

Standeford Observatory shines bright

By EMMA JOHNSON
News Director

Located on the south edge of campus, Standeford Observatory allows Minnesota State students to not only gaze at the stars, but shoot for them too.

The observatory was named after former faculty member Leo Standeford who acquired small telescopes for students and staff to use. The 15 10-inch telescopes are rolled out onto a concrete deck for students to see planets, deep sky objects and binary stars.

Assistant Professor Michael Rutkowski explained that over 400 people have visited Standeford to gain extra credit in their 101 courses. Additionally, Observational Astronomy 125 is taught at Standeford to give students hands-on experience with the night sky.

"It satisfies a lab science credit and I think it's a bit more appealing than a physics lab. By the end of the semester, students know where 50 interesting objects are in the night sky," Rutkowski said. "If you want to get outside and do something, it's a really neat way."

Once students have taken Astronomy 125, they are able to work as lab assistants at the observatory. Senior Samantha Sunnarborg is a physics major with a minor in astronomy who took the opportunity, and loves answering questions at work.

"Sometimes I'll get a group of students say 'It's a nice night and we wanted to come by,' and I get to talk to them about what's in the sky and show them some fun things that they've probably never seen before," Sunnarborg



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter
Michael Rutkowski poses with two of the telescopes students are allowed to use at Standeford Observatory. Students can gain hands-on experience in Observational Astronomy 125 to better navigate the night sky.

said.

Sunnarborg explained that working at Standeford helped cement fundamental astronomy knowledge in her head.

"Every time you go, you have to try to remember everything and find it on your own without any help. You have to remember what all these terms mean and explain them to other people," Sunnarborg said. "Observational Astronomy has been the baseline of all my knowledge. I wouldn't know where anything was if I wasn't working at Standeford."

Rutkowski explained that

MSU has a unique opportunity in astronomy as students have to learn to maneuver the telescopes as they aren't automated. He explained that with automated telescopes it's like putting directions into a GPS without actually knowing how to get someplace, an art becoming lost.

"It's very much its own language as it was a new way of thinking about the universe," Rutkowski said. "If you want to exercise that part of your brain and learn how you're connected to the night sky, then this is the ideal course for you."

Sunnarborg said students

with an interest in astronomy should consider working at Standeford.

"It's a great way to dip your toe into the water without committing to anything, especially if you're not sure if you want to start taking classes where you have to put the work in," Sunnarborg said. "It's a great way to test it all out."

While Standeford is closed for the remainder of the semester, students can visit Standeford starting the last week in March between 9-11 p.m. Monday through Thursday if the weather is clear.

Sociology students present on student food insecurity

By CARLY BAHR
Staff Writer

Minnesota State students without cars can be disadvantaged when it comes to food access. There are options available that do not require a car such as the city bus system and the Maverick Food Pantry, but a group of sociology students argues that the city and university need to improve these systems because those without transportation are still marginalized.

They conducted research on the Mankato bus system and its flaws regarding access to groceries and presented their findings Nov. 17.

The group consisted of Ava Corey-Gruenes, Ashley Jaxel, Jose Felipe Ozuena, Ashley Hoehn, Mitchel Pomije, Kailey Van Riper and Enettie Malangano following an introduction from Carol Glasser. Attendees were mostly student senators and sociology faculty among others.

Van Riper, who was part of the group's research team, noted that there is "very limited" research on the link between food insecurity and transportation access, but a

FOOD on page 2

ASA End of Year Gala brings the fall semester to a close

By ANDREA
SCHOENECKER
Staff Writer

The African Student Association held a black-tie End of Year Gala Nov. 18.

The gala provided dinner and a show to guests. This inspiration for this event came from the Met Gala according to ASA President, junior Evelin Boniface.

"Last year for ASA, they did a gala to end the year, and this year we wanted to continue that. We didn't really have a theme, but we were trying to go off of the Met Gala because just like celebrities, people like to dress up and like they do over-the-top outfits," said Boniface.

This year ASA invited Raby Dieng, a foreign exchange student working towards her master's degree in second language teaching, to read a poem she found to be very inspirational.

"I was surfing the internet and I found this poem. I found it so powerful and inspiring that I felt I should share it with my fellow African students," said Dieng.

The poem urged listeners to not give up in their hardest moments and continue moving forward.

Several music artists volunteered their time to perform, like Doubra Etale, Ovo Noiir and Ochuko Noiir. All three wrote music from a young age, but for Etale, this was his first perfor-



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

The African Student Association hosted an end of the year gala where students read inspirational poems and musicians played songs. An interactive fashion show took place with the title "Best Dressed" at stake.

mance.

"I started writing music at 12, then I stopped for a while but I started getting somewhere this past summer," said Etale. "For me, what inspires me is the love of music, I would say it moves me. I'm a different person when I hear a beat. So that's what motivates me to display my talents to people."

For Ovo Noiir, he wanted to continue his support of ASA by performing at the gala and supporting Etale as well.

"I performed at the last ASA Gala and African night, so I just tried to keep doing this and I also just wanted to support him with his first show," said Ovo Noiir.

GALA on page 8



CARLY BAHR • The Reporter

Sociology students presented how food insecurity affects students on campus despite several bus routes that are available.

◀FOOD from page 1

2018 study cited in their promotional poster revealed 64% of MSU students “experienced some sort of food insecurity” and some said lack of adequate transportation made it difficult to obtain basic necessities.

MSU created a food pantry on campus after the study, but other universities have implemented additional, long-term solutions such as grocery shuttles with frequent departures.

The Mankato Transit System has eight bus lines affiliated with MSU and grants free rides to students who present their Mavcard.

There are no official plans to add new bus lines or routes, but there is a discussion to install more bus shelters.

The researching students each got groceries from different nearby stores by bus, walking or delivery, and bought a similar list of groceries.

Corey-Gruenes took bus

route six to Aldi on Madison Ave. and bought three full bags of items.

Her total trip was about two and a half hours—her total time shopping was twenty minutes.

The time spent can pose a risk to temperature-sensitive items. The standard limit for a refrigerated food item to be out of 40 degrees or lower temperature is two hours, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, because dangerous bacteria can form outside the safe temperature range.

In theory, according to the group, the solution to this problem would be to have groceries delivered—and pay extra delivery fees and gratuity—or to shop at Kwik Trip near campus.

However, gas stations’ limited food options pose problems for many people, such as those with dietary restrictions or who want diverse options.

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DREAM team collaborate at CADSCOM

By JULIA BARTON
Editor in Chief

Minnesota State students part of Data Resources for Eager and Analytical Minds (DREAM) networked with professionals and gained insight in their field during the fourth Colloquium on Analytics, Data Science, and Computing conference.

Hosted at Minnesota State’s Edina campus, student research paper presentations, panel discussions and projects were showcased while students could engage with professionals.

Geared toward students pursuing careers in computer information sciences, the conference had various workshops and hands-on activities for students to participate in.

“The workshop was really inspiring during the conference because you could explore on your own,” Malavika Basani, graduate student in the Data Science Program at MSU, said. “We got to share many ideas from students who participated and also it gave us ideas for our own projects.”

Those who were selected were able to share their research in progress papers and present them to their peers and industry professionals.

Samuel Lemma, a graduate student in the Data Science Program at MSU, shared his paper at the conference on “Detecting Overlapping Gene Region Using UNET Attention Mechanism.”

“It was an engaging learning experience for me, I gained a lot of insight and met people from different industries,” Lemma



Photo Courtesy of Rajeev Bukralia

Students from MSU who attended Colloquium on Analytics, Data Science, and Computing were able to workshop and collaborate with peers and professionals in the data science field.

said. “One of the professors said to me, ‘Whenever you feel like you are at a dead end, rephrase the problem.’ So whenever you are doing research, see the problem from a different angle and solve it in a different way.”

His paper aimed to address the need for a system to identify, treat, and prevent cancer by making the procedure less tedious and producing results in a faster method.

The conference also included a technology space for students to share their ideas with others.

This was Sonika Shrestha’s first conference and first research in progress paper, and she found that speaking with like-minded individuals gave her ideas for the future.

“Overall the conference was insightful and empowering. It motivates me to work more

on my paper and I got more feedback than I did at school,” Shrestha said.

By building relationships for professional growth, presenters were able to get feedback that will help extended their research being done.

Originating as an RSO in 2016 with two students and Rajeev Bukralia, associate professor and graduate coordinator in the department of computer information science, DREAM has grown exponentially.

Recovering from COVID after having limited in-person events, DREAM is back hosting events this semester. They predict to have the number of members they did pre-COVID, which were in the 250-300 range.

DREAM caters primarily to computer information science

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Buffalo gunman pleads guilty

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

The white gunman who massacred 10 Black shoppers and workers at a Buffalo supermarket pleaded guilty Monday to murder and hate-motivated terrorism charges, guaranteeing he will spend the rest of his life in prison.

Payton Gendron, 19, entered the plea Monday in a courthouse roughly two miles from the grocery store where he used a semiautomatic rifle and body armor to carry out a racist assault he hoped would help preserve white power in the U.S.

Gendron, who was handcuffed and wore an orange jumpsuit, occasionally licked and clenched his lips as he pleaded guilty to all of the most serious charges in the grand jury indictment, including murder, murder as a hate crime and hate-motivated domestic terrorism, which carries an automatic sentence of life without parole.

He answered “yes” and “guilty” as Judge Susan Eagan referred to each victim by name and asked whether he killed them because of their race. Gendron also pleaded guilty to wounding three people who survived the May attack.

Many of the relatives of those victims sat and watched, some dabbing their eyes and sniffing.

Speaking to reporters later, several said the plea left them cold. It didn’t address the bigger problem, which they said was racism in America.

“His voice made me feel



MATT ROURKE • Associated Press

Payton Gendron, a white gunman who targeted a Buffalo supermarket in a predominantly Black neighborhood, plans to plead guilty on Monday, Nov. 28, to killing 10 people and wounding three others.

sick, but it showed me I was right,” said Zeneta Everhart, whose 20-year-old son was shot in the neck but survived. “This country has a problem. This country is inherently violent. It is racist. And his voice showed that to me.”

After the roughly 45-minute proceeding ended, Gendron’s lawyers suggested that he now regrets his crimes, but they didn’t elaborate or take questions.

“This critical step represents a condemnation of the racist ideology that fueled his horrific actions on May 14,” said Gendron’s lawyer, Brian Parker. “It is our hope that a final resolution of the state charges will help in some small way to keep the focus on the needs of the victims and the community.”

Gendron has pleaded not guilty to separate federal hate crime charges that could re-

sult in a death sentence if he is convicted. The U.S. Justice Department has not said whether it will seek capital punishment.

Acknowledgement of guilt and a claim of repentance could potentially help Gendron in a penalty phase of a death penalty trial.

The plea comes at a time when many Americans have become nearly desensitized to mass shootings. In recent weeks, there have been deadly attacks at a Walmart in Virginia, at a gay club in Colorado and at the University of Virginia.

Just days after Gendron’s rampage in Buffalo, a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers at a school in Uvalde, Texas. Gendron wore body armor and used a legally purchased AR-15 style rifle in his attack on the Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo.

\$1.2 Million Training Grant given to Project PASS-IT



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

Shawna Petersen-Brown (left), Dana Wagner and Alex Hilt-Panahon are a part of Project PASS-IT which recently received a grant of \$1.2 million that will help psychology and special education students.

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

Project PASS-IT (Promoting Academic Success of Students with high-intensity needs through Interdisciplinary Training) received a grant from the Office of Special Education Programs of the U.S. Department of Education.

This new program provides specialized training for students of the Special Education master’s program and the School Psychology doctoral program.

Students of these programs can collaborate to have better experience in leadership, consultation and cooperation.

Shawna Petersen-Brown is the School Psychology doctoral program director.

“The idea was that special educators and school psychologists will work together to support students with high-intensity needs, which includes students with educational disabilities. So both special educators and school psychologists will be trained in an interdisciplinary way to collaborate and help students learn better in the future,” said Petersen-Brown.

Project PASS-IT was created by Dana Wagner along with Shawna Petersen-Brown and Alexandra Hilt-Panahon.

The three share similar educational backgrounds and goals in promoting collaboration between school psychologists and special educators to achieve better experiences.

“I worked in research for
PROGRAM on page 4

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SCAN & APPLY

Santa's back in town with inflation and inclusion on mind



JEENAH MOON • Associated Press

Santa Claus waves from atop a float along 6th Avenue during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022, in New York.

By LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

Don't look for plastic partitions or faraway benches when visiting Santa Claus this year. The jolly old elf is back, pre-pandemic style, and he's got some pressing issues on his mind.

Santa booker HireSanta.com has logged a 30% increase in demand this Christmas season over last year, after losing about 15% of its performers to retirement or death during the pandemic, said founder and head elf Mitch Allen.

He has a Santa database of several thousand with gigs at the Bloomingdale's flagship store in New York, various Marriott properties and other venues around the U.S.

Most of Allen's clients have moved back to kids on laps and

aren't considering COVID-19 in a major way, he said, but Santa can choose to mask up.

Another large Santa agency, Cherry Hill Programs, is back up to pre-pandemic booking numbers for their 1,400 or so Santas working at more than 600 malls and other spots this year, said spokesperson Chris Landroop.

"I can't even explain how excited we are to see everyone's smiles at all locations this season without anything covering up those beautiful faces," she said.

Cherry Hill Santas are also free to wear masks, Landroop said.

Among standout Santas still keeping their distance? There will be no lap visits at the Macy's flagship store in New York's Herald Square. Santa is seated behind his desk.

◀PROGRAM from page 3

six years collaborating with school psychology and special education researchers," said Hilt-Panahon. "And then when I came here at MSU I joined the special education department, so I had to experience both areas and see the value of the collaboration that we are trying to promote through the training."

According to Wagner, the leaders of Project PASS-IT faced difficulties in composing a new training program.

"Our programs are very different. Our school psychology program is a doctoral program. They are full-time students and most of them are not working or working part-time during the day. Whereas, in the special education department our graduate programs are all online. Most of our students are working professionals. So figuring out how to bring those two groups together was probably the biggest challenge for us," said Wagner.

Petersen-Brown believes that the collaboration of two different programs will benefit Project PASS-IT.

"We can turn that into a strength. Special education

scholars have that experience in schools as teachers which is something that for the most part our school psychology scholars don't have. And so they will learn a lot not just from the collaborative training but learning from educators working in all kinds of school settings. And I hope that on the other side of that coin, special education scholars will learn from school psychologists, who have a lot of foundational knowledge," said Petersen-Brown.

During the five-year training program, 36 graduate students from special education and school psychology programs will receive grant money to cover 15 credits and supplies.

According to leadership team, at least 75% of the grant money for the training program is to be distributed among students.

"We are impacting those 36 individuals directly but then they will have an impact on so many students, like in K-12, as well as their colleagues in the schools where they can share the training that they get with us to work more collaboratively with individuals in their district," Hilt-Panahon said.

Walmart shooter left 'death note'

By BEN FINLEY and
MATTHEW BARAKAT
Associated Press

The Walmart supervisor who fatally shot six co-workers at a store in Virginia bought the gun just hours before the killings and left a note on his phone accusing colleagues of mocking him, authorities said Friday.

"Sorry everyone but I did not plan this I promise things just fell in place like I was led by the Satan," Andre Bing wrote on a note that was left on his phone, the Chesapeake Police Department said Friday.

Police said the 9 mm handgun used in the Tuesday night shooting was legally purchased that morning and that Bing had no criminal record. They released a copy of the note found on his phone that appeared to redact the names of specific people he mentioned.

It was not clear when the note was written, but in it Bing claimed he was harassed and said he was pushed to the brink by a perception his phone was hacked.

He wrote, "My only wish would have been to start over from scratch and that my par-



BILLY SCHUERMAN • Associated Press

Andre Bing, a Walmart manager, opened fire on fellow employees in the break room of the Virginia store, killing six people in the country's second high-profile mass shooting in four days, police said Wednesday.

ents would have paid closer attention to my social deficits." Bing died at the scene of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Coworkers of Bing who survived the shooting said he was difficult and known for being hostile with employees.

One survivor said Bing seemed to target people and fired at some victims after they were already hit.

Jessica Wilczewski said workers were gathered in a store break room to begin their overnight shift late Tuesday when Bing, a team leader, entered and opened fire. While another witness has described Bing as shooting wildly, Wilczewski said she observed him target certain people.

"The way he was acting — he was going hunting," Wilczewski told The Associated Press on Thursday.

◀DATA from page 2

majors; however, all are welcome. Those from other disciplines such as statistics, biology, and business management can find value in DREAM.

"When we started DREAM we didn't think of it as an RSO, we thought of it as a force for change, a youth movement and helping students succeed by providing networking oppor-

tunities with professionals," Bukralia said.

DREAM looks to eventually make efforts that involve the youth and to do something to make a difference in education. Using the data science skills learned, DREAM aspires to use their knowledge to engage with the community.

"The next phase of DREAM is when DREAM students

will actually do something to help society. One project I am working on is with disadvantaged students in the Twin Cities area, and in high schools for those who believe they can't do math and science," Bukralia said. "We want to engage DREAM, in helping those students who don't believe they can do computer programming and to inspire them."

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Colorado Springs mourns after gay club shooting

By SAM METZ and
STEPHEN GROVES
Staff Writer

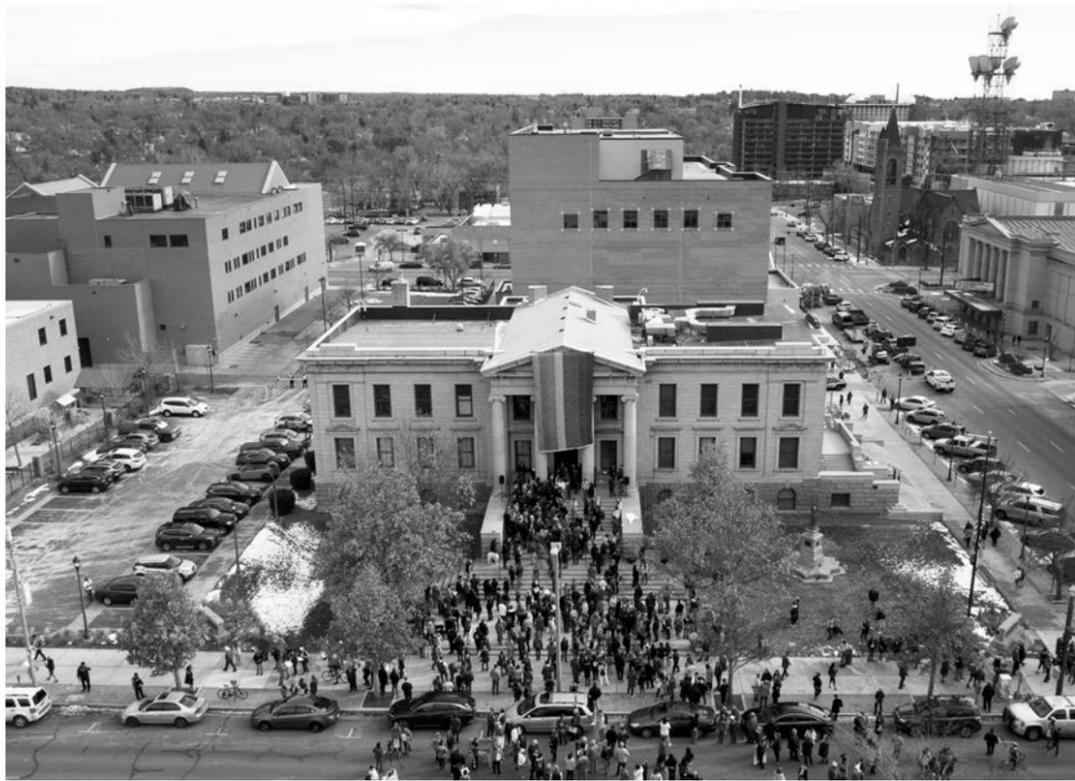
When officials unfurled a 25-foot rainbow flag in front of Colorado Springs City Hall this week, people gathered to mourn the victims of a mass shooting at a popular gay club couldn't help but reflect on how such a display of support would have been unthinkable just days earlier.

With a growing and diversifying population, the city nestled at the foothills of the Rockies is a patchwork of disparate social and cultural fabrics.

It's a place full of art shops and breweries; megachurches and military bases; a liberal arts college and the Air Force Academy. For years it's marketed itself as an outdoorsy boomtown with a population set to top Denver's by 2050.

But last weekend's shooting has raised uneasy questions about the lasting legacy of cultural conflicts that caught fire decades ago and gave Colorado Springs a reputation as a cauldron of religion-infused conservatism, where LGBTQ people didn't fit in with the most vocal community leaders' idea of family values.

For some, merely seeing police being careful to refer to the victims using their correct pro-



BRITTANY PETERSON • Associated Press

A rainbow flag is unfurled at City Hall Wednesday, Nov. 23 in Colorado Springs, Colo. With a growing and diversifying population, the city at the foothills of the Rockies is a patchwork of disparate social and cultural fabrics.

nouns this week signaled a seismic change.

For others, the shocking act of violence in a space considered an LGBTQ refuge shattered a sense of optimism pervading everywhere from the city's revitalized downtown to the sprawling

subdivisions on its outskirts.

"It feels like the city is kind of at this tipping point," said Candace Woods, a queer minister and chaplain who has called Colorado Springs home for 18 years. "It feels interesting and strange, like there's this tension:

How are we going to decide how we want to move forward as a community?"

Five people were killed in the attack last weekend. Eight victims remained hospitalized Friday, officials said.

In recent decades the pop-

ulation has almost doubled to 480,000 people. More than one-third of residents are nonwhite — twice as many as in 1980. The median age is 35.

Politics here lean more conservative than in comparable-size cities. City council debates revolve around issues familiar throughout the Mountain West, such as water, housing and the threat of wildfires.

Residents take pride in describing Colorado Springs as a place defined by reinvention. In the early 20th century, newcomers sought to establish a resort town in the shadow of Pikes Peak.

In the 1940s, military bases arrived. In the 1990s it became known as a home base for evangelical nonprofits and Christian ministries including broadcast ministry Focus on the Family and the Fellowship of Christian Cowboys.

"I have been thinking for years, we're in the middle of a transition about what Colorado Springs is, who we are, and what we've become," said Matt Mayberry, a historian at Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.

The idea of latching onto a city with a bright future is partly what drew Michael Anderson, a Club Q bartender who survived last weekend's shooting.

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How to de-stress before finals

With the end of the semester coming to a close, the inevitable finals week creeps up on students. Deadlines approach quicker than usual, lengthy papers are assigned and huge projects need to be assembled. With schedules becoming slightly more crammed than usual, we as students need to prioritize and strategize this week in order to do our best on our finals.

It goes without saying, but we as students cannot do our best on tests if we don't take care of ourselves. It can be easy to hyperfocus on late-night cram fests and cutting off social ties to prioritize academics. The truth is, students don't tend to retain as much information when they don't take time for themselves. If students have been working for the last three hours, they should take an hour-long break to hang out with friends, scroll through social media or participate in an activity that they enjoy. Taking small breaks re-energizes students and lets them return to their work with determination. However, be careful to monitor how long breaks are as students shouldn't let them lead to procrastination.

One of the best ways that students can maximize their time during finals week is to create study plans. Figure out when deadlines are due and the ones that are closer, tackle first. By alternating finishing worksheets with taking half an hour to study for a test, students can easily accomplish their work efficiently and quickly. Students should write out a list to help determine what they need to get done first in order to not forget any last-minute assignments or to cram for their finals.

If possible, students should work ahead on any projects or papers for finals. Often during finals week, students are so focused on studying for their timed exams that any final papers or projects are put on the back burner. Working ahead on some finals allows students to minimize their stress on finals week. Being able to finish any classes a week or so early allows you to leave once your finals are done as well.

Finally, focus on your health during finals week. It can be easy to consume a thousand cups of coffee and order greasy takeout every night. However, students won't feel great and want to relax when there's so much that needs to be done before the break. Students should make sure to eat good foods, drink plenty of water and get as much sleep as possible. Finals are much easier to take when students aren't tired and feeling their best.

The promise of a month-long holiday break is on the horizon. We as students need to push through the last two weeks of the semester the absolute best we can. By utilizing these techniques, students can be assured that finals week will be a breeze.

Perspectives

Letter to the Editor: Gratitude for Scholars Serving Time



Photo courtesy of Nastassia Chanel Frees

These Minnesota State University, Minnesota, students are part of the Scholars Serving Time program administered by Dr. Vicki Hunter. They live at the Federal Correctional Institute in Waseca. This semester the students are taking courses in English, Spanish, and Gender and Women's Studies. Pictured from left to right, first row: April Bell, Leshay Rhoton, Paige Thurman, Amanda Gregg, Amelia Lesemann. Second row, left to right: Amanda Ferguson, Safara Shortman, Valerie Kupka, Channing Lacey, Rainbow Stoneman, Nastassia Frees, Sybil Rogers. Service dogs in training, left to right: Natty, Bell, Oaklee. Students not pictured: Monica Williams and Kelle Lehman.

Dear editor:

I am writing this letter because I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity that this university has given me. When I was sentenced to 120 months in federal prison for conspiracy of drugs, all I knew is that I had messed my life up and I had to redeem myself but how to go about it, I was unsure. Unfortunately prison doesn't offer individuals much toward rehabilitation and future achievement. This Scholars Serving Time program does.

I struggled during my sentence with conduct at first,

but this program has offered me hope, stability, built on my conversational and intellectual skills, along with al-



lowing me the chance to take steps to better my life with my husband, Mike, and children, Eddie, Zachary, and Danica.

For that I will be forever grateful to make them proud.

In addition, going to class daily, being exposed to new topics, being challenged and listened to has helped my self-esteem skyrocket. This was not a benefit I expected to receive in my life, but I can truly see a difference in myself and the situations I surround myself in have positive attributes.

I pray this program continues to grow. For you all I am truly blessed and thankful. Thanks again.

Nastassia Chanel Frees

Pulse

“How do you motivate yourself on finals week?”

Compiled by Dylan Engel



JIHEE KIM,
FRESHMAN

“Thinking about getting the A grade.”



RYAN NELSON,
JUNIOR

“I calculate my final grade and figure out what scores I need.”



BROOKE JACKSON,
JUNIOR

“Look to pass my classes so I graduate on time.”



MACKENZIE MALONE,
JUNIOR

“Make sure to take care of myself.”



ANNIKA ZURN,
JUNIOR

“Find the time to study but also relax.”



CARSON LOUIS,
5TH YEAR

“Tell myself winter break is around the corner and have things to look forward to.”

Erupting Hawaii volcano spurs warning for people to prepare



CHELSEA JENSEN • Associated Press

Lava pours out of the summit crater of Mauna Loa about 6:35 a.m. Monday, Nov. 28, as seen from Gilbert Kahele Recreation Area on Maunakea, Hawaii. The world's largest active volcano began spewing ash.

By CALEB JONES
Associated Press

Waves of orange, glowing lava and smoky ash belched and sputtered Monday from the world's largest active volcano in its first eruption in 38 years, and officials told people living on Hawaii's Big Island to be ready in the event of a worst-case scenario.

The eruption of Mauna Loa wasn't immediately endangering towns, but the U.S. Geological Survey warned the roughly 200,000 people on the Big Island that an eruption "can be very dynamic, and the location and advance of lava flows can change rapidly."

Officials told residents to be ready to evacuate if lava flows

start heading toward populated areas.

The eruption began late Sunday night following a series of fairly large earthquakes, said Ken Hon, scientist-in-charge at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

The areas where lava was emerging — the volcano's summit crater and vents along the volcano's northeast flank — are both far from homes and communities.

Officials urged the public to stay away from them, given the dangers posed by lava, which is shooting 100 to 200 feet (30 to 60 meters) into the air out of three separate fissures roughly estimated to be 1 to 2 miles (1.6 to 3.2 kilometers) long.

Volcanic gases wafting out

of the vents, primarily sulfur dioxide, are also harmful.

Air quality on the Big Island more generally is good right now but officials are monitoring it carefully, said Dr. Libby Char, the director of the state Department of Health.

Hon said air quality could deteriorate while the eruption lasts, which scientists expect will be about one or two weeks if the volcano follows historical patterns.

Lifelong Big Island resident Bobby Camara, who lives in Volcano Village, said everyone across the island should keep track of the eruption.

He said he's seen three Mauna Loa eruptions in his lifetime and stressed the need for vigilance.

FOOD from page 2

"Administrators say 'Oh, just go to Kwik Trip for your groceries,' but for someone who is vegan or needs ethnically sensitive food, or someone who isn't satisfied with eating mac and cheese all the time, it's a problem," Corey-Gruenes said.

Corey-Gruenes did not have much difficulty carrying her shopping bags on the bus, as she had two and a backpack, but one issue she ran into was the walk.

Aldi is not one of route six's stops, so she and anyone else needing to get off in an area the bus passes must walk to their destination from wherever the bus can stop. They then must remember the time and place to be picked up again or walk to another official stop where they know for certain they will be picked up again.

"This is a doable walk but if I had kids or a disability this would be hard," Gruenes said.

The findings noted that it takes about two weeks to become familiar with the bus system.

Familiarization includes trial and error, which takes time that many college students do not have.

Jose Felipe Ozuna had this experience on his bus trip. His assigned store was Cub Foods, which required him to do a bus transfer midway through the trip and he ended up missing the second bus due to an inaccurate pickup time online and a lack of experience with the downtown area.

"At this point I was upset, angry and tired. It would be another hour until the bus came again and I could go and buy groceries, so I just decided to catch the next bus home. It was a waste of time. This was so demoralizing. As a senior with a full schedule and a job outside of class, this hour of my time was wasted due to a lack of familiarity with a certain bus

route and partly due to inaccurate information from Google Maps.

The frustrations around utilizing these services might also be a barrier to accessing healthy options at grocery stores," Felipe Ozuna said.

The group stated lack of access to food is a retention issue for the university, as students without cars are limited in their housing options and can struggle to budget their time to acquire groceries.

"Access to food and to transportation is essential in providing for student success. Not only within college but after college in terms of performance in school, graduation rates and opportunities after college. People need to have their needs met," Corey-Gruenes said. "I urge anyone with any influence over this issue to take into consideration these suggestions and implement them so that everyone at MSU has access to resources."

'Gaslighting' is the word of the year for 2022



JMH • Associated Press

Gas lamps illuminate St. Louis' Gaslight Square on April 2, 1962. "Gaslighting" — mind manipulating, grossly misleading, downright deceitful — is Merriam-Webster's word of 2022.

By LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

"Gaslighting" — behavior that's mind manipulating, grossly misleading, downright deceitful — is Merriam-Webster's word of the year.

Lookups for the word on merriam-webster.com increased 1,740% in 2022 over the year before. But something else happened. There wasn't a single event that drove significant spikes in curiosity, as it usually goes with the chosen word of the year. The gaslighting was pervasive.

"It's a word that has risen so quickly in the English language, and especially in the last four years, that it actually came as a surprise to me and to many of us," said Peter Sokolowski, Merriam-Webster's editor

at large, in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press ahead of Monday's unveiling.

"It was a word looked up frequently every single day of the year," he said.

Merriam-Webster's top definition for gaslighting is the psychological manipulation of a person, usually over an extended period of time, that "causes the victim to question the validity of their own thoughts, perception of reality, or memories and typically leads to confusion, loss of confidence and self-esteem, uncertainty of one's emotional or mental stability, and a dependency on the perpetrator."

More broadly, the dictionary defines the word thusly: "The act or practice of grossly misleading someone especially for one's own advantage."



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China virus protests hit Hong Kong after mainland rallies



KANIS LEUNG • Associated Press

Protesters hold up blank white papers during a commemoration for victims of a recent Urumqi deadly fire at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Students in Hong Kong chanted “oppose dictatorship” in protest.

By ZEN SOO and
KANIS LEUNG
Associated Press

Students in Hong Kong chanted “oppose dictatorship” in a protest of China’s COVID-19 rules Monday after demonstrators on the mainland issued an unprecedented call for President Xi Jinping to resign in the biggest show of opposition to the ruling Communist Party in decades.

Rallies against China’s unusually strict anti-virus measures spread to several cities over the weekend, and authorities eased some regulations, apparently to try to quell that public anger.

But the government showed no sign of backing down on its larger coronavirus strategy, and analysts expect authorities to quickly silence the dissent.

With police out in force Monday, there was no word of protests in Beijing or Shanghai.

But about 50 students sang at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and some lit candles in a show of support for those in mainland cities who demonstrated against restrictions that have confined mil-

lions to their homes.

Hiding their faces to avoid official retaliation, the students chanted, “No PCR tests but freedom!” and “Oppose dictatorship, don’t be slaves!”

The gathering and a similar one elsewhere in Hong Kong were the biggest protests there in more than a year under rules imposed to crush a pro-democracy movement in the territory, which is Chinese but has a separate legal system from the mainland.

“I’ve wanted to speak up for a long time, but I did not get the chance to,” said James Cai, a 29-year-old from Shanghai who attended a Hong Kong protest and held up a piece of white paper, a symbol of defiance against the ruling party’s pervasive censorship.

“If people in the mainland can’t tolerate it anymore, then I cannot as well.”

It wasn’t clear how many people have been detained since the protests began Friday, sparked by anger over the deaths of 10 people in a fire in the northwestern city of Urumqi.

Some have questioned whether firefighters or victims

trying to escape were blocked by locked doors or other anti-virus controls.

Without mentioning the protests, the criticism of Xi or the fire, some local authorities eased restrictions Monday.

The city government of Beijing announced it would no longer set up gates to block access to apartment compounds where infections are found.

“Passages must remain clear for medical transportation, emergency escapes and rescues,” said Wang Daguang, a city official in charge of epidemic control, according to the official China News Service.

Guangzhou, a manufacturing and trade center that is the biggest hot spot in China’s latest wave of infections, announced some residents will no longer be required to undergo mass testing.

Urumqi, where the fire occurred, and another city in the Xinjiang region in the northwest announced markets and other businesses in areas deemed at low risk of infection would reopen this week and public bus service would resume.

people around you,” Bose said.

As a member of ASA, Okpara encourages people to participate in events such as the gala as a way to get to know others and relax.

“Come out and meet new people, make friends, have a good time. We work all the time going to classes. Come socialize and take stress off. This was a fun event. I had fun,” said Okpara.

Students interested in attending future AASA events can visit their Instagram, @asa_mankato.

◀GALA from page 1

Ochuko Noiir has previously performed for ASA events in an effort to continue his support. He sees events like the gala as a great way to increase the exposure of African artists like himself.

“I’ve been doing this for two years now for ASA,” said Ochuko Noiir. “It has been a very good help to artists in Mankato, especially African artists, helping us push our music out there. When they need support, we’re going to show support.”

An interactive fashion show also took place which gave the audience a chance to show off their outfits to other attendants. “Best Dressed” awards were given to two participants, Sophia Bose and Christopher Okpara.

Bose attended with her friends, who try to attend as many campus events as possible together. For her, the highlight of her night was seeing the performances.

“I really like seeing all the performances, it’s easy to forget, there’s so many talented

Musk plans to relaunch Twitter premium service



GREGORY BULL • Associated Press

Elon Musk said Friday Nov. 25, 2022 that Twitter plans to relaunch its premium service that will offer different colored check marks to accounts next week in a fresh move to revamp the service.

By KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

Elon Musk said Friday that Twitter plans to relaunch its premium service that will offer different colored check marks to accounts next week, in a fresh move to revamp the service after a previous attempt backfired.

It’s the latest change to the social media platform that the billionaire Tesla CEO bought last month for \$44 billion, coming a day after Musk said he would grant “amnesty” for suspended accounts and causing yet more uncertainty for users. Twitter previously suspended the premium service, which under Musk granted blue-check labels to anyone paying \$8 a month, because of a wave of imposter accounts.

Originally, the blue check was given to government entities, corporations, celebrities and journalists verified by the platform to prevent impersonation. In the latest version, companies will get a gold check, governments will get a gray check, and individuals who pay for the service, whether or not they’re celebrities, will get a blue check, Musk said Friday.

“All verified accounts will be manually authenticated before check activates,” he said, adding it was “Painful, but necessary” and promising a “longer explanation” next week. He said the service was “tentatively launching” Dec. 2.

Twitter had put the revamped premium service on hold days after its launch earlier this month after accounts impersonated companies.



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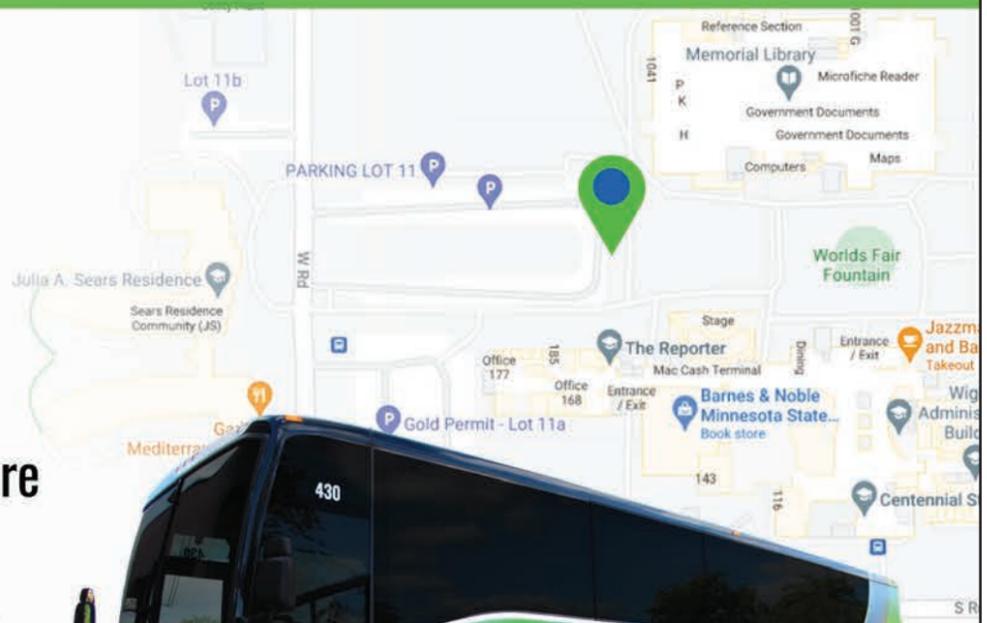
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SPORTS

MSU football falls in second round of playoffs

By CHARLIE GROEBNER
Staff Writer

The 2022-23 football season ended abruptly for Minnesota State. Last Saturday, the Mavericks lost 48-45 to Colorado School of Mines in round two of the NCAA tournament.

This was the first time that these two schools met each other. Both sides have never crossed paths until now, in the NCAA tournament. Both teams looked to make history in the long traditions of school competitions. In the end, the Orediggers made sure the Mavericks will never forget them.

The opening quarter saw the Orediggers score the opening touchdown pass from senior John Matocha. However, once the Mavericks got the ball and proceeded to run on full aggression on the offense. Junior running back Shen Butler-Lawson notched two touchdowns and was followed by a touchdown pass from sophomore Hayden Ekern, ending the first quarter with a score of 21-7 in favor of the Mavericks.

Entering the second quarter, the once-hot start was quickly extinguished by their opponent. While Ekern threw another touchdown pass to sophomore DJ Barber, the lead slipped rather fast. Matocha connected to senior Josh Johnston on three successful drives to tie the contest 28-28 to end the second quarter. Once considered to be a blowout after the first slowly turned into a grudge match.



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Hayden Ekern (above) reached a career-best Saturday, Nov. 26 with 377 passing yards and four touchdowns while playing against Colorado School of Mines.

Receiving the ball to start the third quarter, MSU continued to struggle to maintain the lead that they started with. The offense and defense struggled to break out and take control of the game. However, all they could do is score a field goal at the halfway point in the quarter. The Orediggers took advantage of their mistakes as Matocha led two more touchdown drives. Marking his sixth game this season with four or more touchdowns in a single game.

In the final quarter of play, the Mavericks attempted to mount a last-minute comeback to keep their season alive. Ekern led two successful touchdown drives to keep MSU within striking distance. However, a touchdown from the senior running back maintained the Orediggers lead. Entering the final minutes with a score of 48-45, MSU attempted an onside kick to regain possession. The attempt was unsuccessful as the Orediggers recovered the ball and burn the rest of the clock, ending the game with a final score of 48-45 victory for the Orediggers.

Colorado School of Mines advances to the quarter-finals of the NCAA tournament for the second time in the program's existence, the first being last year when they beat Bemidji State. As for Minnesota State, they conclude their season with a record of 10-3 and end their winning streak at six straight ending their 2022-23 season in frustrating fashion as they prepare to enter the offseason.

Chasing a childhood dream: Kelsey King competes for Team USA in Rivalry Series

By KOLE BUELOW
Staff Writer

Minnesota State senior forward Kelsey King now knows firsthand how intense the ice hockey rivalry is between the United States and Canada.

How does she know?

"You could hear a pin drop when we scored," said King, who spent two weeks competing for Team USA. "There was nobody cheering for us at all."

The legend of the United States versus Canada in ice hockey is one for the ages. Whether it be Olympic men's or women's rosters or National Development Team rosters, the rivalry between the two countries has never shied away from the spotlight.

In the latest rendition, King earned the opportunity to engrave her name in one of hockey's greatest rivalries as a part of the 2022-23 Rivalry Series.

The Rivalry Series was first introduced in the 2018-19 hockey season, which featured a five-game slate for the two powerhouse hockey countries. It has been one of the most successful additions to the international hockey scene, and rightfully so.

The United States and Canada have competed in the gold medal game in every single IIHF Women's World Championship and Olympic Winter Games, with only two exceptions: the 2006 Olympics and the 2019 World Championship. The teams have also set multiple attendance records in the process for international women's hockey games, most recently re-setting the American attendance record in Seattle with 14,551 fans Nov. 20.

Despite the attendance record, hockey is still growing in the United States and has a long way to go until it reaches the standards of its rivals in Canada. King and the rest of Team USA prevailed in both their Canadian soil contests, however, winning 4-3 in a shootout Nov. 15 and 2-1 in regulation Nov. 17. Team USA then returned home to Seattle, Wash. where they completed a three-game sweep over the Canadians in a 4-2 win Nov. 20.

A lot changed for the Minnesota State senior forward when she first arrived off the plane, from leaving everything she knew back home in Minnesota to being plunged straight into the highest level of hockey of her life.

Unlike this past summer where King and several other of her teammates competed in the DREAM on page 15 ►



CHRIS MAST • USA Hockey

King earned her second Rivalry Series invite this season to compete for Team USA in a three-game slate against Canada.

Men's hoops feasts on Concordia

By LUKE JACKSON
Staff Writer

Maverick star guard Malik Willingham showed he was hungry for Thanksgiving and feasted on the Concordia-St. Paul Bears Tuesday.

The Mavericks remain undefeated as they beat CSP 96-78. Willingham contributed a career-high 41 of those points as he shot 73% from behind the arc going 8-11.

Willingham also gave out four assists and brought in five rebounds.

The laundry list of stats continued as he hit on 13 field goals and only missed one free throw going seven for eight within the first 18 minutes of play.

Willingham is second in points per game in the NSIC behind Concordia's senior guard Antwan Kimmons who is averaging 27.4 per game.

Kimmons led the Bears with 34 points hitting three threes and 11 field goals. His performance ultimately wasn't enough to keep the Bears in the game.

The game started off heavily contested as the Mavs were down 16-8 five minutes into the contest. Over the next seven minutes of the half, MSU chipped away at the score.

They held the Bears to nine points while they put up 17.

The battle to end CSP's run ended with senior guard Trevor Moore hitting a jump shot that tied the game 25-25 at the 8:17 mark.

The Bears and Mavs fought for control of the score until the half ended. The lead changed three times until MSU ultimately came out on top with a score of 40-37.

The second half brought a back-and-forth game between Willingham and Kimmons.

Willingham brought in 23 points in



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Malik Willingham (above) picked up 41 of 96 points scored against Concordia St.-Paul at home at the Taylor Center Tuesday, Nov. 22.

the second for the Mavs while Kimmons had 24.

Ultimately, Willingham had more help which gave the Mavs the upper hand.

The Mavs shot 50.8% from the field and out-rebounded the Bears 37-28.

Sophomores Harrison Braudis and Tyrell Stuttley both contributed 11 points while only one of Concordia's players could get into double-digit scoring.

After the win, MSU moved on to play a non-conference game Bethany Luther-

an at home Saturday. Another win for the Mavs brought their record to 7-0 keeping the undefeated streak alive.

Next, they travel to Winona State to play the Warriors who are currently 4-1.

Women's basketball continues hot streak, improves to 5-0

By HAYDEN LEE
Staff Writer

Minnesota State extended its winning streak to five games last weekend with victories over Concordia-St. Paul and Wisconsin-Parkside. The Mavs moved to 4-0 after an NSIC conference win over the Golden Bears, 91-61, and 5-0 with a 80-71 win against the Rangers.

Last week the Mavs returned to the Taylor Center after eight days away and came out hot. Jumping out to an 8-0 lead in the first three minutes, the Mavs were eager to prove their dominance. Midway through the first, the Mavs held an 11-point lead and were shooting above 50% from the field, and held that lead heading into the second period up, 21-9.

The Mavs kept it going in the second period. They never trailed at any point, bringing the halftime score up to 43-24. Putting on a clinic of efficiency, Destinee Bursch led the team in scoring at the halfway point with 10 points on over 70% shooting, while Taylor Theusch added eight points herself.

The Golden Bears came out

with more energy in the second half, trying to knock the Mavs' lead down under single digits. Unfortunately for the Golden Bears, they were only able to trim the Mavs' lead to 16 points, 55-39, midway through the third quarter.

In what was a turning point in the game, the Mavs worked together to score 13 straight points in under three minutes, bringing the lead up to 29 points with two minutes remaining. Heading into the fourth period, the Mavs led 73-44.

The Mavericks never trailed in this game, and led by as many as 33 points in the fourth quarter. In a 30-point win, the Mavs shot 47% from the field and 33% from three on the way to a final score of 91-61. Bursch ended the game with 14 points, leading the way for the Mavs, and Emily Herzberg followed close behind with 12.

In their first game after Thanksgiving, the Mavs went on the road to face the Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers Saturday. In what was a historic night for junior Batt, she went 11-19 from the field en route to 31 points on the night and over



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

The Minnesota State Women's basketball team remains undefeated with a five-game win streak after defeating Concordia St.-Paul Tuesday, Nov. 22.

1,000 points in her MSU career. Batt has placed herself among an elite group of Mavericks, becoming the 23rd player to join the 1,000 point club.

The Mavericks jumped out to another early lead in this game with a 19-10 lead at the end of the first, led by 5 early points from Batt. However, the Rangers fought back early in the second quarter, cutting the

lead down to 5 points in the first minute after the break.

The second quarter would be back and forth, with the Mavericks struggling to bring their lead above 10 points. A three from the Rangers late in the first half brought the Rangers within one possession before the break, with a score of 35-31.

Coming out of the break, the teams would trade baskets until

the Rangers took a two point lead midway through the third, and it was a dogfight from there. At the end of the third the Mavericks held a 53-30 lead led by Batt's 7 points.

The fourth quarter was tightly contested, as neither team held a lead greater than 5 points until Bursch scored a layup with 2 minutes remaining to put the Mavs up 72-65, starting to shut the door on a comeback from the Rangers.

A layup from freshman Natalie Bremer would slam the door on this one, as the Mavs took an 11 point lead with 40 seconds remaining.

With a final score of 80-71, the Mavericks brought home another win in close fashion yet again.

Batt's 31 points led all scorers, and she proved to be the X-factor in this match, as her dominance gave the Mavericks the edge in this game.

Looking good are the Mavs, and now sitting at 5-0, the Mavericks will roll into another conference matchup at Winona State on Thurs. Dec. 1 at 5:30 pm.

Mavericks drop four points in tough series with the Huskies



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

The Minnesota State Men's Hockey team tied against Michigan Tech during the Saturday, Nov. 26 game.

By KARSON BUELOW
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the No. 10 Minnesota State University Mankato men's hockey team battled to a series loss with No. 20 Michigan Tech in Houghton. Freshman forward Kash Rasmussen got the game-winning goal late in the third period for the Huskies Friday and powered them to a 3-2 win. Both teams battled to a 2-2 tie Saturday night, but freshman forward Christian Fitzgerald came in clutch in the shootout to give the Mavericks the extra point.

Sophomore goaltender Keenan Rancier got the start in net for the Mavericks Friday night after his solid performance against Northern Michigan the week prior. The Victoria, British Columbia native was tested during the first period, as the Mavericks let up a season-high 18 shots in a period while only countering with three.

The Huskies broke through late in the first period of game one as senior forward Logan Ganie found a loose puck in the crease and fired it past Rancier for the game's opening goal. The Huskies took the 1-0 lead heading into the second period.

The second period started off similar to the opening period and Michigan Tech was granted their second powerplay of the game. The Mavericks'

recent struggles on the penalty kill continued as freshman forward Kyle Kukkonen cleaned up the rebound in front of Rancier to give the Huskies the 2-0 lead.

Minnesota State started to pick up the pace in the third period after allowing 28 shots to their own nine through 40 min of action. Fitzgerald got the Mavericks within one early in the third as he stole the puck and buried it under the Husky goaltender.

The Mavericks began pouring an onslaught of shots on the Husky netminder as they looked to tie the game up. Minnesota State head coach Mike Hastings pulled Rancier for the extra attacker with 2:14 left, but Rasmussen fired one into the empty net to bring it back to a two-goal Michigan Tech lead.

Junior forward David Silye was able to bury one with 52 seconds left, but it was too little too late as the Mavericks fell to the Huskies in game one by a final score of 3-2. Minnesota State hoped to rebound Saturday night in the series finale with Michigan Tech.

The Mavericks opened game two with a sense of urgency after Friday's disappointing loss. But it was Michigan Tech who got on the board first on Saturday night as senior forward David Jankowski cashed in the loose rebound for the 1-0 lead.

Both netminders kept the teams off the board until the

third period.

After opening the third period with several shots, the Mavericks finally broke through as Silye pounced on a juicy rebound for his 11th goal of the season and tied the game up at 1-1.

Michigan Tech responded roughly three minutes later as senior forward Tristan Ashbrook sniped one short-side on Rancier to regain the lead for the Huskies. With eight minutes remaining, the Mavericks picked up the intensity to try and tie the game up once again.

With the Mavericks on the powerplay and their goalie pulled, senior forward Ryan Sandelin rebounded one top-shelf for his fifth of the year to tie the game with under 40 seconds to play. The Mavericks and Huskies needed overtime to decide the outcome of Saturday's game.

Both teams got their chances during the overtime period, but neither was able to score and the game officially ended in a tie.

Silye and Fitzgerald were both able to net goals in the shootout and Rancier came in clutch as the Mavericks earned the extra CCHA point.

Rancier stopped a total of 57 shots and ended with a .934 save percentage on the weekend. The Mavericks will be back in action as they take on Ferris State at home Friday and Saturday.

Minnesota rallies late to beat Wisconsin 23-16, keep Axe



ANDY MANIS • Associated Press

Minnesota linebacker Josh Aune (29) celebrates with the Paul Bunyan's Axe trophy after they beat Wisconsin 23-16 in an NCAA college football game Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022, in Madison, Wis.

By STEVE MEGARGEE
Associated Press

Minnesota coach P.J. Fleck understood one of his major assignments upon taking this job was to alter the balance of power in the Gophers' rivalry with Wisconsin.

He's done exactly that. Athan Kaliakmanis connected with Le'Meke Brockington on a tiebreaking 45-yard touchdown with 3:40 remaining and Minnesota barely hung on in the final minute to beat Wisconsin 23-

16 on Saturday.

The victory enabled Minnesota to beat the Badgers in consecutive seasons for the first time since 1993-94.

After losing to Wisconsin 14 straight times from 2004-17, the Gophers have won three of the last five matchups.

"I know that's what I was hired to do," said Fleck, who improved his record in this rivalry to 3-3.

Minnesota (8-4, 5-4 Big Ten) retained possession of Paul Bunyan's Axe, which goes

AXE on page 16

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KING CHASES CHILDHOOD DREAM, COMPETES FOR TEAM USA



Photo Courtesy of Dave King

Mavericks' senior forward Kelsey King autographs Rivalry Series posters for fans alongside fellow Team USA teammates. King competed in three games for the United States, helping the U.S. win all three contests.

◀DREAM from page 12
Collegiate Rivalry Series, King was the only Maverick to attend the Olympic team Rivalry Series contests this time around. It was hard for her to prepare herself for such a rigorous transition, but King looked at the bright side of things which helped her succeed in her two weeks on the road.

"Something that I always live by is trying to force myself to be uncomfortable because I feel like you play the best hockey, you train the hardest, you work the hardest when you're in an uncomfortable setting," said King. "You have the most growth when you're uncomfortable."

"Being placed in that position of knowing that I have to gain some people's respect, put me in a position to where I was like, this is uncomfortable, but I'm gonna put my head down and I'm gonna work because ultimately they've all established themselves on that team. I'm the new kid that has work to do to gain their respect and to also get better."

King kept strong to her philosophy during her two weeks with Team USA, and even worked herself up in the line chart for a period in USA's 2-1 win Nov. 17. This was a big feat for King, who came into the Team USA Olympic roster as a first-timer and one of only six current NCAA athletes on the team.

The remaining 16 players on the roster currently play

in the Professional Women's Hockey Players Association, several of which have years of National experience on Team USA.

As one of the youngest and few current NCAA athletes on the team, King had a lot to take in, not only from a networking standpoint but also from what she could learn on the ice from her fellow teammates and coaches.

"I got the opportunity to be around the best in the world, which offered a great opportunity not only to get to know them off the ice and the type of people that they are and how they carry themselves, but especially the wisdom that they showed on the ice," said King.

"The context of the culture through USA Hockey that they've cultivated, that starts from the leadership, from the players and from the coaches. The advice here and there, you hold on to those things because that advice is something that you'll carry on for the rest of your career, because they know. They've lived it."

"One thing that people always say, especially, was that we weren't playing for a medal or anything, but even playing a game, you're a contributor. Everybody on the team is a contributor and you all share a bond over playing Canada. Those three games against Canada, none of us, all the players that played together, will ever forget that. We'll share a forever bond from those three games, and I think that

that's the coolest piece of it all."

King and her fellow Team USA teammates also made it a priority to involve themselves in the Seattle hockey community. Most notably, the team attended some of the Seattle Kraken's development program skills days where the players would skate with young kids and help them learn how to play hockey.

Growing up in Elk River, it was one of King's dreams to play for Team USA, and being able to give back to the community as a player herself, was one of her most outstanding achievements while on the road.

"You dream about that as a little girl and then to see these players that I look up to so much, to be able to have the opportunity to be out there with them and learn from them and grow with them, is really special."

King has had a remarkable career with the Mavericks, most notably completing a breakout junior season this past year. The Elk River product played in all 35 games her junior year and was second on Minnesota State in scoring, collecting 18 goals and 23 assists for 41 points in those contests.

Now in her fourth year at Minnesota State, King will look to collect her third straight WCHA Scholar-Athlete and All-Academic Team honors in addition to her WCHA All-Rookie Team honor in 2020.

Cousins, Vikings rebound from blowout to beat Patriots



ANDY CLAYTON-KING • Associated Press

Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Adam Thielen (19) celebrates with wide receiver Justin Jefferson (18) of an NFL football game against the New England Patriots, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022, in Minneapolis.

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

The Minnesota Vikings have quickly become a confident and resilient team under rookie coach Kevin O'Connell and his staff, and they sure showed it in this short week.

Kirk Cousins threw for 299 yards and three touchdowns, the last a go-ahead score to Adam Thielen with 9:34 left to push Minnesota past the New England Patriots in a 33-26 victory Thursday night.

Justin Jefferson had 139 receiving yards and one of the touchdown passes from Cousins, who delivered the clutch performance against a formidable defense the Vikings (9-2) needed to bounce back from a blowout loss four days before.

They rebounded multiple

times within the game, too. After an overthrow by Cousins was intercepted by Jonathan Jones and returned 55 yards to set up a field goal in the first quarter, the Vikings scored on five straight possessions excluding a kneel-down to end the first half.

"Kevin has empowered me so much. This team has empowered me so much," said Cousins, who went 30 for 37. "At times, it almost brings me to tears the way these guys support me."

Mac Jones passed for a career-high 382 yards and two scores to snap a lagging offense to life for the Patriots (6-5), but they ran out of steam down the stretch. Their fourth quarter included two three-and-out punts, a turnover on downs at

THANKSGIVING on page 16▶

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◀AXE from page 14

to the winner of this annual matchup.

The Gophers also tied the most-played Football Bowl Subdivision rivalry — these two Big Ten foes have been facing each other since 1890 — at 62-62-8.

The Gophers first had to sweat out Wisconsin's improbable comeback attempt in the final minute.

After an injury knocked Wisconsin quarterback Graham Mertz out of the game on the Badgers' final series, backup Chase Wolf drove the Badgers into position for a tying touchdown.

A pass interference penalty in the end zone gave Wisconsin first-and-goal from the 5 with 26 seconds left.

But a holding penalty and a false start pushed Wisconsin back to the 20.

After Wolf threw an incompleteness, two more false starts created second-and-goal from the 30.

The game ended with Wolf throwing an incompleteness into a crowd of players in the end zone on fourth-and-goal from the 25.

"Obviously, it was an ugly, ugly finish," Wisconsin interim head coach Jim Leonhard said.

Wisconsin (6-6, 4-5) fell to 4-3 under Leonhard, who was promoted from defensive coordinator after the firing of Paul Chryst.

Leonhard now waits for an announcement on whether he has the job for keeps.

"We've been through a lot of adversity and we've learned a lot about this team," Leonhard said.

"There are certain things I don't like. We need to improve. We need to win games, flat-out. That's our job. That's our goal here, to be competitive in the Big Ten and win football games. We've gotten inconsistent results."

Minnesota was facing second-and-11 when Brockington ran a slant route, caught Kaliakmanis' pass in stride inside the 35 and outran Wisconsin's defense to the end zone for his first career touchdown.

Kaliakmanis ended up 19 of 29 for 319 yards with two

touchdowns and no interceptions in his third game filling in for Tanner Morgan, who is out with an upper-body injury.

That represented a major step forward for Kaliakmanis, who was 7 of 15 for 87 yards with an interception last week in a 13-10 loss to Iowa.

"I knew that I couldn't play like I did (against) Iowa," Kaliakmanis said. "I had to respond and play a lot better."

Wisconsin, which had come back from a 13-6 deficit to take a 16-13 lead late in the third quarter, couldn't rally a second time.

This game shaped up as a duel between two of the nation's top running backs in Minnesota's Mohamed Ibrahim and Wisconsin's Braelon Allen, but it didn't quite work out that way.

Allen missed Saturday's game after injuring his ankle a week earlier in a 15-14 victory at Nebraska.

Ibrahim took a big hit in pass protection on Minnesota's opening series and finished with 27 carries for 70 yards, the first time this season he's been held below 100 yards.

"If you'd told me that before the game, I would have said we were going to win," Wisconsin safety John Torchio said. "That's tough. Credit to them. They went out and made plays."

THE TAKEAWAY

Minnesota: The Gophers did a nice job of bouncing back from the loss to Iowa and withstood the absence of safety Tyler Nubin, who was out with a hand injury.

Minnesota showed it has a bright future as the passer and receiver on the winning touchdown are both redshirt freshmen.

Wisconsin: This program prides itself on offensive line, but the repeated penalties by Wisconsin's offensive linemen kept the Badgers from tying the score on the game's final series.

After Chimere Dike's 9-yard reverse put Wisconsin ahead 16-13 in the third quarter, the Badgers went three-and-out three times and threw an interception in their next four series. Mertz was 16 of 27 for 170 yards with an interception.

◀THANKSGIVING from page 15

the Minnesota 39 and a brief desperation last drive.

Jones found Hunter Henry for a wide-open 37-yard touchdown pass to start the second half for a 23-16 lead. Kene Nwangwu scored on a 97-yard kickoff return to strike right back for the Vikings.

Jones — who has completed more than 77% of his passes over the last two games — appeared to hit Henry for another score on the next possession with a twisting catch at the goal line that was ruled a touchdown on the field. The replay reversal to an incomplete pass forced the Patriots to settle for Nick Folk's fourth field goal of the game.

"My hand was under it even when it hit the ground," Henry said.

Another vital call went the Vikings way a few minutes later when Pierre Strong Jr. was called for running into punter Ryan Wright. With a fresh set of downs, Cousins and the Vikings cruised up the field for the go-ahead touchdown.

"We definitely had to come in and show people that last week, it just wasn't our week," Jefferson said.

O'Connell also got the bonus of a win over Bill Belichick, who drafted him with the Patriots in 2008.

"This one means a whole heck of a lot, just because I have so much respect for that organization and coach Belichick," O'Connell said.

The Patriots allowed just three points in each of their last two games and brought the NFL sack leader Matt Judon to the stadium where the Vikings were decimated by Dallas on Sunday while Cousins took a career-high seven sacks.



ANDY CLAYTON-KING • Associated Press

Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Justin Jefferson (18) and wide receiver Adam Thielen (19) eat turkey legs before being interviewed after an NFL football game. The Vikings won 33-26.

With standout left tackle Christian Darrisaw sidelined by a concussion, the Vikings gave backup Blake Brandel plenty of extra help and put Cousins in far more favorable situations with shorter drops and quicker throws. The Vikings had 231 yards in the first half, more than the Patriots allowed in the previous two games combined.

MOVING ON UP

Jefferson had his footprints all over this game from the start, when his 3-yard reception on a crossing route in the end zone capped the opening drive. He made catch after improbable catch in tight coverage, including a 36-yard grab on a go route right before he was sandwiched by Jonathan Jones and Devin McCourty. Thielen's touchdown came on the next play.

"His ability to not hear footsteps and not alligator-arm it but bring it in and get popped, that's one of his many traits," Cousins said.

Jefferson set the NFL record

for most receiving yards in a player's first three seasons to pass Randy Moss. Jefferson has hit the 100-yard mark in 21 of 44 career games, and this one was one of his finest given the way Belichick's defenses frequently focus on taking star players out of the mix.

"Kevin did a good job," Belichick said. "They made a few more plays than we did."

INJURY REPORT

Patriots: RB Damien Harris (thigh) was hurt in the third quarter and didn't return. ... C David Andrews (thigh) and RT Isaiah Wynn (foot) were inactive, replaced in the starting lineup by James Ferentz and Yodny Cajuste.

Vikings: Fourth-stringer Duke Shelley started at CB, with Cameron Dantzler Sr. (ankle), Akayleb Evans (concussion) and Andrew Booth Jr. (knee) all sidelined. ... DE Dalvin Tomlinson (calf) missed his fourth straight game, with James Lynch filling in.

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VARIETY

Adam Sandler club cracks up campus

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

Minnesota State students have a new club option that doesn't require significant time or money, just a commitment to celebrity Adam Sandler.

Third-year student Hannah Minet started the Adam Sandler Club as a joke between her and her roommate.

"When I was a freshman, I was going through the list of clubs, and nothing stood out to me. So I decided I'm going to make my own club," said Minet. "My roommate asked, 'what kind of club would you even make?' And I was like, 'Oh, I don't know, like an Adam Sandler movie-watching club, maybe?' So it's been like a joke, and it's something that I seriously wanted to do for probably a year and just finally got around to it."

Minet was not expecting the process of creating a club to be as complex as it is.

"You have to fill out a bunch of forms and write a six-page constitution. You also have to have five members, and you can't get a room on campus until you are a club," said Minet. "The members were originally just my friends, but now we have real members."

Students gather together at



LAUREN VISKA • The Reporter

Students from all different majors and grade levels gather in the Centennial Student Union every Sunday as members of the ASC, the Adam Sandler Club, to discuss Sandler's film career and analyze his body of work.

ASC meetings to watch Sandler's films. Mckenna Slattery, a junior at MSU, joined the club for fun and loves it.

"There's not any requirements or anything. It's just a chill environment. Everyone just gets food and hangs out together,"

said Slattery. "I like that everyone's just there for a good time. You know, it's not like there's no competition or anything because we're all just there to bond over Adam Sandler together. It's a good place to unwind if you've had a lot of homework that

week, as we meet on Sundays."

However, the club's main appeal for Slattery was the movies themselves.

"My friend Brent, another member, invited me to go, and that's like how I first heard about it. And I was like, huh,

I've never been to a club before, and I like his movies, so I gave it a chance," said Slattery. "I would have said 'Happy Gilmore' as my favorite movie, but now that I've actually branched out, my favorite is 'Big Daddy.' I don't know why during the movie, but I got so emotional while watching it."

According to Minet, their numbers have only grown since the first meeting Oct. 9.

"We got 11 people at the first meeting, and I was like, wow, I kind of assumed that that would be like the height of Adam Sandler club because when you hear about it, it's kind of silly. But, in our past two meetings, we had 33 people show up, and I don't think that will be the height of the meetings as every time people go, I usually hear, 'Oh, this was great. We're going to come back; we're going to tell our friends,'" said Minet.

Minet never expected this level of traction.

"It's crazy to me that there are so many people interested, so many people want to go, and I mean, the more the word gets out, I'm sure the more people will come," Minet said.

Interested students can get involved through the club's Instagram profile, [adamsandler-club_mankato](#), which is updated weekly.

Conkling Gallery paints a picture of seniors' art exhibitions



Photos by DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Conkling Gallery in Nelson Hall was home to a student art exhibition of Minnesota State seniors, showing off artwork spanning many mediums: acrylic on canvas, photography, graphic and web design, printmaking, sculptural work, ceramics and more. This art exhibition functioned as the seniors' final projects for the fall semester. The Conkling Gallery is named after artist Effie R. Conkling, previously a teacher on campus. Conkling served as an instructor and head of the art department until her eventual retirement in 1958.

Jon Batiste to sing for Macron at Biden's dinner



EVAN AGOSTINI • Associated Press

Musician Jon Batiste is on tap to perform at Biden's first White House state dinner on Thursday, highlighting long-standing ties between the United States and France and honoring President Emmanuel Macron.

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

Musician Jon Batiste is on tap to perform at President Joe Biden's first White House state dinner on Thursday that will highlight long-standing ties between the United States and France and honor President Emmanuel Macron.

"An artist who transcends generations, Jon Batiste's music inspires and brings people together," said Vanessa Valdivia, a spokesperson for first lady Jill Biden, whose office is overseeing dinner preparations.

"We're thrilled to have him perform at the White House for the first state dinner of the Biden-Harris administration," Valdivia said.

The black-tie dinner for

Macron will be part of what is shaping up to be a busy social season at the White House. The Bidens' granddaughter Naomi was married on the South Lawn earlier this month. And first lady Jill Biden was set on Monday to unveil the White House decorations that will be viewed by thousands of holiday visitors over the next month.

Reporters returning to the White House on Sunday with the president saw large wreaths studded with shiny Christmas tree ornaments and red bows suspended from the south side of the White House. Wreaths also were hung on the Pennsylvania Avenue side of the building. White lights were draped over the shrubs and other landscaping on the South.

Singer-actor Irene Cara dies at 63

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

Oscar, Golden Globe and two-time Grammy winning singer-actress Irene Cara, who starred and sang the title cut from the 1980 hit movie "Fame" and then belted out the era-defining hit "Flashdance ... What a Feeling" from 1983's "Flashdance," has died. She was 63.

Her publicist, Judith A. Moose, announced the news on social media, writing that a cause of death was "currently unknown."

Moose also confirmed the death to an Associated Press reporter on Saturday.

Cara died at her home in Florida. The exact day of her death was not disclosed.

"Irene's family has requested privacy as they process their grief," Moose wrote. "She was a beautifully gifted soul whose legacy will live forever through her music and films."

During her career, Cara had three Top 10 hits on the Billboard Hot 100, including "Breakdance," "Fame" and "Flashdance ... What A Feeling," which spent six weeks at No. 1. She was behind some of the most joyful, high-energy pop anthems of the early '80s, including "Out Here On My Own" and "Why Me?"

Tributes poured in on Saturday on social media, including from Deborah Cox, who called Cara an inspiration, and Holly Robinson Peete, who recalled seeing Cara perform: "The insane combination of talent and beauty was overwhelming to me. This hurts my heart so



RICHARD DREW • Associated Press

Conductor Mitch Miller performs for photographers with singers Rosemary Clooney, left, and Irene Cara, center, during a rehearsal, on Jan. 6, 1981, in New York for his NBC-TV special called "The Mitch Miller Show: A Sing Along Sampler."

much."

She first came to prominence among the young actors playing performing arts high schoolers in Alan Parker's "Fame," with co-stars Debbie Allen, Paul McCrane and Anne Meara. Cara played Coco Hernandez, a striving dancer who endures all manner of deprivations, including a creepy nude photo shoot.

"How bright our spirits go shooting out into space, depends on how much we contributed to the earthly brilliance of this world. And I mean to be a major contributor!" she says in the movie.

Cara sang on the soaring title song with the chorus — "Remember my name/I'm gonna live forever/I'm gonna learn how to fly/I feel it coming together/People will see me and cry" — which would go on to

be nominated for an Academy Award for best original song.

She also sang on "Out Here on My Own," "Hot Lunch Jam" and "I Sing the Body Electric."

Allen took to Twitter Saturday to mourn, posting pictures of them together and calling Cara a "a gifted and beautiful genius. Her talent and her music will live forever! Forever remember her name!"

Lenny Kravitz addressed Cara in a tweet: "You inspired me more than you could ever know. Your songwriting and vocals created pure energy that will never cease. You also defined an era that is so close to my heart."

Stephanie Mills, who co-starred with Cara in "Maggie Flynn" on Broadway in 1968, wrote: "Such an amazing talent and sweet person."

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Balloon characters star in Parade

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN**
Associated Press

Throng of spectators lined the streets of New York on Thursday as colorful, high-flying balloons helped usher in the holiday season during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The annual tradition, which dates back nearly a century, packed streets as a procession of giant inflatables and floats streamed for more than 40 blocks from Central Park to Herald Square.

Children balanced atop metal barricades and hung from scaffolding to watch the balloons amid mostly sunny skies and a slight breeze.

"Blue, Blue. There's Blue," yelled Divyam Kumar, 6, as his father helped balance him and his 4-year-old brother Aanu Aryan on a metal rail.

The youngster was referring to the star of the animated show "Blue's Clues" — not to be confused with the international cartoon sensation Bluey, an Australian cattle pup making her parade debut.

Bluey's balloon towered as tall as a four-story building and stretched as wide as seven taxi cabs

Stuart, the one-eyed Minion, was also there to thrill the crowd.

But it was Snoopy that especially caught the eye of Brenner Chenenko, 8, even more so than the more contemporary pups.

"It's one of the classics," said the youngster from Rochester, New York, who lined the parade route with his father Nate and grandfather John



JULIA NIKHINSON • Associated Press

The Boss Baby balloon make its way down Central Park West during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022, in New York.

Wopperer.

It was the first time the father and son had seen the parade in person. Wopperer last saw a parade live three years ago, before the pandemic sidelined the event for a year.

Snoopy, dressed as an astronaut, was followed by another old-time favorite, Papa Smurf.

This year's parade featured 16 giant balloons, 28 floats, 40 novelty and heritage inflatables, 12 marching bands, 10 performance groups, 700 clowns and one Santa Claus.

The procession of characters were joined by singer Paula Abdul, in her first parade appearance; indie pop band Fitz and the Tantrums; boy band Big Time Rush; "Blue's Clues & You!" host Josh Dela Cruz; singer Gloria Estefan; gospel singer Kirk Franklin; actor Mario Lopez; reggae star Ziggy Marley; and Miss America

2022 Emma Broyles.

Singers Joss Stone, Jordin Sparks and Betty Who were also part of the festivities, as were the stars of Peacock's "Pitch Perfect: Bumper in Berlin" — Adam Devine, Sarah Hyland and Flula Borg.

Jimmy Fallon & The Roots were on a float celebrating Central Park.

President Biden and Jill Biden called into the parade, as he did last year. Biden thanked firefighters, police officers and first responders, saying, "They never take a break."

They thanked the troops and Biden said he would be reaching out to speak to some today.

Asked about their plans for the day in Nantucket, Massachusetts, the Bidens said it would involve family, and some time spent locally, thanking first responders.

China sentences Chinese-Canadian star Kris Wu to 13 years



FRANK GUNN • Associated Press

Singer Kris Wu celebrates his award for Fan Fave New Artist on the red carpet at the iHeartRadio MMVAs in Toronto on Aug. 26, 2018. A Beijing court sentenced Kris Wu to 13 years in prison.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Chinese court on Friday sentenced Chinese-Canadian pop star Kris Wu to 13 years in prison on charges including rape.

Beijing's Chaoyang District Court said Wu was given 11 years and 6 months for a 2020 rape, and 1 year and 10 months for the "crime of assembling a crowd to engage in sexual promiscuity" in a 2018 event in which he and others allegedly assaulted two women they had gotten drunk.

The court said the three victims in the rape case had also been drunk and were unable to consent.

It said a combined 13-year sentence was agreed on and Wu would be immediately de-

ported after serving his time.

"According to the facts ... the nature, circumstances and harmful consequences of the crime, the court made the above judgment," the court said in an online statement.

A Canadian diplomat was in court to hear the sentencing, it said.

Wu was also slapped with a fine of 600 million yuan (\$83.7 million) for evading taxes by massively underreporting his earnings from performances, advertisements and other sources of income.

The June trial of the 32-year-old former member of the South Korean group EXO was closed to the public to protect the victims' privacy.

Wu has been detained since August 2021.



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