during an argument after she had gotten out.

After months of speculation and publicity surrounding the incident, Peterson was charged with felony assault in October 2020, and in December of last year a judge determined there was enough evidence for him to go to trial.

After his initial arrest, Peterson tweeted that “the truth will come to light.”

Megan Thee Stallion was already a major up-and-coming star at the time of the incident, and has thrived since.

She won a Grammy for best new artist in 2021, and had No. 1 singles in the Billboard Hot 100 with her own song “Savage” and as a guest on Cardi B’s “WAP.”



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Bobby Rydell, 60s teen idol and 'Bye Bye Birdie' TV star, dies



B. VARTAN BOYAJIAN • Associated Press

Bobby Rydell, (right), was a pompadoured heartthrob of early rock 'n roll teen idol in the 50s and 60s and a star of radio, television and the movie musical "Bye Bye Birdie," died Tuesday, April 5, 2022. He was 79.

By ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

Bobby Rydell, a pompadoured heartthrob of early rock 'n roll who was a star of radio, television and the movie musical "Bye Bye Birdie," died Tuesday.

Rydell died of complications from pneumonia at a hospital in a suburb of his hometown of Philadelphia, according to a statement posted by his marketing and event coordinator Maria Novey.

Rydell, who credited a 2012 kidney and liver transplant with extending his life, was 79.

Along with James Darren, Fabian and Frankie Avalon, Rydell was among a wave of wholesome teen idols who emerged after Elvis Presley and before the rise of the Beatles.

Between 1959 and 1964, he had nearly three dozen Top 40 singles including "Wild One," "Volare," "Wildwood Days," "The Cha-Cha-Cha" and "Forget Him," a song of consolation for a bereft girl that helped inspire the Beatles' classic "She Loves You."

He had recurring roles on "The Red Skelton Show" and

other television programs, and 1963's "Bye Bye Birdie" was rewritten to give Rydell a major part as the boyfriend of Ann-Margret.

He didn't want to move to Hollywood, however, and "Birdie" became his only significant movie role — though the high school in the hit '70s musical "Grease" was named for him.

Rydell never strayed far from his Philadelphia roots, living in the area for most of his life. The block of 11th Street where he grew up was christened Bobby Rydell Boulevard by his hometown in 1995.

"I never thought of myself as a celebrity," he told The Philadelphia Inquirer in 2003. "I was just a guy who went out there and worked."

He was born Robert Ridarelli in a South Philadelphia neighborhood that would also produce teen idols Darren, Fabian and Avalon. They knew each other as children — Rydell played drums with Avalon on trumpet in a group called Rocco and the Saints.

Before he graced the covers of teen magazines and movie screens, Rydell made his bones

as a youngster in Philadelphia clubs.

He made his performance debut as a 7-year-old drummer, not a singer. His first drum kit was a gift from his father, Al Ridarelli, who inspired his son's choice of instrument by taking him to see Gene Krupa perform.

At age 9, he debuted on an amateur television show and became its regular drummer for three years.

Rydell got his big break in 1959 on "American Bandstand," which originally was broadcast from Philadelphia. His first hit, "Kissing Time," quickly followed, and the skinny 17-year-old with a pompadour haircut rocketed to stardom.

Rydell and his fellow Philadelphia performers were ideal for "Bandstand" host Dick Clark, who sought to make rock n' roll palatable to young and old. He also made live appearances nationwide on a tour organized by Clark.

Changing musical tastes ushered in by the Beatles and the rest of the British Invasion defused the hit-making careers of Rydell and his compatriots.

◀VERDES from page 19

Verdes' popularity seemed to have grown with reason. MSU freshman Jenna Moseng attended the concert and described Verdes' performance style as carefree.

"He makes sure to put a lot of thought and meaning behind his songs and I think they're just fun to sing along with," shared Moseng. "I love how he speaks so honestly with the crowd as well."

Verdes shows compassion and humanity to his audience.

Becca Ward, an MSU freshman witnessed a fan pass out in the crowd and noticed that Verdes stopped performing.

"There's some artists who don't stop when people faint in the crowd, but he did," said Ward.

Ward said she was surprisingly pleased with the opener for the concert, Irie Minds.

"I think the opening act - how they were all Mankato alumni - I think that was pretty cool," shared Ward.

While Moseng didn't know

a lot about Verdes' music before the concert, she had a blast at the concert.

"The time went by so quickly and he was such a vibe of the crowd, [specifically him] constantly talking to us and getting involved with the crowd," shared Moseng. "It was so much fun interacting with him."

Overall, Ward had a lot of fun at the concert.

"I thought it was very energetic and he knew how to get the crowd going," said Ward.

◀THEATRE from page 19

home when they came to the theater," said Caron. "I wanted it to feel familiar."

Caron found it important to keep the show familiar due to it being a nostalgic piece.

"One of the reasons we chose it is we knew it was going to be a crowd pleaser," shared Caron.

"We wanted to do a show that would bring people back to the theater and would get people excited to come back."

MSU student Jack Adams plays Captain Von Trapp in the show. Landing the role was special for him as he grew up watching the show.

"I remember watching the movie when I was a kid over and over again and just loving Julie Andrews' and Christopher Plummer's performance," said Adams. "As soon as I saw the show in the season, I circled it right away and was like, 'This is a role I want. This is a show I want to be in.'"

Adams has struggled with adapting into his lofty role, but, despite the struggles, has loved being a part of the show.

"I have been trying to take

all the nuanced little things that make the character a person and just trying to be true to the movie and the play, but also make the character my own," shared Adams.

"I love this cast, and getting to do a show that I grew up on and a role that I always loved has been a highlight of my career without a doubt. It's been amazing getting to play Von Trapp."

Caron appreciates that while the show may be old-fashioned, it keeps the audience entertained.

"[The show] is pretty long, but the songs are so familiar and they just keep you going. The songs come at just the right moment and the plot moves along at the perfect pace," said Caron.

"It's a well-crafted piece of theater. I never get bored with it. There's a superb musicality on stage."

"The Sound of Music" runs April 7-9 and 14-16 at 7:30 p.m. and April 16-17 at 2 p.m. in the Ted Paul Theatre.

Tickets are \$24 for adults, \$21 for children under 16 and \$16 for MSU students.

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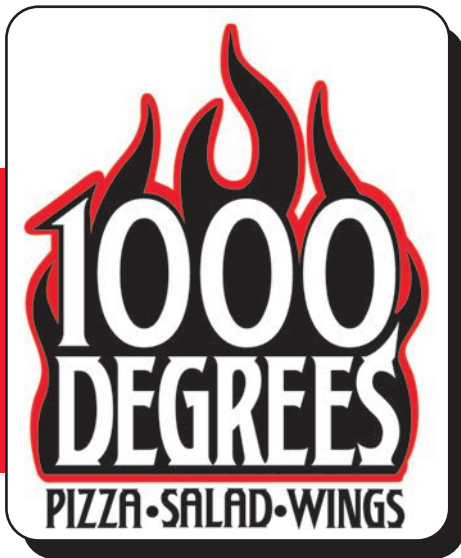
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