

Perfectly in sync for Homecoming week



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

The Mavsians beat out several other groups to claim the winning trophy at the annual Lip Sync Battle as a part of Homecoming week.

By EMMA JOHNSON
News Director

Thursday night brought the much beloved lip sync battle hosted by the Student Events Team as a part of Homecoming week at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Over the course of two hours, several campus organizations including Fraternity Sorority Life, the Maverick Machine

and Mavsians, fought to win the trophy.

For most students, the annual lip sync battle is not an event to miss.

For Business Manager of Student Activities and Judge Pam Guss, it was her first time attending.

Guss was told to not miss the show as it brings energy for Homecoming week.

“[All the students] told me

in my office that this is the best show on campus ever. I think everybody is very excited for homecoming. The whole week has been very fun all over campus,” Guss said.

Performances were judged on several criteria including originality, choreography and correlation to the theme of Mavericks go to Hollywood.

Long hours and dedication were put into prepping for the

battle. Junior Kendra Dowe participated with Alpha Sigma Alpha and Phi Kappa Psi in the lip sync battle.

Dowe said that her group picked out several songs that went with the Hollywood theme.

“We have ‘When I Grow Up’ by The Pussycat Dolls, ‘Boyfriend’ by Big Time Rush and ‘Paparazzi’ by Lady Gaga. We

BATTLE on page 2▶

Mental Health Mankato gets rid of stigmas

By EMMA JOHNSON
News Director

Raising awareness on mental health and how to take better care of yourself is a discussion that isn’t talked about as frequently as it should be.

Mankato Mental Health Associates (MMHA) provides services that help destigmatize what previous thoughts of mental health look like.

MMHA offers services to those who suffer not only from usual disorders such as depression and anxiety, but also issues including eating disorders, coming out and medical issues. MMHA has therapy for individuals, families and couples.

Psychologist Dawn Ulrich-Spitzer was the first to be certified in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing — a type of therapy that helps clients suffering from PTSD, panic and trauma — back in 2007. Since then, all MMHA clinicians are certified in EMDR which makes Ulrich-Spitzer thrilled.

“We work a lot with trauma and trauma can be anything from falling down the stairs to being in a war zone to being assaulted,” Ulrich-Spitzer said.

“Because I was certified in EMDR [early on], I work often with veterans and victims of assault or child abuse.”

During the Covid-19 pandemic, MMHA did not shut their doors to the public. MMHA offered clients the choice to either attend via telehealth sessions or in person while wearing masks.

Ulrich-Spitzer said that, out of her 45 clients, 40 attended in person; an achievement she was proud of.

“We work with a lot of clients who are poor and need medical assistance. Maybe don’t have health insurance or medicare, so they don’t have access to a smart phone or tablet and they’re technologically challenged, so we gave all

SERVICES on page 4▶

Office decorating dub goes to The Reporter

By EMMA JOHNSON
News Director

For Homecoming week, offices around campus decorated to celebrate this year’s theme “Mavericks go to Hollywood.”

Several offices chose to represent Los Angeles through the Hollywood Walk of Fame, red carpets and special backdrops.

The Reporter incorporated all of the above decorations in the office along with a concessions stand stocked full of snacks, props to use against the customized backdrop and a special theater to watch a movie highlighting The Reporter’s involvement with Homecoming.



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

The Reporter’s office was decked out to look like a movie premiere. A red carpet donned the entrance leading up to a customized backdrop with Minnesota State University, Mankato logos and The Reporter’s logos.

Alex Jones testifies in trial over his Sandy Hook hoax lies



TYLER SIZEMORE • Associated Press

Plaintiff's attorney Chris Mattei, left, questions Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones during testimony at the Alex Jones Sandy Hook defamation damages trial at Connecticut Superior Court in Waterbury, Conn.

By DAVE COLLINS and PAT EATON-ROBB
Associated Press

Alex Jones took the stand Thursday at his Connecticut defamation trial, acknowledging he had promoted the conspiracy theory that the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre was a hoax, but angrily refusing to keep apologizing for that.

More than a dozen relatives of the 26 shooting victims showed up to observe his often contentious testimony in Waterbury Superior Court, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) from Newtown, where the shooting occurred.

Jones was found liable last year by default for damages to plaintiffs without a trial, for what the judge called his repeated failures to turn over documents to their lawyers. The six-member jury is now deciding how much Jones and Free Speech Systems, parent of Jones' Infowars media platforms, should pay the families for defaming them and intentionally inflicting emotional distress.

On Thursday, Jones admitted calling parents "crisis actors" on his show and saying the shooting was "phony as a three-dollar bill."

Plaintiff attorney Christopher Mattei accused Jones of putting targets on the parents' backs, pointing to the family members in the courtroom and saying "these are real people."

"Just like all the Iraqis you liberals killed and love," Jones responded. "Just, you're unbelievable. You switch on emotions, on-and-off when you want. You're just ambulance chasing."

"Why don't you show a little respect?" Mattei shot back, as Jones' lawyer, Norm Pattis, shouted objections and several

family members shook their heads in apparent disbelief.

The exchange went on with Mattei pointing out that the families in the courtroom had "lost children, sisters, wives, moms."

"Is this a struggle session?" said Jones, who in recent years has acknowledged the shooting was real. "Are we in China? I've already said I'm sorry hundreds of times and I'm done saying I'm sorry."

After excusing the jury for the day, Judge Barbara Bellis admonished both sides, saying further outbursts would lead to a contempt hearing.

Bellis had begun the day by going over the topics that Jones could not mention in his testimony: free speech rights; the Sandy Hook families' \$73 million settlement this year with gun-maker Remington (the company made the Bushmaster rifle used to kill the victims at Sandy Hook); the percentage of Jones' shows that discussed Sandy Hook; and whether he profited from those shows or a similar case in Texas.

"This is not the appropriate forum for you to offer that testimony," Bellis said. Jones indicated that he understood.

But the jury had to be sent out of the courtroom several times while attorneys argued about the scope of Jones' answers.

"You're going to get your exercise today, for those of you who wear Fitbits," the judge told jurors.

Earlier in the trial, family members of the victims have given often emotional testimony describing how they endured death threats, in-person harassment and abusive comments on social media. Some moved to avoid the abuse.

Jones' shows had portrayed

the Sandy Hook shooting as staged by crisis actors as part of gun control efforts.

Testimony also has focused on website analytics data run by Infowars employees showing how its sales of dietary supplements, food, clothing and other items spiked around the time Jones talked about the Sandy Hook shooting.

Evidence, including internal Infowars emails and depositions, also shows dissent within the company about pushing the hoax lies.

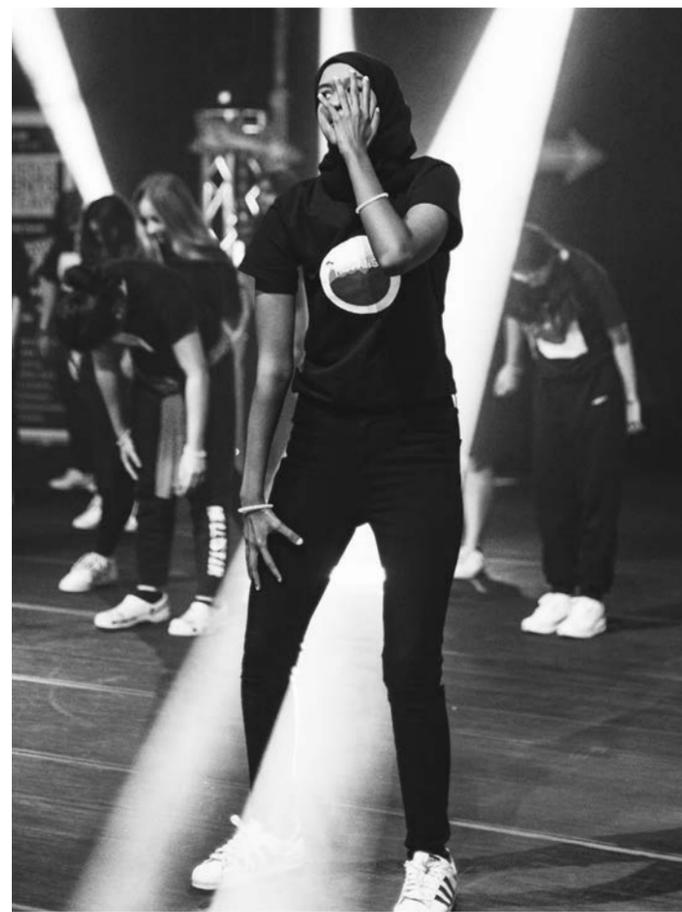
Pattis is arguing that any damages should be limited and accused the victims' relatives of exaggerating the harm the lies caused them.

Jones has already been found liable by default in two similar lawsuits over the Sandy Hook hoax lies in his hometown of Austin, Texas, where a jury in one of the trials ordered Jones last month to pay nearly \$50 million in damages to the parents of one of the children killed. A third trial in Texas is expected to begin near the end of the year.

Jones was asked Thursday about a page on his Infowars site that called the trial a "kangaroo court" and included a graphic showing the judge with lasers shooting from her eyes. He said the page was created by his staff, but called it a "good report."

He was asked about advertisements on that page and other Sandy Hook content, as well as daily profit reports. Jones said he could not answer those questions, but denied he saw the trial as a marketing opportunity.

Later, when asked about his fundraising and items offered in his Internet store, he made sure to give out the URL where people could buy cryptocurrency to support his company.



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

The Mavsians incorporated songs from "The Princess and the Frog," "The Backyardigans" and "Mission Impossible" with impressive complex choreography to lead them to their triumphant win.

◀BATTLE from page 1

were going for the Hollywood theme, but also some fun songs that people can cheer on and clap to," Dowe said.

After a tough decision over all the performances, Mavsians came out as the triumphant winner of the lip sync battle.

Senior Yuepheng Thao said that the Mavsians put in several hours of rehearsal to claim the title.

"At first, it was once every other day for two to three hours, but the last week and a half, it's been every weekday for about four hours. It's been a really rushed two and a half weeks," Thao said.

After the Student Events Team announced the Mavsians won, Thao described the feeling as being on drugs.

"We all work so hard, sweat so much, [have] aching knees. We were all just huddled like a family and we were just hoping for the best. When you hear the name, [it's like] ecsta-

sy," Thao said.

Thao explained the Mavsians try to do their best every year to come out on top.

"People always talk about Mavsians, so it definitely becomes an expectation. It's always about them cheering and having fun," Thao said.

Thao said homecoming is the essential event in bringing the university together in the spirit of Homecoming.

"There's always the concert with a celebrity, but this is where the community gets to share an experience together. There's no one outside of Mankato coming in and trying to give that to us," Thao said. "It comes from within Mankato's heart and it gives it to the students at MSU."

The runners up in the lip sync battle were Alpha Chi Omega and Phi Delta Theta coming in second.

Gamma Phi Beta and Sigma Chi came in third.

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The efforts to preserve Cantonese

By TERRY TANG, HAVEN DALEY and SYLVIA HUI
Associated Press

Three decades ago, finding opportunities to learn Cantonese in San Francisco wasn't hard. But today in the city that's drawn Cantonese speakers from South China for over 150 years, there's fear that political and social upheaval are diminishing a language that is a cultural touchstone.

The Chinese government's push for wider use of Mandarin—already the national language, spoken by 1 billion people—along with the country's changing migration patterns have contributed to an undeniable shift away from Cantonese. It's a change that has reverberated from East to West.

From the United States to the United Kingdom and beyond, there's worry among native and second-generation Cantonese speakers about preserving the language, spoken by some 85 million people worldwide.

They fear their children can't communicate with elderly relatives. Or worse, the Cantonese language and culture won't survive another generation.

Ceci Pang, a former kindergarten teacher, runs classes for children at Rainbow Seeds Cantonese school in London. Most of her students are from families with mixed heritage.

"Many (parents) want their kids to be able to communicate with their grandparents," she said. "It's just so hard here, there are so few learning resources and lots of parents get frustrated and give up. That's usually the point the parents come to me."

In the U.K., as in the U.S., most primary and secondary schools offering Chinese teach Mandarin.

That's left many migrant families struggling to find ways to pass on their heritage.

Some turn to social media for advice and camaraderie—a Facebook group called "Cantonese Parents" has thousands of members sharing tips on everything from Cantonese books to YouTube videos.

Some organize local Cantonese family meet-ups, while others seek out Cantonese tutors.

Pang said she hasn't noticed many explicit concerns about Cantonese dying as a language.

But, she said, that may change as more Hong Kong migrants settle in the U.K. Britain opened its doors last year in response to China's crackdown on civil liberties in the city.

Since then, thousands of Hong Kong families have fled to the U.K.

"I think in a few years, when more and more Hong Kong families settle here, there may be more parents worried about their children rejecting Cantonese altogether as they become so immersed in the English environment," she said.

In China, concerns have



HAVEN DALEY • Associated Press

City College of San Francisco once had four Cantonese instructors and Cantonese Professor Grace Yu, who's been teaching at the community college for more than 30 years, is now the only one left.

been voiced for years about a decline in Cantonese, spoken in southeastern China's Guangdong province and the cities of Hong Kong and Macao. Promoting Mandarin was written into China's constitution in 1982.

A suggestion in 2010 to increase Mandarin programs on a Cantonese TV channel caused such a public backlash in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong, that the government was forced to give reassurance that Mandarin would not replace Cantonese.

Guangzhou, formerly known as Canton, is considered the birthplace of Cantonese. But today it is a hub of manufacturing and tech jobs attracting Mandarin speakers.

Nowadays many young people can only understand Cantonese but don't speak the language.

While Cantonese is not dominant in people's lives as it used to be, it's too early to say the language is in crisis in Guangzhou. It's still spoken in homes and among friends, and there are Cantonese TV channels as well as Cantonese announcements on public transport.

In contrast, Cantonese has maintained its primacy in Hong Kong.

It's the city's lingua franca, used by 90% of the population, said Lau Chaak-ming, assistant professor of linguistics at the Education University of Hong Kong.

"Everyone who comes to Hong Kong needs to learn some Cantonese. And in order to succeed in most of the careers in Hong Kong, you need to speak fluent Cantonese," said Lau, who started an online Cantonese dictionary in 2014 to help people better learn the language.

While most classes in Hong Kong's schools are still taught in Cantonese, many have added Mandarin to their curriculum as Beijing tries to strengthen its grip over the semi-autonomous city.

The arrival of mainland Chinese for work or education has also boosted Mandarin, and more Hong Kong residents have learned to speak Man-

darin to do business with the mainland.

But such changes have not eroded Cantonese, Lau said. "Cantonese has never been stronger in Hong Kong," he said.

That's a far cry from the U.S., where even in San Francisco there are few opportunities to pursue Cantonese in high school and beyond.

The San Francisco Unified School District has Cantonese and Mandarin immersion programs for preK-8th grades. But in high school, Mandarin is the only option for studying Chinese for foreign language credits.

In 1990, when Grace Yu was hired at City College of San Francisco, there were four Cantonese instructors and a dozen Cantonese classes offered each year. But for the past six years, Yu has been the lone Cantonese professor, teaching only three classes per year.

"Vacancies were not replaced with Cantonese instructors. Instead they hired Mandarin instructors," said Yu.

She described her situation as "kind of lonely."

Still, there is a glimmer of hope. One of City College's trustees—who grew up speaking Cantonese—proposed a resolution to preserve the Cantonese program with at least one instructor. The board approved it this spring.

"Cantonese classes will not be canceled if I retire," Yu said.

Like Yu, Sik Lee Dennig was the lone Cantonese lecturer at Stanford University until she retired last year.

After more than 20 years, the school opted not to renew her contract, which effectively eliminated the Cantonese language program. A "save Cantonese" petition prompted an endowment. But the university would only restore half the classes.

That prompted Dennig to strike out on her own and start a nonprofit, the Cantonese Alliance, to help teachers and interested learners worldwide.

The online resource includes podcasts, videos and handouts, as well as Cantonese pop music and comic books.

MSU parade kicks off Homecoming Weekend

By JOEY ERICKSON
Staff Writer

Mankato locals and Minnesota State University, Mankato students alike were lined up and down all of Warren Street last Saturday for the annual Homecoming Parade.

The event was a lively kickoff to a big Homecoming Weekend after Friday's Bonfire was canceled due to the weather.

On and off campus, many groups and organizations presented in the parade, donning streamers, tinsel and posterboard in school colors atop their cars to raise the Homecoming spirit.

One of the cars driving down the road during the parade was advertising the MSU Department of Art & Design.

The car was ornamented with student-made artwork, with a large, hand-made (and functioning!) spinning wheel reminiscent of the one from "Wheel of Fortune" sitting atop the car, gleaming in the sun.

According to Todd Shanafelt, one of the Art & Design faculty, the reason behind entering his float in the parade was to shine a light on the students and their artwork.

"It's good to promote our students and their work, and the importance of self-expression... it's good for the community," Shanafelt said.

Homecoming spirit was highly present all throughout the day, especially at the parade. When asked about what Homecoming spirit meant to

him, Shanafelt replied that it's all about "asking questions, working as a collective, and diving into curiosity."

Another group participating in the parade was the International Student Association. Students from all different backgrounds walked in the Parade, each holding their own country's national flag to represent their home.

Visibility was one of the main reasons for walking in the Parade, according to International Student Association President, Majd Alharbi.

"The ISA is a huge part of MSU. We're a part of a lot of departments on campus, so it's really nice to show people who we are, and that we're here," Alharbi said.

To Alharbi, Homecoming spirit is all about coming together as one.

"To me, it's basically everyone coming together. All the organizations are coming together and walking together, and today we're all Mavericks, not just one organization," Alharbi said.

One of the off-campus companies present in the Parade was Hot 96.7, a local radio station in Mankato, playing contemporary hits mixed with the hottest club tracks.

The reasoning behind joining the parade for them was simply that they thought it was fun.

"I always thought it would be cool to be part of a parade. As an entertainer, I've always loved to be in front of a crowd, bring smiles on people's faces.

PARADE on page 5

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Arizona women seek abortions

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
and TERRY TANG
Associated Press

When an Arizona judge ruled last week that prosecutors can resume enforcing a near-total ban on abortion that dates to the Civil War, it fell to the staff at Camelback Family Planning to break the news to the women scheduled for appointments in the coming weeks.

The staff faced “crying, a lot of very, very angry people, denial,” nurse Ashleigh Feiring said Monday. One woman argued, “But I’m only five weeks (along).”

Women seeking abortions across Arizona were forced to find alternatives beyond the state’s borders after the ruling, which clears the way for prosecutors to charge doctors and others who help a woman end a pregnancy unless her life is in danger.

The state’s major abortion providers immediately halted procedures and canceled appointments.

Providers in neighboring states, already seeing an increase in traffic from other conservative states that have banned abortion, were preparing to treat some of the 13,000 Arizona patients who get an abortion each year.

Planned Parenthood Arizona on Monday asked Pima County Superior Court Judge Kellie Johnson to put her ruling on hold pending an appeal, saying it created confusion about the status of the law in Arizona.

Lawyers cited conflicts created by the abortion ban dating to 1864, a more recent law banning abortions after 15 weeks, and a variety of other laws regulating the processes and paperwork when terminating pregnancies.

Johnson’s ruling lifted an injunction that was imposed after the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision guaranteed a right to abortion in 1973.

At the Camelback Family Planning clinic in central Phoenix, a young woman took off from work Monday afternoon for an appointment to get medicine to help with an abortion.

The 20-year-old is afraid she is prone to miscarriage and already miscarried two years ago.

“I don’t want to experience this. I don’t have the time and energy to go through that again,” said the woman, who declined to give her name.

But she never made it past the check-in window. Instead, she got a slip of paper with a website to order medicine by mail and left visibly upset.

She says she never got a call that the ruling by a Tucson judge last Friday effectively voided her ability to get an abortion in Arizona.

“I can guarantee I would not have wasted my time leaving work early and losing money to come here,” the woman said. “I need to get it done —regard-



MATT YORK • Associated Press

Celina Washburn protests outside the Arizona Capitol to voice her dissent with an abortion ruling. An Arizona judge ruled the state can enforce a near-total ban on abortions that’s been blocked for nearly 50 years.

less if that’s going to a different state or going across the border. It just sucks that this is the last resort for people.”

The doctors and nurses at Camelback Family Planning had an inkling last week that a court decision on abortion could come down.

But they thought it would be a ban on abortions after 15 weeks into pregnancy. So, several of the abortions performed last week were for patients over 20 weeks along.

“We cleared our schedule to do as many of those later-term ones,” said Feiring, the nurse. So they postponed some patients less farther along until this week.

Feiring and other staff at the Phoenix clinic are letting patients know the clinic is still available to do follow-up abortion care.

They refer them to websites and organizations that help with abortion access.

Planned Parenthood has patient navigators who work with women seeking abortions to find an affiliate in a state where abortion is legal, and to help with money and logistics, said Brittany Fonteno, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Arizona. Many Arizona patients are getting abortions in California, Nevada, New Mexico and Colorado.

“This is really a traumatic experience, to be told that one day a basic health care procedure is available to you and then out of the blue the next day it’s been stripped away from you and has the potential to completely alter the course of your life,” Fonteno said.

In California, the second-largest Planned Parenthood affiliate in the country says it is considering opening a new health center in part because of an expected increase in patients from Arizona and other states.

Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino counties operates nine health centers in Southern California that catered to 250,000 medical visits last year — largely for services other than abortion, like cancer screenings and birth control, according to Nichole Ramirez,

the group’s senior vice president for communications.

The group started preparing for an influx of patients from other states last year by hiring more providers, offering more abortion appointment slots and helping patients pay for things like gas, hotel rooms and plane tickets.

“We knew this was going to happen slowly, in a way, as state by state has been banning abortion,” Ramirez said. “The number is going to continue to increase.”

California is already seeing evidence of an increase in abortion patients coming from other states. Last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a new website — abortion.ca.gov — that promotes all of the state’s abortion services, including a list of clinics and information about state laws.

On Monday, the Governor’s Office said the website — while not tracking and storing people’s personal information — had seen an increase in out-of-state page views, with about 58% of traffic coming from people in other states.

That increase comes after Newsom used some of his campaign money to pay for billboards in seven conservative states to promote the website.

Meanwhile, a California Access Reproductive Justice — a nonprofit that helps people pay for the logistics of getting an abortion — said 10 of the 63 people it helped in August were from Arizona.

Shannon Brewer, director of Las Cruces Women’s Health Organization that operates an abortion clinic in southern New Mexico, says she anticipates a surge in inquiries about abortion services from residents of Arizona, a two-hour drive away at minimum.

The clinic already received nearly a dozen queries Monday from people in Arizona.

Brewer previously operated the abortion clinic in Jackson, Mississippi, that was at the center of the *Dodds v Jackson Women’s Health* decision that took away women’s constitutional protection for access to abortions nationwide.



Courtesy photo

Dawn Ulrich-Spitzer is a psychologist at Mental Health Mankato Associates. Ulrich-Spitzer was the first clinician at MMHA to be certified in EMDR, a type of therapy that works specifically for those with trauma.

◀SERVICES from page 1

our clients options to attend,” Ulrich-Spitzer said. “There’s something different about seeing a therapist face to face than over telehealth and video.”

Older generations viewed mental health treatment by simply getting up and switching their attitude. Ulrich-Spitzer said the physical symptoms that accompany mental illnesses are an often-overlooked aspect of mental health.

“We have a tendency to believe that our brains are different, but we have this mind-body connection that where if someone is struggling with mental health issues, they’re going to be experiencing some physical symptoms. They may have stomach issues, high blood pressure or they may have excessive sweating,” Ulrich-Spitzer said.

“For some people, they can [pull themselves up by the bootstraps]. For others, it becomes so severe that it’s not even a possibility.”

One of the most common stigmas surrounding mental health is the need to take medication to reduce symptoms of mental illness.

Ulrich-Spitzer explained that 85% of people who take medications for mental illness are only on medication for a portion of their life.

The other 15% are on medication for life. Ulrich-Spitzer

is part of the 15% and has accepted that it’s not wrong to take medication if needed.

“There’s a stigma about medications. ‘Why are you taking meds? All you have to do is think differently.’ Well, people’s brain chemistry which could be genetic, may need medications which is so helpful in getting the brain to work normal,” Ulrich-Spitzer said.

“I wouldn’t do well without meds for my entire life and that’s okay. I’m okay with my brain not doing well if I’m not on medications.”

Over the last few years, mainstream media has been raising awareness on, and urging people to have conversations regarding, their mental health.

Ulrich-Spitzer believes people talk about mental health more openly than they used to.

“I believe that friends will talk more about it like ‘I’ve just noticed that you’re kind of down’ and that might stimulate some conversation. I believe it’s more acceptable, even amongst my peers I’ll say ‘ugh, I’m having a tough time,’ or someone might say it to me, but we’re supportive and listening,” Ulrich-Spitzer said.

“I think there is more discussion about it and people are more apt to help people find services. My hope is people are listening more instead of cut-

SERVICES on page 5▶

Proposed Nebraska mine raises up to \$366M of \$1.1B it needs



JOSH FUNK • Associated Press

NioCorp Developments CEO Mark Smith talks to a group of investors during a tour on Oct. 6, 2021, about the prospects for a proposed mine the company hopes to build near Elk Creek in southeast Nebraska.

By JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

A mining company that wants to extract an assortment of rare elements from southeast Nebraska has announced an agreement that will provide up to \$285 million to help cover the roughly \$1.1 billion cost of building the mine.

In addition to the acquisition of a special purpose acquisition company called GX Acquisition Corp. II that NioCorp announced Monday, the Centennial, Colorado, company also signed letters of intent to borrow up to \$81 million more from Yorkville Advisors Global. So NioCorp could get as much as \$366 million to finance the project.

NioCorp CEO Mark Smith said “these transactions have the potential to put NioCorp on the fast track to obtain the required project financing.”

The main element NioCorp plans to produce at the mine about 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of Omaha near the town of Elk Creek is a heat resistant element called niobium along

with scandium and titanium. The company has said analysis of samples from the site shows there is also a significant amount of rare earth elements there like the ones President Joe Biden wants to produce more of domestically.

But it’s not yet sure whether it will be economically feasible to also produce some of those elements that are used to create the strong magnets used in a variety of high-tech products such as electric vehicles and cell phones.

Biden has said the United States needs to reduce its dependence on foreign suppliers of critical minerals. China is the world’s biggest producer of rare earth elements.

Dean C. Kehler, Co-Chairman and CEO of GXII said NioCorp should be able to help with Biden’s goal if it can raise the rest of the money it needs to begin producing niobium, scandium and possibly rare earth elements.

“We believe NioCorp is well-positioned to be a reliable, US-based supplier that will produce these products on a

sustainable basis,” Kehler said.

It won’t be clear exactly how much money this transaction will give NioCorp until closer to when the deal is expected to close early next year because some investors could pull their money out of the GXII fund before closing.

GXII is a one of the risky shell companies known as SPACs that became popular on Wall Street in recent years before many of them fell out of favor and had to be liquidated without ever completing a transaction.

A SPAC is essentially a blank check company created solely to merge with another business to invest in it.

While SPACs are often used to help companies go public, NioCorp is already a publicly traded company, but this deal is expected to give it a listing on the NASDAQ, which would help it attract more investors. NioCorp has been actively exploring the Nebraska site for more than seven years, and since 2013, it has raised more than \$80 million to pay for its efforts.

◀**PARADE** from page 3

It’s in my blood,” a Hot 96.7 worker said.

By the handful, packets of

ramen were showered across the parade’s crowd by the radio float as they answered the question of what Homecoming spirit means to them.

“To me, Homecoming spirit is that everyone is welcome, no one is shut out, and everyone has a good time!”

◀**SERVICES** from page 4

ting people off.” Ulrich-Spitzer said the best way to raise awareness is through educating people with articles, social media and workshops.

She also mentioned how people should reach out to men more often about their mental health.

“The stigma of ‘men don’t

have mental health issues’ [still exists]. Men don’t talk about it as much as women do. I think we need to get men and boys in more to talk about what’s going on and being more observant about how are they isolating,” Ulrich-Spitzer said.

Ulrich-Spitzer encourages those considering psychology to join the field, not only because of the lack of mental health providers, but for the

plentiful rewards that come from the job.

“There’s so many mental health providers that are needed as many people are retiring and not enough people wanting to go in. I want people to do the field because it’s very rewarding and you’ll never not have a job,” Ulrich-Spitzer said.

“It’s helping people and watching them get better.”

Rihanna to headline the next Super Bowl halftime show



JORDAN STRAUSS • Associated Press

Rihanna attends an event for her lingerie line Savage X Fenty at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles. Rihanna is set to star in the Super Bowl in February 2023, the NFL announced Sunday.

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

Rihanna will take center stage at February’s Super Bowl halftime show.

The singer, who declined to perform in the 2019 Super Bowl halftime show out of solidarity with Colin Kaepernick, will headline the 2023 Super Bowl, the NFL announced Sunday along with Jay-Z’s Roc Nation and Apple Music. Rihanna posted an image on Instagram of an arm outstretched holding an NFL football.

“Rihanna is a generational talent, a woman of humble beginnings who has surpassed expectations at every turn,” said Jay-Z, whose Roc Nation is an executive producer of the show, in a statement. “A person born on the small island of Barbados who became one of the most prominent artists ever. Self-made in business and entertainment.”

The Super Bowl will take place at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, on Feb. 12. After years of Pepsi’s sponsorship, the upcoming halftime show will be sponsored by Apple Music.

Rihanna earlier said she

turned down a similar opportunity for the 2019 Super Bowl that was ultimately headlined by Maroon 5.

At the time, many artists voiced support for Kaepernick, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback who protested police brutality against Black people and minorities by kneeling during the national anthem in 2016.

“I couldn’t dare do that. For what?” Rihanna told Vogue in 2019. “Who gains from that? Not my people. I just couldn’t be a sellout. I couldn’t be an enabler. There’s things within that organization that I do not agree with at all, and I was not about to go and be of service to them in any way,” she said of the league.

Kaepernick accused the NFL of colluding to keep him out of the league in a case that was eventually settled in early 2019. In 2019, the NFL partnered with Roc Nation (which manages Rihanna) to help pick performers for the Super Bowl and strategize on the halftime show. The widely acclaimed 2022 halftime show featured Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Kendrick Lamar and Mary J. Blige.



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Editorial

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Julia Barton
Editor In Chief

Emma Johnson
News Director

Lilly Schmidt
Variety Editor

Staying in isn't lame

Let's be honest we've all been there. Rushing through a project you were supposed to start during the beginning of the week only to finish minutes before 11:59 p.m. on a Sunday. It's stressful and every time you tell yourself, 'this is the last time I do that.'

Throughout the years' college has been glorified as party all day and party all night in almost any blockbuster movie produced within the last couple of decades. However, that is certainly not realistic since we as students have to juggle a variety of responsibilities.

There is a time and a place to have fun and let loose, but prioritizing your future and mental health shouldn't be frowned upon by your peers.

There's undoubtedly an enormous amount of peer pressure when it comes to the world of college. Since this is the first time you've probably lived without your parents, it can be expected that first-year college students go down the path of "trying anything once".

But we as students who have projects due, relationships to maintain and sleep to catch up on, it is okay to stay in on the weekends. We as students should not be shamed by our friends for not going out and borrowing tomorrow's happiness for a few hours of "letting loose".

Staying in can actually be very beneficial to not only your mental health but also your physical health. Your body will thank you for getting a quality night's sleep instead of staying up until 3 a.m. Your brain will thank you for taking the time to self-reflect and expand your brain with a good self-help book.

The majority of us are here to get a degree, at least I hope. So working toward that goal shouldn't be a foreign concept. Having the Sunday Scaries is one of the worst feelings for any college student. However, getting up on a Sunday morning and having no homework deadlines hanging over your head is the best feeling.

"Friends" who shame you for prioritizing your school work is lame. Not supporting the hard work you put into yourself is lame. Living for the weekends is lame. And judging someone else's life choices when it doesn't affect yours whatsoever is lame.

Perspectives

Made in China: Citizenship



JULIA BARTON • The Reporter

I got this tattoo when I was 17-years old from my co-worker who owned a tattoo gun.

By JULIA BARTON
Editor in Chief

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a widely known concept for anyone who seeks higher education.

College is far from affordable, without a full-ride scholarship or using your parent's college fund set up for you, it is very difficult to pay tuition, housing and dining fees on your own dime.

Students need to borrow money and FAFSA is one of the easiest ways to obtain a loan, that is, if you're born in the United States.

As someone who was born in a different country, I have had the luxury of jumping through several hurdles to obtain thousands of dollars from the government I'll have to pay back in order to

pay for my education just like any other college student.

Technically since I was adopted by United States citizens, through them and some paperwork I should be, and am considered a citizen of the United States. But like others, I've had to take the detour when it came to paperwork and verification that my friends never had to do.

Verifying my citizenship as someone who was born in a different country wasn't something anyone I personally knew had to deal with.

Proving myself to the government that I am a citizen, even though I have lived in the United States since I was nine months old, was always a pain to deal with.

As someone who was raised in suburban Minnesota her whole life, I just accepted that even though I felt the same as my friends, I had

to go through other obstacles just to have the same opportunity.

One of these obstacles was during my freshman year of college when I realized that my passport was expired and I had no proof of citizenship that was applicable to apply for student aid. Renewing my passport during the height of Covid and the government shutdown in 2020-21 was a nightmare.

I resorted to other documents I had when I was adopted such as my foreign birth card or my permanent resident card, but they were not accepted.

Regarding my passport, the paperwork took months to return and almost didn't come in time when tuition bills were due.

Spoiler alert, it did come in time; however, there were

COLUMN on page 7▶

Pulse

“What was your favorite part of Homecoming?”

Compiled by Dylan Engel



TRINITY GEYEN,
SOPHOMORE

“Lip Sync.”



HALIE STERN,
SENIOR

“Lip Sync, that's where I fractured my toe. That or dodgeball.”



JAKE STENSVAD,
FRESHMAN

“The football game.”



NOELAN PRICE,
FRESHMAN

“Kato Jam, something new I've never experienced before.”



KEVIN MUSEMBI,
FRESHMAN

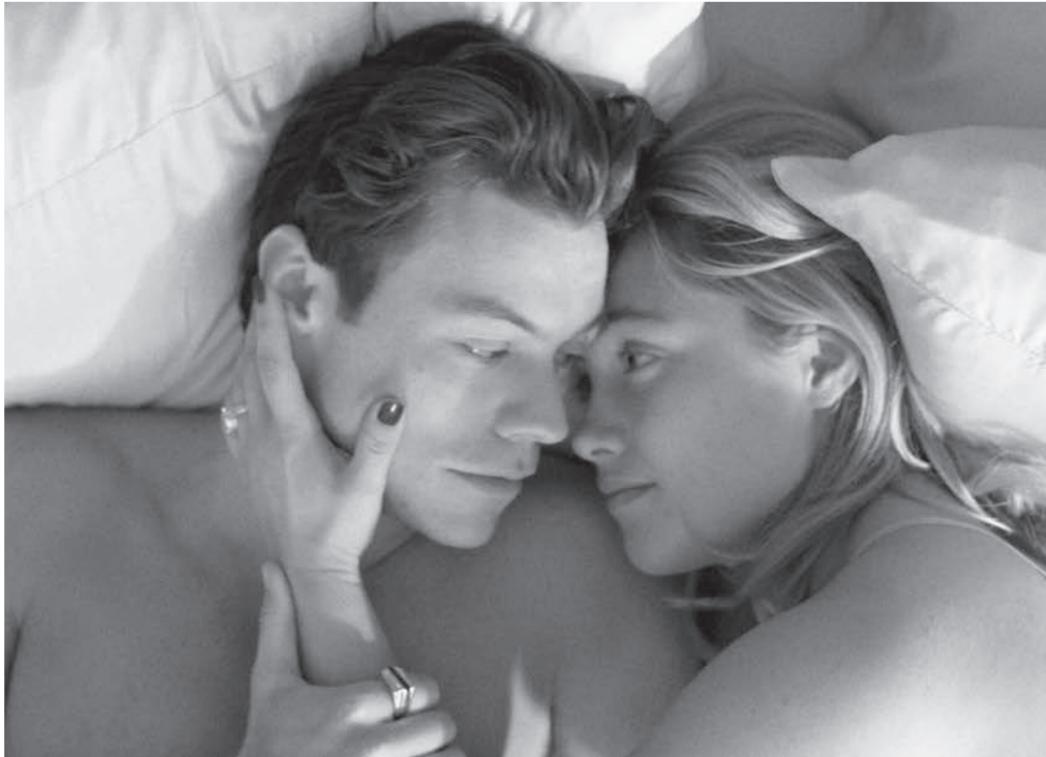
“Concert and Kato Jam.”



ABUBACARR FATAJO,
FRESHMAN

“Home to myself, just being at home.”

'Don't Worry Darling' shrugs off drama, opening with \$19.2M



Warner Bros. Entertainment via Associated Press

"Don't Worry Darling" opened at the box office with over \$19.2 million despite several controversies surrounding the press release leading up to the movie's premiere. Critics on Rotten Tomatoes gave it a 38% fresh rating.

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

After off-screen drama threatened to consume Olivia Wilde's "Don't Worry Darling," the Warner Bros. release opened No. 1 at the box office, debuting with \$19.2 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Starring Florence Pugh and Harry Styles, "Don't Worry Darling" was engulfed by a storm of controversies that revolved around everything from Pugh's allegedly strained relationship with Wilde to whether Styles might have even spit on co-star Chris Pine at the film's Venice Film Festival premiere. (Styles denied it.)

The movie, too, was torched by critics (38% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and arrived in theaters with more baggage than any recent release.

For an original film that cost \$35 million to make, a \$19.2 million launch was solid — and slightly more than the studio had forecast.

A large number of moviegoers — including plenty of Styles fans — turned up to see what all the fuss was about.

But the release of "Don't Worry Darling," playing in 4,113 theaters, was also no home run. Audiences gave it a B- CinemaScore, and ticket buyers fell off on Saturday after more promising results on

Thursday and Friday.

Warner Bros. said the audience was 66% female. The film added \$10.8 million internationally.

Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief for Warner Bros., estimated that "the background noise had a neutral impact." The studio, he said, was "pleased with these results given our modest production budget."

The audience scores and tapering-off ticket sales suggest "Don't Worry Darling" may struggle to hold well in the coming weeks.

But its good-enough debut means that Wilde's film didn't turn into the complete fiasco that some pegged it to be.

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore, said that, ultimately, bad publicity was good publicity for Wilde's follow-up to her directorial debut, the 2019 teen comedy "Booksmart."

"The latest from Olivia Wilde benefited from the heightened awareness and mainstream press coverage that made 'Don't Worry Darling' the virtual water cooler film of the moment and raised its FOMO factor to even greater heights and this paid big dividends at the box office," said Dergarabedian.

Last week's top film, Gina Prince-Bythewood's African epic "The Woman King," star-

ring Viola Davis, slid to second place with \$11.1 million in its second weekend of release. That was a modest 42% dip for the Sony Pictures release, a sign of resiliency for the acclaimed action drama.

Third place went to a familiar box-office force. The Walt Disney Co.'s rerelease of James Cameron's "Avatar" grossed \$10 million domestically and \$20.5 million internationally, 13 years after its initial run in theaters. Cameron's remastered "Avatar," playing in 1,860 theaters, was again especially popular in 3-D, which accounted for a whopping 93% of its domestic sales.

A prelude to the upcoming December release of the long-awaited sequel "Avatar: The Way of Water," the rerelease further pads the all-time worldwide box office record for "Avatar," which now surpasses \$2.85 billion.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Don't Worry Darling," \$19.2 million.
2. "The Woman King," \$11.1 million.
3. "Avatar," \$10 million.
4. "Barbarian," \$4.8 million.
5. "Pearl," \$1.9 million.

◀COLUMN from page 6

several other headaches along the way.

Since my birth certificate says "foreign birth," it was immediately questioned if I was a citizen.

FAFSA alone wasn't the only thing I was questioned about regarding my citizenship.

When I got my first job I was also asked "Are you an international student?" I was confused at first at why they may have thought that, however, I suppose workplaces may have to file different paperwork if I was.

However, would they have asked my white friends that

same question?

As someone who is a United States citizen but doesn't "look the part," I have had the pleasure of bouncing from office to office just to verify that I will pay my taxes and pay back the thousands of loans I was able to takeout at the ripe age of 18.

Civil rights law targets 'cancer alley' discrimination



GERALD HERBERT • Associated Press

Angelo Bernard, who lives near the Denka Performance Elastomer Plant, poses with his grandchildren who are visiting him for the weekend, at his home in Reserve, La, close to the Denka chemical plant.

By MICHAEL PHILLIS
Associated Press

Sprawling industrial complexes line the drive east along the Mississippi River to the majority-Black town of Reserve, Louisiana. In the last seven miles the road passes a massive, rust-colored aluminum-oxide refinery, then the Evonik chemical plant, then rows of white tanks at the Marathon oil refinery.

But it's the Denka chemical plant that is under scrutiny from federal officials.

Less than a half mile from an elementary school in Reserve, it makes synthetic rubber, emitting chloroprene, listed as a carcinogen in California, and a likely one by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Angelo Bernard is a grandfather whose family has lived in Reserve for generations. His three grandkids used to attend the school, Fifth Ward Elementary. Hurricane Ida forced them to move.

"I'm glad they're away," said Bernard. "I feel for the kids that have to go to school that close to the plant."

The investigation is part

of a push by the Biden administration to prioritize environmental enforcement in communities overburdened by pollution.

On Saturday, that push ratcheted up a notch when EPA administrator Michael Regan announced the creation of a new office at EPA focused on environmental justice.

"We are embedding environmental justice and civil rights into the DNA of EPA," Regan said.

Regan visited Reserve last year and said "we will do better." Now the EPA is investigating whether Louisiana regulators are discriminating against Black residents by failing to control air pollution in parishes packed with refineries and petrochemical plants, a region some call "cancer alley."

To do it, they are using an old tool in a new way. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbids anyone who receives federal funds from discriminating based on race or national origin.

It's been used in housing and transportation, but rarely on environmental matters.

The Biden administration said that must change.

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SPORTS

MSU outlast UMary in Homecoming victory

By KARSON BUELOW
Staff Writer

As Minnesota State University, Mankato's homecoming festivities came to a close, the Mavericks football team looked to cap off the week in style as they took on the University of Mary in a back-and-forth thriller that left fans on the edge of their seats until the very last play. The Mavericks were able to prevail by a narrow margin of 31-28, improving to 3-1 on the season.

Despite the inevitable home-sided crowd that filled Blakeslee Stadium, it was the Marauders who were able to put the first points on the board early in Saturday's contest. Sophomore tight end Luke Bodine connected with senior quarterback Logan Nelson for a 15-yard touchdown to give the Marauders the early 7-0 lead.

The Mavericks were able to put themselves in good field position on the very next drive, but faced fourth down on the UMary 13-yard line, resulting in a field goal attempt. Unfortunately for Minnesota State, sophomore kicker Damien Chowaniec's 30-yard attempt was no-good, leaving the Mavericks still down seven.

Both teams were unable to put any more points on the board, leaving the Marauders up 7-0 heading into the second frame. Once again, UMary was the first to get on the board as redshirt freshman Gabe Levy rushed for the 9-yard touchdown and ultimately the 14-0 lead.

Nearly two minutes later, the Mavericks were finally able to break through and put up seven points of their own. Freshman quarterback Camden Dean



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

The Mavericks were able to prevail by a narrow margin of 31-28, improving to 3-1 on the season during the annual Homecoming game at Blakeslee.

waltzed into the endzone for a 4-yard rushing touchdown, cutting the UMary lead in half.

Later in the second quarter, junior defensive-back Trey Vaval would put MSU in great field position at the UMary six-yard-line after returning a punt

for 43 yards. The very next play, junior runningback Shen Butler-Lawson barreled through the defensive-line of UMary for the 6-yard touchdown, tying the game up 14-14.

The Marauders put themselves into field goal position

with seconds remaining in the second quarter, but missed the field goal attempt to keep the game deadlocked at 14-14 heading into the break.

"For a second I actually forgot we were down 14," MSU coach Todd Hoffner said. "We

fought back, and that's a good thing. But taking care of the football and putting our foot on the gas was really important."

As the Mavericks received the ball to start the second half, Vaval was able to return the FOOTBALL on page 11 ►

Lloyd receives Lifetime Achievement Award at Hall of Fame ceremony

By JULIA BARTON
Editor in Chief

For the first time ever, the Lifetime Achievement award was given to Casey Lloyd, MSU's play-by-play announcer and honored as "The Voice of the Mavericks" for over 50 years.

Minnesota State University, Mankato hosted its 45th annual Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Dinner on Friday, Sept. 23 in the Centennial Student Union Ballroom where coaches and alumni celebrated.

Honoring excellence in athletics, the ceremony aims to shed light on those who have made outstanding con-

tributions to MSU Athletics. Whether it's donating time, breaking school records or being a positive light within the MSU community, the inductees will be in the MSU books forever.

"The hall of fame ceremony is a special evening, as we honor the legends of the past and those who have had a profound impact on the program. There is no bigger stage we can offer than Homecoming weekend," Kevin Buisman, MSU's director of athletics, said.

This year's ceremony was sold out and was the largest such crowd in MSU history with about 250 guests.

Holding the title of "The Voice of the Mavericks," Lloyd served as the official play-by-

play announcer for over 50 years dating all the way back to the 1970s. The MSU alumni received his undergraduate degree and worked for KMSU, MSU's campus radio station, which has been broadcasting since the 1960s.

"I walk onto a court and the energy that one picks up from this place, and the students it's just amazing. I might feel like 'Oh I don't know if I want to do this game tonight,' but, you walk onto this campus and you are just overcome by the potential of these athletes and students," Lloyd said. "It's not a job, I just love it. Half a century later and I don't know how that happened, I guess I'm just lucky."

HOF on page 12 ►



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

This year's ceremony was the biggest in MSU's history with about 250 in attendance.



Photos by Dylan Engel

◀**FOOTBALL** from page 10

kickoff for 51 yards into Marauder territory – a recurring theme this season with Vaval. It didn't take long for MSU to get in the endzone, as Dean connected with redshirt freshman wide receiver Isaiah Emmanuel for a 32-yard touchdown only four plays later, giving the Mavericks their first lead of the game.

The Marauders were unable to convert on fourth down on the next drive, putting the ball back into the hands of MSU with nearly 11 minutes remain-

ing in the third quarter. Chowanec was able to knock down a 34-yard field goal attempt later in the drive, giving MSU the 24-14 lead. As the theme of the game would say, the Marauders would cut into the Mavericks' lead on the very next drive. Senior wide receiver Danny Kitter laced a pass to sophomore wide receiver for a 5-yard touchdown, bringing the score to 24-21 heading into the final quarter.

UMary started out with possession in the fourth after a quick three-and-out by MSU in

the third. The Marauders moved quickly down the field in the opening drive, capitalizing with a 21-yard rushing touchdown by senior runningback Dave Small Jr. and gaining a 28-24 lead over the Mavericks.

With less than six minutes remaining, MSU was able to move quickly down the field and inside the UMary ten yard line. With a glimpse of déjà vu, Butler-Lawson grinded his way into the endzone for the 6-yard touchdown, putting MSU up 31-28 with 1:57 remaining in

the quarter.

After some long passing plays and costly penalties by the Mavericks, the Marauders were set up at the Mavericks' one yard line facing third and goal. Determined on going for the win, UMary ran a pass-play that got deflected by junior leftback Trent Carpenter into the hands of sophomore leftback Jacob Daulton, sending the crowd into chaos and elation.

"For Camden to start in his first collegiate start and lead our troops, I thought he played

a phenomenal game," Hoffner said. "Jacob was one of our captains for the game and his leadership throughout his journey here at Minnesota State has been nothing short of amazing. And him making that interception off a deflected ball was nothing short of amazing as well. We're really excited as a football program to win."

Minnesota State seeks to improve to 4-1 this Saturday as they take on Concordia-St. Paul on the road. Kickoff is scheduled for 12 p.m.

Senior Spotlight: Alexa Berg, Women's Hockey

By KOLE BUELOW
Staff Writer

Kole: What's your name, major, and where you're from?

Alexa: My name's Alexa Berg. I'm originally from west Fargo, North Dakota, but I moved to Minnesota. I don't have a major, I'm just taking classes for grad school.

K: If you were meeting someone for the first time how would you describe yourself?

A: I'm very outgoing, energetic, and bubbly, and I feel like I give off good vibes.

K: What are some of the most important things to you in life?

A: My family for sure. Hockey's also super important to me, or else I wouldn't be here!

K: What kind of sports were you involved in growing up?

A: I did track for a little bit and dance for sure. But I tried every single sport out there. So at least like dipped into everything a little bit, but didn't commit to them.

K: How did you get into hockey?

A: My dad had my brother and I on the ice when we were 18 months. I kind of just got thrown into it and I really liked it and never stopped. So, I can skate better than I can walk that's for sure.

K: What is your favorite part about playing hockey?

A: Meeting people and being around your teammates when it all becomes a family. You get to have those people and those girls with you for the rest of your life. So that's fun. Obviously, I like competing a lot. I love being able to compete every day and then get the chance at winning, that is fun too.

K: What is your favorite part about being on the hockey team at Minnesota State?

A: I love the girls. They are so welcoming right away. I felt like I was a part of the team all along and not a brand new person on the team, so that was nice. I love how everyone's there and competing every day and always having fun and having a good time. You can always count on our players whenever you need them.

K: As a transfer student, how has your transition been to the team, and have you made any core memories so far?

A: Coming into a new school I was nervous because everyone already knew each other. Even all the freshmen were here in the summer and I wasn't. But they, as I said, welcomed me in as if I never missed a beat. And I feel like they let me be able to be myself and fit in more. Meeting coach Harrington for the first time or coming here, not knowing what I was doing is a big memory for me. Looking around on campus, seeing the



Courtesy of MSU Athletics

This will be Alexa Berg's first season as a Maverick post transfer from Norwich University in Northfield, Vt.

rink and talking to the coaches, seeing everything, was a big moment for me. It was like, yeah, I have one more year. I'm not done playing.

K: What are your goals for this upcoming hockey season? First as yourself and then what are your goals together as a team?

A: I want to be that number one go-to and give it my all every day in practice every day. I want the chance to get in the net

SPOTLIGHT on page 12 ▶

Maverick Handball Club gaining strength



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Minnesota State University, Mankato's Handball Club is a recognized student organization through campus recreation and competes in different competitions throughout the Midwest.

By AYAN MUHAMMAD
Staff Writer

Minnesota State University, Mankato's Handball Club is not part of athletics. It is, however, a recognized student organization through campus recreation and competes in different competitions throughout the Midwest.

Handball is pretty much the same as racquetball except in handball you do not use racket. You can play single or double two vs two, but the most interesting thing is if you have an odd number. You can play cutthroat in which there will be a server against the other two and then you rotate through.

In February the club is going to the United States Handball Association's Collegiate Nationals.

Mike Wells is the team's coach and teaches in the Computer Information Science department. It's been 25-years since Wells is teaching as a professor. Wells started the handball program in 2008. Last year's team took the title of combined collegiate champion.

"I think you just must come and try it. Most people have a little period of frustration when they first start because you must use your off hand," Wells said. "Most people haven't much throw or hit things with their off hand, it takes a little

bit of learning curve but people that kind of work through some adversity and like to try something new should just try it," Wells said

This year's team has a lot of new members. Among them are three who came specifically from Ireland to MSU to play handball. Shane Dunne, who is in his master's program at MSU, has been playing handball professionally for the last two years. He played during his senior and junior years in an Ireland club. Dunne first played handball as a trial and really like it and ever since has pursued a handball career. In the upcoming tournament, Dunne is going to represent the MSU handball team. When Dunne played his first match in Texas, that's when he came to know about the MSU handball team and reached out to coach Wells to join the team.

"Try it out. I think at first people find it hard, but I think handball has a great opportunity to have fun but also to travel and meet new people," Dunne said

Mark Doyle, a freshman who has been playing handball since he was four, has always been involved in handball. Doyle's great uncle and grandfather were the top players in Ireland.

Doyle joined the handball club at the age of seven. Doyle

has been playing championship ever since his juvenile year and adult championship as well. Doyle and his partner reached the senior year semifinal, which is a great achievement.

Wells contacted Doyle after the world championship in 2018 but by that time Doyle still had a couple years of high school left in Ireland. Last year after Doyle finished high school Wells contacted him and invited him to play for MSU's handball team.

"If you want to join just come just come down. Our coach is friendly and everyone will help. Just get into the court and see if you like it or not," Doyle said

Clodagh Munroe, freshman at MSU, who has played for ten years and started playing at the age of eight. Dunne told Munroe about MSU, which interested him to come here and play. Munroe played three all Ireland, won two of them and won all provincial tournaments. Munroe likes Irish football beside handball.

"You need to put the practice in if you want to play seriously. It takes a lot of time and effort to develop your skills so just play," Dunne said. "Handball is a very fun sport compared to other sports. Handball is a gender equal sport both for girls and boys."

◀SPOTLIGHT from page 11

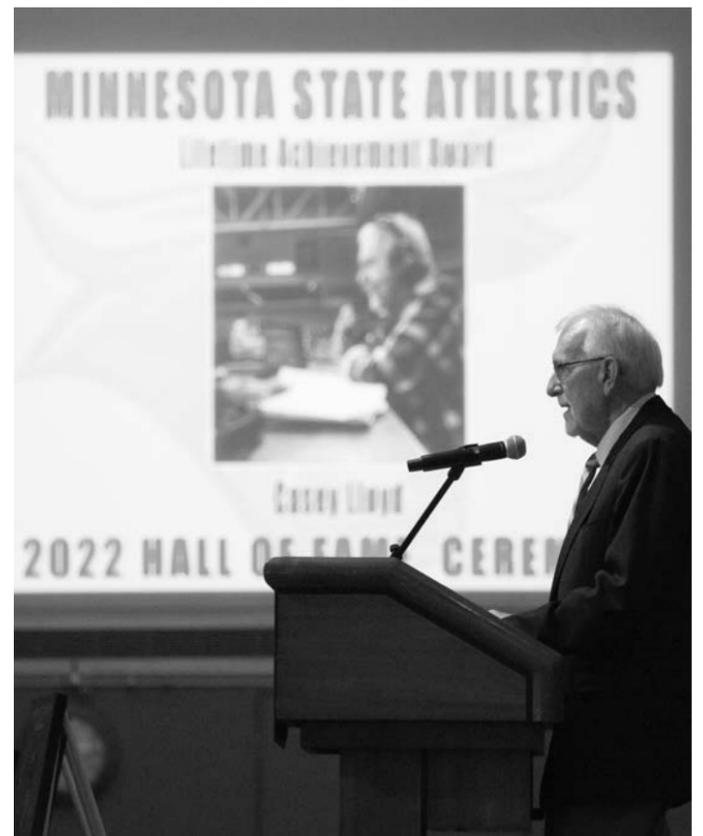
and help out my teammates. I want to make sure I'm a good teammate whenever they need help because I feel like that's important. As a team, the end goal is to be champions and be there for the March 19th game. Making sure we're learning from every game, learning from

our mistakes, and growing as a team, is a big goal for us. We also want to be closer together, because being closer helps us play to the best of our abilities.

K: What is your dream coming out of College? Any job dreams that you're looking at? Any aspirations?

A: I want to be a physician's

assistant in orthopedics. I'm on that path right now. I already graduated with athletic training so that gives me a little bit of an upper hand, but I want to do that after. Really, I am open to anything. I love to travel. So if I get to go down south or back out east or wherever, I'm not gonna say no.



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

For the first time ever, the Lifetime Achievement award was given to Casey Lloyd, MSU's play-by-play announcer and honored as "The Voice of the Mavericks" for over 50 years.

◀HOF from page 10

Jefferson Mason along with his teammates were among those honored and inducted into the 2022 Hall of Fame. He thanked those who had supported him during the 2010-11 memorable season as there is no "I" in "Team."

"For me, it was easy to get on the court and know that the ball would come my way. What was hard was the players that came to practice every day not knowing if they were going to get in the game," Mason said. "They were the ones who sacrificed the most and made the choice to help the team in every way, without those guys, we wouldn't have had the success we had that year and I would not be standing up here today."

During Troy Szdel's speech, Brock Margenthaler,

the son of MSU's head basketball coach Matt Margenthaler, had a medical emergency that stopped the event. It was later determined that he was OK.

As the event proceeded those who were honored included, Josh Smith (baseball), Alex Shepp (basketball), Mavis Anderson (MSU administration) for the builders' category, Deb Schulz (MSU administration) for the builders' category, the 2010-11 men's basketball team, the Hockey Day Minnesota Local Organizing Committee and Jim Grabianowski (who works as a goal judge for men's hockey games.)

Those who were inducted were invited to be honored at the halftime game during the Homecoming football game Saturday, Sept. 24 at Blakeslee Stadium.

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VARIETY

From planes in the night sky to flying to ‘Kato



By LILLY SCHMIDT
Variety Editor

The bonfire was canceled, but the concert carried on, bringing “Airplanes,” “Nothin’ on you,” and “Price Tag” to life on stage. To celebrate the 2022 Homecoming game, Minnesota State University, Mankato invited rapper B.o.B to perform.

For students, the Homecoming concert can be a core college memory. One student that took advantage of the opportunity was MSU junior Taylor Ulman.

“It helped create memories because I went with my boyfriend and best friends. B.o.B was kinda our childhood with ‘Airplanes’ and ‘Magic,’ so just experiencing our childhood again [created memories],” Ulman said.

In fact, in 2010 B.o.B won Best Hook-Up song for the Teen Choice Awards. He also received Best Song of the Year from Soul Train Music Awards, and has been nominated for several Grammys. Beyond nostalgia, B.o.B caught the attention of the student events team with his stage presence.

William Tourville, the Student Affairs and Activities advisor for the Student Events Team, stated, “I think B.o.B is probably the hardest working Hip Hop performer I’ve ever seen. He really takes over the stage



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Rapper B.o.B entertains MSU as the Homecoming concert artist. The event took place Friday, Sept. 23, the night before the big game, bringing songs from childhood back to students’ ears.

and does a really great job.”

Of course, though, this choice is considering, “We have to wait until we get budgets approved, but there’s a group of students led by the concert committee chair, and they work to identify artists that might be within the price range that we can afford,” Tourville said. “We work

through a bunch of different names, until we can find something that fits. This year, it happened to be B.o.B; that was the one that fit well with the theme of a bonfire and a concert.”

The original plan for the night was to have the concert immediately follow the bonfire.

“We’ve moved the bonfire

from Monday to Friday to help encourage alumni to come back as well and experience it,” Tourville said. “Actually, it’s gonna be probably cooler than years past. When you’ve got the big bonfire, then fireworks go off and then the second the fireworks are done we will be setting the stage.”

However, even with the last-minute change of plans, B.o.B pulled a large crowd that Tourville was sure would be something students would remember. “They’ll never forget it. It’ll be a once in a lifetime experience.”

Ulman definitely didn’t let it stop her. After losing several college and Homecoming memories to COVID her freshman year, she wasn’t going to miss more.

“The concert was pretty good. I’ve never been to a rap concert, so I definitely thought it was interesting compared to country or pop.”

She also watched the football game Saturday, fully soaking in the school spirit.

In order to set up the concert, the Student Events Team starts their day as early as 8 or 9 a.m. and lasts until a few hours after the concert ends.

“It starts that morning, myself and a team of students work with a vendor who brings in a stage, brings in all the lights, all the sound, all of that. While some of the students are setting that up, then we’re also getting ready dressing rooms, ticket offices, things that are out front of the stage,” Tourville said.

Yet, all the effort is worth it. “It’s one day — it’s a long day — but we have a lot of fun,” Tourville said.

What team? WILDCATS! MSU performs HSM

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

Find a seat and get popcorn on hand, because starting Thursday, Sept. 29, the Minnesota State University, Mankato Department of Theatre and Dance will be debuting their rendition of “High School Musical” (HSM.) The show will run from Sept. 29-Oct. 1 & Oct. 6-9.

HSM is a classic Disney movie; many students will remember it from their younger days. The production includes plenty of dancing and singing on stage. And for such a classic, MSU has made a change from past years - students only have to pay \$5 to see it.

The show’s director, Matt Caron, is excited for students to see the show. He had a lot of fun working on the musical and is ready for the Mavericks to see their show.

“I hope that students can come and see it for the entertainment and to support their fellow students,” said Caron. “It’s going to be really fun to have the other MSU Mavericks come and support the Wildcats.”

The cast members are not all theatre majors; they have a wide range of majors. From biology to elementary ed, everyone is involved.



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Theatre and Dance Department rehearse “High School Musical” turning Mavericks to Wildcats on state starting Sept. 29.

“We have biology majors, elementary ed majors, and, you know, theatre majors,” said Caron. “That’s really exciting because typically our

shows are usually the theater and dance students. We have five to seven other majors represented on stage, which is great.”

Balancing sports and theatre is challenging for Troy Bolton, a lead in the place, who is torn between the two. Not many students under-

stand what that is like, but Hunter Conrad does. Conrad is a senior at MSU and connects to his character because of how personal it is to him. In **MUSICAL on page 15**

The healing power of ‘YES’: From Mt. Everest to MSU

By JOEY ERICKSON
Staff Writer

Everybody is familiar with the idea of a YES man, but for Minnesota State University, Mankato alum Gary Lesley, that word takes on a whole new, more profound meaning. In his new book ‘YES’, Lesley discusses the healing, all-knowing power of the word ‘yes’.

Lesley has recently come back to MSU, just a year ago, returning to campus to assist the College of Business with a grant involving agriculture innovation.

“Admittedly, I’m not an ag[riculture] guy, but I heard the word innovation. And I have participated in innovation, so I understand that process and asked for more information... long story short, I said, ‘I’m coming back to MSU.’”

Lesley has lived all across the world, innovating, from right here in Mankato, Minnesota, to a small village atop

Mount Everest, helping their people grow crops more successfully and for longer periods of time.

The term ‘yes’ is a word overflowing with meaning; so crucial that it inspired a whole book.

In his new book ‘YES’, Lesley shares what he’s discovered about the healing, all-knowing power of the word ‘yes’.

“The answer is always yes. Sometimes the question doesn’t match up with [the answer], and what that has taught me is that I wasn’t asking the right question. So one of the main takeaways is to learn about yourself... and understand the universe just wants to tell you ‘yes’, but you’ve got to yourself in a position where yes connects with what you’re trying to do,” Lesley explained. “The more you know who you are, the more your life is ‘yes.’”

While the idea in retrospect may seem like a lot to chew on at first, Lesley simplifies it to one key meaning: ‘it’s possible.’ No matter what personal journey the reader is currently

in, the power of ‘yes’ makes whatever they’re trying to accomplish possible.

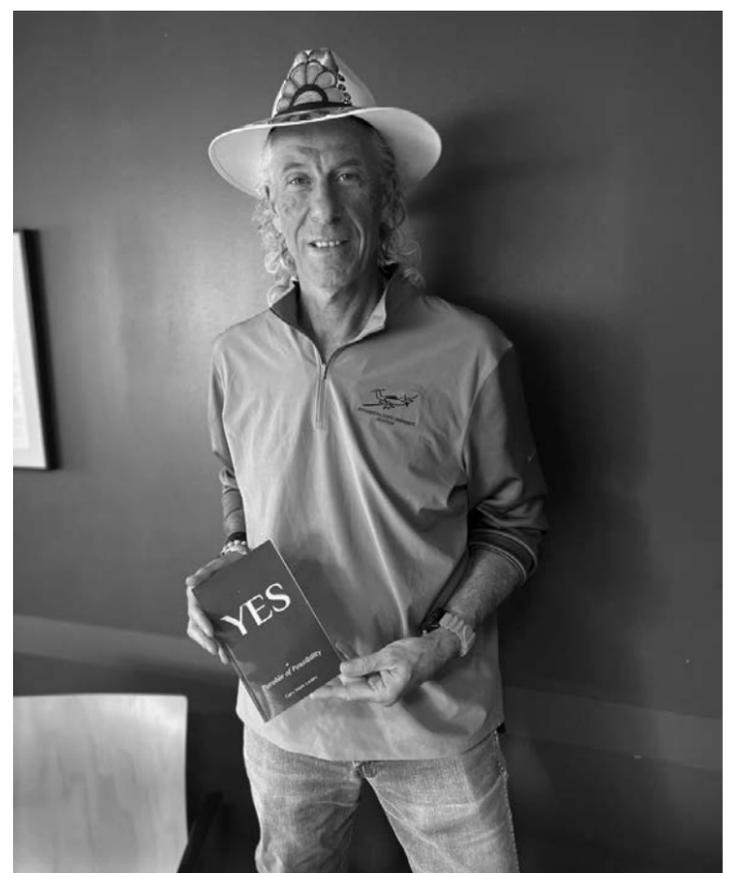
Lesley says that the idea of ‘yes’ is like a skeleton key; there’s only one way to accomplish your goal (the power of ‘yes’) but what lies behind that door is dependent on each respective person that opens it.

“Why is it the key to success? If you put it in the right door, it’ll open up. Where’s the right door? That’s for you to find,” Lesley said. “Everyone has the same key, but a different door. Use it to unlock yourself.”

Lesley’s reasoning behind writing ‘YES’ is that he wants to give back to the community.

For him, a big part of the ideology behind his book is passing the baton to another person; spreading the message to another once you’ve figured it out yourself.

“I think there’s no better place than a university where you can find people really interested in listening to your stories, and I have a lot of stories. Most of them are about



JOEY ERICKSON • The Reporter

Gary Lesley was recruited by the MSU College of Business to aid in the education of agriculture innovation after spending time on Mt. Everest aiding people learn to better care for their crops. These experiences and more inspired him to take to writing.

YES on page 15

‘Let’s have some music’: Elton John plays White House



SUSAN WALSH • Associated Press

Elton John performs on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Friday, Sept. 23, 2022. John is calling the show “A Night When Hope and History Rhyme.”

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

“God bless you, let’s have some music,” said Elton John.

With that, the White House South Lawn was transformed into a musical lovefest Friday night as John played a farewell gig to honor everyday “heroes” like teachers, nurses and AIDS activists. But as it turns out, the event was also to honor the 75-year-old British songwriter — President Joe Biden surprised him with the National Humanities Medal for being

a “tidal wave” who helped people rise up for justice.

John seemed almost overcome by the accolades, telling the audience of 2,000 people: “I don’t know what to say. ... I don’t know how to take a compliment very well but it’s wonderful to be here amongst so many people who have helped my AIDS foundation and my heroes.”

He said he’d played some beautiful venues before, but the stage in front of the White House was “probably the icing on the cake.”

◀MUSICAL from page 14

high-school he participated in both baseball and theatre.

“Troy Bolton is very similar to my high school self. I was going back and forth between musicals and sports,” said Conrad. “It’s just crazy how similar it is to my high school experiences. This one is definitely personable for me.”

Conrad is also excited for students to see this version of HSM with all of the ensemble numbers and how much of a high-energy show it is.

“I love the ensemble numbers. All the parts click together, you know, the tenor, bass, soprano, and alto,” said Conrad. “It’s just overall very energetic and fun.”

This musical helps break a stereotype often found in schools: students may feel

like they can only belong to one specific clique, and cannot be with other cliques. For Maddy Morgan, a senior at MSU, this musical is about breaking stereotypes and finding out who you are.

“It’s all about breaking stereotypes and boundaries. People can relate to that today very easily,” said Morgan. “You’re more than what people label you as. This musical shows you that you can be yourself and not what people want you to be.”

Morgan plays Sharpay in this production of HSM and is excited for students to see the show. the production.

Students can find more information about tickets and other upcoming shows on the MSU website so that they do not miss out on the Wildcats takeover.

◀YES from page 14

failure, but that’s how you learn success,” Lesley said.

The main takeaway that Lesley wants readers to take from the book is a feeling of hope and positivity.

“I want them to start saying ‘yes’ to themselves. It doesn’t mean in an irresponsible fashion, but saying yes

to loving yourself, getting to know yourself, being kind to yourself. It starts with those eyes in the mirror looking back at you,” Lesley said.

The book is available for purchase on Amazon. Otherwise, anyone interested can email Gary Lesley to purchase a copy for half-off, at gary.lesley@mnsu.edu.

Wind ensemble blows ‘Kato away



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Pictured: Dr. Amy Roisum Foley, Music Director. On Sunday, The Minnesota River Valley Wind Ensemble performed in Elias J. Halling Recital Hall. The Ensemble played a selection of pieces including Sea Songs (1924) By Ralph Vaughan Williams, Hold This Boy and Listen (2009) by Carter Pann, and The Year 1812: Festival Overture (1880) by Peter L. Tchaikovsky. The Wind Ensemble consists of many community members, including current Mankato students.

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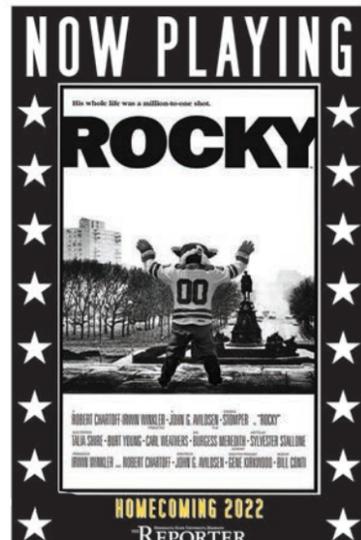
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