

## Exhilarating Ethiopian and Eritrean night

### *A night to celebrate with dance, fashion and friends*

By AMALIA SHARAF  
Staff Writer

A night of cultures was presented to students during Ethiopian and Eritrean Night hosted by the Ethiopian & Eritrean Student Association (EESA).

EESA event organizer Fahmi Nuru said the event's goals are twofold.

"We want this night to be memorable for both Ethiopians and Eritreans, and then for the others to learn more about Ethiopian culture and Eritrean culture. There will (also) be our cultural food," said Nuru. "I'm very excited. We worked for this for a long time."

The Ethiopian and Eritrean Night is an annual event. President of EESA Ruth Asmamaw said she believes hosting the event is a good way to celebrate the culture.

"We want to show that we are welcoming people," said Asmamaw. "We are so glad to share cultures, traditions and our costumes with society. We are going to have vegan food, vegetarian food and we are going to have drinks as well."

During the event, guests got to see the video presentation of Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as watch the dancing performances and cultural clothes. At the end of the event, visitors ate cultural meals. Performers Rekik Dinku and Bethel Gebregiorgis were ready to share their cultural backgrounds with everyone at the event.

"First, we'll be showing our cultural clothes and then some of our cultural music. And later



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Students gathered in the CSU Ballroom to share in Ethiopian and Eritrean culture. Performances occurred along with a plethora of vegetarian dishes served and a fashion show of traditional cultural clothes.

on, there is going to be a dance performance or some of the different cultures we have in our country. And we're going to be performing different songs," said Dinku.

"The event is kind of just combining Eritrean and Ethiopian cultures. Ethiopian cultures had their diversities as well, so it's going to be a lovely night because it's a perfect combination for tonight," Gebregiorgis added.

Attendees also felt excited about different parts of the

night. Junior David Mesta said he was happy to have the opportunity to connect to other cultures.

"I thought it's a great way to see a different cultural aspect of our campus community and also enrich my view of Ethiopian culture. The best part now is just getting a chance to talk to people and see a little bit of their story," said Mesta. "I would like to go to different events where it has more cultures and different sides of our campus that I haven't experienced yet."

Other students said they were excited to see the fashion show and documentary.

"I'm excited to see the fashion show because a few of my friends are performing in it and I've been waiting to see them," said freshman Suzanne Skaria. "They have a few dances. I do know there's gonna be food and I'm very excited. They gave me the whole menu and I'm waiting to try all of it."

"I liked the documentary they showed earlier about the

**ETHIOPIA on page 2▶**

## Iyaz and Nur-D set to perform at spring concert

By EMMA JOHNSON  
News Director

Following the 2022 concert with Tai Verdes, the Student Events Team announced Monday that singers Iyaz and Nur-D were selected to be the spring concert artists.

The concert will be from 8-9:30 p.m. in the CSU Ballroom on April 11.

Iyaz broke out into the music scene with the wildly popular single "Replay."

Other popular songs of his include "Solo," "Pretty Girls" and "Long Way Home."

Iyaz also made a guest appearance on the fourth season of "Hannah Montana" and created a song with Miley Cyrus which debuted on the "Hannah Montana Forever" soundtrack.

While Iyaz's main genre is smooth reggae, he has collaborated with both Snoop Dogg and Charice.

Joining Iyaz is Minnesota hip-hop artist Nur-D who has headlined alongside Ludacris, Tyler The Creator and The Wu Tang Clan.

According to Nur-D's bio, he has "the soulful sounds of Bruno Mars or Childish Gambino and the powerful energy of Lizzo."

Nur-D's most famous album is "Chicago Avenue" which released in 2020. Following the death of George Floyd, the hip-hop and rap album covers the wide range of emotions the world experienced afterward such as anger, grief and the demand for justice.

Students tickets are free, alumni (in the last five years) tickets are \$5 and public tickets are \$15.

VIP tickets, (which include early access, signed poster and a group picture) are \$15 for students and \$30 for the public.

Students may only receive one student ticket per Mav Card for themselves and one friend. Tickets are unlimited to the public.

Students can either pick up tickets in person at the Student Activities front desk or register to get them online at mnsuevents.com.

## Maud Borup treats students to hands-on learning

By EMMA JOHNSON  
News Director

Mavericks got a sweet deal by getting hands-on experience in the confectionary world on Thursday.

Former Maverick alumna Christine Lantinen came to Minnesota State to speak to students about her ownership of Maud Borup as part of the Richard Schmitz Food Entrepreneurship Series.

Starting in 1907 out of her St. Paul home, Maud Borup created small batches of candy to sell.

Now Maud Borup produces chocolate in LeCenter, cotton candy in Plymouth and oversized gummies in Delafield, WI.

Applied Entrepreneurial

Practices grad assistant Gary Lesley wanted to bring Lantinen with her connection to MSU.

"I think the university really appreciates her story and she's been a big supporter in the school. She's also been participating in this class and making it possible for students to develop products with her company," Lesley said.

Lesley said the food entrepreneurship series allows impacts both MSU and the College of Business by bringing an innovative, entrepreneurial approach to the food business.

"We're trying to inject incorporating innovative entrepreneurship with new ways to teach about nutrition, health and op-



EMMA JOHNSON • The Reporter

Randy Lantinen (left), Christine Lantinen and dean Brenda Flannery sat down to talk about the success of Maud Borup and advise business students.

**CANDY on page 7▶**

# Students face the decision to work on campus or in the private sector



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

With students balancing a number of responsibilities, it can be difficult to pay for college. Students have the choice to either work on-or-off campus, but it's important to weigh the pros and cons before choosing.

By CARLY BAHR  
The Associated Press

College students have many choices to make when it comes to their financial health; get a job or focus on school, live on-or-off campus and work on-or-off campus among others.

Although there have been studies about the correlation of college student success when living on campus, there is not as much research put into those who work on campus and how it affects educational performance. However, the proximity can be a perk, according to Andrae Rahming and Abenezer Beshah, who both work in the MavCARD Office.

Rahming is a recent Minnesota State graduate who was promoted to MavCARD Services Coordinator after graduating. Before that he did counter work which included taking pictures and producing cards and name badges.

"I was an international student so I couldn't work off campus. On campus work was the only thing I could do," Rahming said. "Other than flexibility, the distance to travel is a pro because it is pretty close to where I live."

International students are limited to on campus jobs because they do not have work permits that would allow them

to work in the private sector. On campus jobs are limited to 20 hours per week during the semester and will pay \$12-15.10 per hour according to the 2022 Student Pay Classifications. Commercial firms such as Barnes & Noble Bookstore at MSU and Sodexo are contracted with the university and have different pay rates.

According to Rahming, his former supervisor acted as a mentor by giving him some projects that allowed him to lean into his marketing major.

Beshah, a computer science major, also said he appreciates that being an assistant in the MavCARD Office is relevant to his career goals and offers him downtime to study.

"I used to work in Sodexo. For me, it's the worst place to work. You got paid \$10 an hour and the work is really intense and hard," Beshah said. "Here, you're sitting here on your own computer and that's my major, focused on computers."

Beshah said he sometimes struggles with the hour and pay restrictions when making rent and utility payments at his off-campus housing.

"Working 20 hours, I don't think is fair," Beshah said. "We'd like to have a couple hours more to work if we could. Working more than 20

hours would be awesome for us because we international students don't have a work permit to work outside campus. So getting extra money by working extra hours would be cool."

For domestic students who have the option of working for a private employer, the convenience of working at one's school can be outweighed by a greater financial need.

Alyssa Homeier, manager of the Fillin' Station coffee house in downtown Mankato, is an off-campus student at MSU. Her apartment requires monthly rent and utility payments and needs the option to go above the 20 hours per week maximum set by the university.

"I had considered it in the past but it wasn't really ever an option because it would not have helped pay my bills enough," Homeier said.

Besides making this extra income, she also said she appreciates meeting people who are not involved with the university.

"I'd say that you get more experience with the actual community. I see more people that are not students anymore or older people," Homeier said. "I feel like working in customer service is just a good experience talking to people. I'm sure with on campus jobs you do it as

**CAREER on page 7**

## ◀ETHIOPIA from page 1

Ethiopian and Eritrean cultures. It was very nice. I'm looking forward to the food and seeing what else they bring up tonight," said freshman John Evju.

Attendees experienced new cultures, tried their food, and got an opportunity to take a

photo at the decorated photo booth. The successful work of the EESA team left visitors happy and energized.

"I liked the documentary they showed earlier about the Ethiopian and Eritrean cultures. It was very nice. I'm looking forward to the food and seeing what else they bring up tonight," said freshman

John Evju.

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The successful work of the EESA team left visitors happy and energized.

# School library book bans are seen as targeting LGBTQ content



JEFFEREE WOO • The Associated Press

In Florida, some schools have covered or removed books under a new law that requires an evaluation of reading materials.

By SCOTT MCFETRIDGE,  
ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE  
and SARA CLINE  
The Associated Press

Teri Patrick bristles at the idea she wants to ban books about LGBTQ issues in Iowa schools, arguing her only goal is ridding schools of sexually explicit material.

Sara Hayden Parris says that whatever you want to call it, it's wrong for some parents to think a book shouldn't be readily available to any child if it isn't right for their own child.

The viewpoints of the two mothers from suburban Des Moines underscore a divide over LGBTQ content in books as Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds pushes an especially sweeping crackdown on content in Iowa school libraries.

The bill she's backing could result in the removal of books from school libraries in all of the state's 327 districts if they're successfully challenged in any one of them.

School boards and legislatures nationwide also are facing questions about books and considering making it easier to limit access.

"We're seeing these challenges arise in almost every state of the union," said Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. "It's a national phenomenon."

Longstanding disagreements about content in school libraries often focus this year on books with LGBTQ themes as policymakers nationwide also consider limiting or banning gender-affirming care and drag shows, allowing the deadnaming of transgender students or adults in the workplace, and other measures targeting LGBTQ people.

The trend troubles Kris Maul, a transgender man who is raising a 12-year-old with his lesbian partner in the Des Moines area and wants school library books to reflect all kinds of families and children.

Maul argued that those seeking to remove books take passages out of context and unfairly focus on books about LGBTQ or racial justice issues.

LGBTQ people are more visible than even five years ago, Maul said, and he believes that has led to a backlash from some who hope limiting discussion will return American society to an era that didn't acknowledge people with different sexualities.

"People are scared because they don't think LGBTQ people should exist," Maul said. "They don't want their own children to be LGBTQ, and they feel if they can limit access to these books and materials, then their children won't be that way, which is simply not true and is heartbreaking and disgusting."

In Louisiana, activists fear a push by Republican Attorney General Jeff Landry to investigate sexually explicit materials in public libraries — and recently proposed legislation that could restrict children and teens' access to those books — is being used to target and censor LGBTQ content.

Landry, who is running for governor, launched a statewide tip line in November to field complaints about librarians, teachers, and school and library personnel.

Landry released a report in February that listed nine books his office considers "sexually explicit" or inappropriate for children. Seven have LGBTQ storylines.

In Florida, some schools have covered or removed books under a new law that requires an evaluation of reading materials and for districts to publish a searchable list of books where individuals can then challenge specific titles.

The reviews have drawn widespread attention, with images of empty bookshelves ricocheting across social media, and are often accompanied by criticism of Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican expected to run for president.

# UN climate report gives a stark warning

By SETH BORENSTEIN and FRANK JORDANS  
The Associated Press

Humanity still has a chance, close to the last, to prevent the worst of climate change's future harms, a top United Nations panel of scientists said Monday. But doing so requires quickly slashing nearly two-thirds of carbon pollution by 2035, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said. The United Nations chief said it more bluntly, calling for an end to new fossil fuel exploration and for rich countries to quit coal, oil and gas by 2040.

"Humanity is on thin ice — and that ice is melting fast," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. "Our world needs climate action on all fronts — everything, everywhere, all at once."

Stepping up his pleas for action on fossil fuels, Guterres called for rich countries to accelerate their target for achieving net zero emissions to as early as 2040, and developing nations to aim for 2050 — about a decade earlier than most current targets. He also called for them to stop using coal by 2030 and 2040, respectively, and ensure carbon-free electricity generation in the developed world by 2035, meaning no gas-fired



FAREED KHAN • The Associated Press

A major new United Nations report being released Monday, March 20, 2023, is expected to provide a sobering reminder that time is running out if humanity wants to avoid passing a dangerous global warming threshold.

power plants either.

That date is key because nations soon have to come up with goals for pollution reduction by 2035, according to the Paris climate agreement. After contentious debate, the U.N. science report approved Sunday

concluded that to stay under the warming limit set in Paris the world needs to cut 60% of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, compared with 2019, adding a new target not previously mentioned in six previous reports issued since 2018.

"The choices and actions implemented in this decade will have impacts for thousands of years," the report said, calling climate change "a threat to human well-being and planetary health."

"We are not on the right track

but it's not too late," said report co-author and water scientist Aditi Mukherji. "Our intention is really a message of hope, and not that of doomsday."

With the world only a few tenths of a degree away from the globally accepted goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times, scientists stressed a sense of urgency. The goal was adopted as part of the 2015 Paris climate agreement and the world has already warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit).

This is likely the last warning the Nobel Peace Prize-winning collection of scientists will be able to make about the 1.5 mark because their next set of reports may well come after Earth has either passed the mark or is locked into exceeding it soon, several scientists, including report authors, told The Associated Press.

After 1.5 degrees "the risks are starting to pile on," said report co-author Francis X. Johnson, a climate, land and policy scientist at the Stockholm Environment Institute. The report mentions "tipping points" around that temperature of species extinction, including coral reefs, irreversible melting of ice sheets and sea level rise of several meters (several yards).

## Summer Jobs

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# With overdoses up, states look at harsher fentanyl penalties



JAMES POLLARD • The Associated Press

S.C. State lawmakers across the nation are responding to the deadliest overdose crisis in U.S. history by pushing harsher penalties for possessing fentanyl which is connected to 70,000 deaths a year.

By GABE STERN,  
JAMES POLLARD and  
GEOFF MULVIHILL  
The Associated Press

State lawmakers nationwide are responding to the deadliest overdose crisis in U.S. history by pushing harsher penalties for possessing fentanyl and other powerful lab-made opioids that are connected to about 70,000 deaths a year.

Imposing longer prison sentences for possessing smaller amounts of drugs represents a shift in states that in recent years have rolled back drug possession penalties.

Proponents of tougher penalties say this crisis is different and that, in most places, the stiffer sentences are intended to punish drug dealers, not just users.

“There is no other drug — no other illicit drug — that has the same type of effects on our communities,” said Mark Jackson, the district attorney for Douglas County, Nevada, and president of the Nevada District Attorneys Association, which is pushing for stricter penalties for fentanyl-related crimes.

But the strategy is alarming recovery advocates who say focusing on the criminal angle of drugs has historically backfired, including when lawmakers elevated crack cocaine penalties in the 1980s.

“Every time we treat drugs as a law enforcement problem and push stricter laws, we find that we punish people in ways that destroy their lives and make it harder for them to recover later on,” said Adam Wandt, an assistant professor of public policy at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. He said people behind bars often continue getting

drugs — often without receiving quality addiction treatment — then emerge to find it’s harder to get work.

Since 2020, drug overdoses are now linked to more than 100,000 deaths a year nationally, with about two-thirds of them fentanyl-related. That’s more than 10 times as many drug deaths as in 1988, at the height of the crack epidemic.

Fentanyl mostly arrives in the U.S. from Mexico and is mixed into supplies of other drugs, including cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and counterfeit oxycodone pills. Some users seek it out. Others don’t know they’re taking it.

Ingesting 2 milligrams of fentanyl can be fatal, meaning 1 gram — about the same as a paper clip — could contain 500 lethal doses.

That’s what’s driving some lawmakers to crack down with harsh penalties, along with adopting measures such as legalizing materials to test drug supplies for fentanyl and distributing naloxone, a drug that can reverse overdoses.

Before this year’s legislative sessions began, a dozen states had already adopted fentanyl possession measures, according to tracking by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

And in this year, in one legislative chamber of liberal Oregon and one chamber of conservative West Virginia, lawmakers have agreed upon tougher penalties. In her State of the State speech this March, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, a Republican, called on lawmakers to adopt a drug trafficking bill that includes tougher fentanyl sentences.

In Nevada, where Democrats control the Legislature, a bill backed by Democratic

Attorney General Aaron Ford would give one to 20 years in prison for selling, possessing, manufacturing or transporting 4 grams or more of fentanyl into the state, depending on the amount. It’s a change for Ford, who has supported criminal justice reforms including a sweeping 2019 law that, among other provisions, raised the threshold for such penalties to 100 grams.

It would also remove fentanyl from the state’s “Good Samaritan” law, which exempts people from criminal drug possession charges while reporting an overdose.

“What we’ve learned is that lowering the thresholds for all drugs was overinclusive,” Ford said.

Harm reduction advocates are pushing Ford and others to rethink their support, arguing the thresholds for longer penalties can sweep up low-level users — not just the dealers the law is aimed at — as well as some who may not even know they are taking fentanyl. They warn that the state’s crime labs test only for the presence of fentanyl, not the exact amount in a mixture of drugs.

Thus, people with over 4 grams of drugs containing a few milligrams of fentanyl could be subject to trafficking penalties, they say.

Rosa Johnson runs a needle exchange where she meets people who could face consequences should the stricter fentanyl bill pass.

For the dozens of people that show up each day, it is rare for them to cite fentanyl as their “drug of choice.” But it’s also rare that fentanyl test strips come back negative, with the drug being “laced in a lot of things,” Johnson said.

## Some Trump supporters ambivalent on calls for protests



SUE OGROCKI • The Associated Press

Trump’s calls for protests ahead of his anticipated indictment in New York have generated mostly muted reactions from supporters, with even some of his most ardent loyalists dismissing the idea as a waste of time.

By ERIC TUCKER and  
MICHAEL KUNZELMAN  
The Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump’s calls for protests before his anticipated indictment in New York have generated mostly muted reactions from supporters, with even some of his most ardent loyalists dismissing the idea as a waste of time or a law enforcement trap.

The ambivalence raises questions about whether Trump, though a leading Republican contender in the 2024 presidential race who retains a devoted following, still has the power to mobilize far-right supporters the way he did more than two years ago before the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

It also suggests that the hundreds of arrests that followed the Capitol riot, not to mention the convictions and long prison sentences, may have dampened the desire for repeat mass unrest.

Still, law enforcement in New York is continuing to closely monitor online chatter warning of protests and violence if Trump is arrested, with threats varying in specificity and credibility, four officials told The Associated Press.

Mainly posted online and in chat groups, the messages have included calls for armed protesters to block law enforcement officers and attempt to stop any potential arrest, the officials said.

Around the time the Manhattan courthouse complex opened Monday morning, a New York Police Department truck began dropping off dozens of portable metal barricades that could be used to block off streets or sidewalks.

The New York Young Republican Club held a small protest in Lower Manhattan on Monday, and incendiary but isolated posts surfaced on fringe social media platforms from supporters calling for an armed confrontation with law enforcement at Trump’s Flori-

da estate, Mar-a-Lago.

But nearly two days after Trump claimed on his Truth Social platform that he expected to be arrested on Tuesday and exhorted followers to protest, there were few signs his appeal had inspired his supporters to organize and rally around an event like the Jan. 6 gathering.

At the Lower Manhattan protest, reporters outnumbered pro-Trump demonstrators. And a prominent organizer of rallies that preceded the Capitol riot posted on Twitter that he intended to remain on the sidelines.

Ali Alexander, who as an organizer of the “Stop the Steal” movement staged rallies to promote Trump’s baseless claims that Democrats stole the 2020 election from him, warned Trump supporters that they would be “jailed or worse” if they protested in New York City.

“You have no liberty or rights there,” he tweeted.

One of Alexander’s allies in the “Stop the Steal” campaign was conspiracy theorist Alex Jones, who amplified the election fraud claims on his Infowars show. Alexander posted that he had spoken to Jones and said that neither of them would be protesting this time around.

“We’ve both got enough going on fighting the government,” Alexander wrote. “No billionaire is covering our bills.”

Roger Stone, a longtime Trump adviser who spoke at rallies on the day before the insurrection, also advised caution.

“If you do choose to publicly protest, it is vitally important that you keep your protest peaceful, civil, orderly and completely legal,” he said on Monday, alleging some on the left want to foment violence and blame it on Trump. “Do not under any circumstances step into that trap,” Stone said. “Please keep your protest peaceful and respectful.”

# High cancer rates found in pilots



BETTY SEAMAN • The Associated Press

Navy Capt. Jim Seaman died of lung cancer at the age of 61. His widow Betty Seaman has been part of a large group to look into the number of cancers aviators and ground crews face.

By TARA COPP  
The Associated Press

A Pentagon study has found high rates of cancer among military pilots and for the first time has shown that ground crews who fuel, maintain and launch those aircraft are also getting sick.

The data had long been sought by retired military aviators who have raised alarms for years about the number of air and ground crew members they knew who had cancer.

They were told that earlier military studies had found they were not at greater risk than the general U.S. population.

In its yearlong study of almost 900,000 service members who flew on or worked on military aircraft between 1992 and 2017, the Pentagon found that air crew members had an 87% higher rate of melanoma and a 39% higher rate of thyroid cancer, while men had a 16% higher rate of prostate cancer and women a 16% higher rate of breast cancer.

Overall, the air crews had a 24% higher rate of cancer of all types.

The study showed ground crews had a 19% higher rate of brain and nervous system cancers, a 15% higher rate of thyroid cancer and a 9% higher rate of kidney and renal cancers, while women had a 7% higher rate of breast cancer.

The overall rate for cancers of all types was 3% higher.

There was some good news reported as well. Both ground and air crews had far lower rates of lung cancer, and air crews also had lower rates of bladder and colon cancers.

The data compared the service members with the general U.S. population after adjusting for age, sex and race.

The Pentagon said the new study was one of the largest and most comprehensive to date.

An earlier study had looked

at just Air Force pilots and had found some higher rates of cancer, while this one looked across all services and at both air and ground crews.

Even with the wider approach, the Pentagon cautioned that the actual number of cancer cases was likely to be even higher because of gaps in the data, which it said it would work to remedy.

The study “proves that it’s well past time for leaders and policy makers to move from skepticism to belief and active assistance,” said retired Air Force Col. Vince Alcazar, a member of the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association, which had lobbied the Pentagon and Congress for help.

Alcazar serves on the association’s medical issues committee.

The study was required by Congress in the 2021 defense bill.

Now, because higher rates were found, the Pentagon must conduct an even bigger review to try to understand why the crews are getting sick.

Isolating potential causes is difficult, and the Pentagon was careful to note that this study “does not imply that military service in air crew or ground crew occupations causes cancer, because there are multiple potential confounding factors that could not be controlled for in this analysis,” such as family histories, smoking or alcohol use.

But aviation crews have long asked for the Pentagon to look closely at some of the environmental factors they are exposed to, such as jet fuels and solvents used to clean and maintain jet parts, sensors and their power sources in aircraft nose cones, and the massive radar systems on the decks of the ships they land on.

When Navy Capt. Jim Seaman would come home from a deployment aboard an aircraft

carrier, his gear would reek of jet fuel, his widow Betty Seaman said.

The A-6 Intruder pilot died in 2018 at age 61 of lung cancer. Betty Seaman still has his gear stored and it still smells of fuel, “which I love,” she said.

She and others wonder if there’s a link. She said crews would talk about how even the ship’s water systems would smell of fuel.

She said she and others have mixed feelings about finally seeing in data what they have suspected for years about the aviation cancers.

But “it has the potential to do a lot of good as far as early communication, early detection,” she said.

The study found that when crew members were diagnosed with cancer, they were more likely to survive than members of the general population, which the study suggested was because they were diagnosed earlier due to regular required medical checkups and were more likely to be in better health because of their military fitness requirements.

The Pentagon acknowledged that the study had gaps that likely led to an undercount of cancer cases.

The military health system database used in the study did not have reliable cancer data until 1990, so it may not have included pilots who flew early-generation jets in the prior decades.

The study also did not include cancer data from the Department of Veterans Affairs or state cancer registries, which means it did not capture cases from former crew members who got sick after leaving the military medical system.

“It is important to note that study results may have differed had additional older former service members been included,” it said.

# 1 dead, 1 hurt in Texas high school shooting



AMANDA MCCOY • The Associated Press

An Arlington police officer speaks to individuals outside of Lamar High School in Arlington during a lockdown after a shooting on Monday in the early hours before school started.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One student was fatally shot and another injured when a third student opened fire outside a Dallas-area high school Monday morning before being arrested on a murder charge, police said.

The shooting began on a high school campus in the suburb of Arlington around 6:55 a.m., before many students arrived for the first day back to classes after the spring break, according to police and school district officials.

Arlington police Chief Al Jones said Monday that a male student who was shot died at a hospital and a female victim was receiving medical care after being “grazed” by gunfire, causing injuries that aren’t life threatening.

Another male student was arrested at the scene and charged with capital murder, Jones said at an afternoon news conference. The police chief declined to identify the suspected shooter because he is a minor, but said he is being held at a juvenile detention center in the area.

The gunman never entered the Lamar High School building and was taken into custody by responding officers, Jones said, adding that the scene was secured within “minutes.” He said investigators recovered a gun used in the shooting but the shooter’s motive remains unclear.

Arlington Independent School District spokeswoman Anita Foster said the school went into lockdown.

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## The benefits of spring cleaning

Now that spring is officially here, a lot of people are planning the yearly act of spring cleaning. Some people start in the middle of winter as preparation, while others wait until it's warm enough to not wear a winter coat.

While most students think that it's just another weekend of cleaning and chores that would actually make them sit down and do their homework, spring cleaning is something we as students should participate in.

As previously mentioned, spring cleaning follows a cold and cooped-up winter. The act of spring cleaning can be a chance to seek out a "new year."

The act of freshening up our rooms, cleaning our dorms or apartments and going forward into the rest of the semester with less stress can be seen as a way to forget the troubles winter brought us.

It's better to get spring cleaning done sooner or later because once the weather becomes warmer, the last thing we students want to do is stay inside after spending months indoors from the cold and wind.

Spring cleaning, while maybe not the most fun way to spend a weekend afternoon, can be beneficial for our mental health.

It lets us students reduce our stress by letting us focus on what we deem necessary to clean and what parts of our life we need to spruce up. We as students can pick what we want to clean out and what we want to keep.

Once our living areas are given a deep, thorough cleaning, it allows us students to have a relaxed mindset knowing that we checked several chores off our list. Another benefit is knowing that once the deep spring cleaning is done, it creates more free time for us to do what we want.

Besides the typical dusting and sweeping that may take place, the most common form of spring cleaning is decluttering. While airing out the windows, we students should take the opportunity to air out our closets, shelves and drawers.

Getting rid of any clothes, possessions or old schoolwork (do you really need all of the written notes from last academic year?) can be helpful in releasing the tension of feeling cramped and freeing up space.

It's important for us students to focus on making sure that we aren't overwhelmed with plenty of clutter and the best way to take care of those issues is to utilize spring cleaning to it's fullest.

With all the benefits spring cleaning offers, we as students have no excuse to not dedicate a small portion of our time to finishing off the year with a clean and clear mindset.

# Perspectives

## Made in China: Senioritis



By **JULIA LIN**  
Editor in Chief

There are only seven weeks left this semester. So if you're like me, a senior who finally sees the light at the end of the tunnel, you are also finding it hard to find motivation for your daily tasks.

Now that spring has sprung it is no secret that this is the part where students start to defrost and get to go outside more. The snow is melting and so are many students' seasonal blues. One thing I have been struggling with is finding time to focus on academics in the midst of planning my future. Finding motivation while powering through the rest of your classes has been difficult.

Personally, I'm in a few classes that have nothing to do with my major, however, I need to fulfill the credit

requirements. Those classes I've realized are the ones I am struggling with the most. When picking my courses for my last semester I tried to pick ones that I could benefit from in my career field.

I am currently in psychology, human observance, writing and speaking for broadcast and self-defense for women. These classes are all very different yet they are giving me new and interesting perspectives on topics I wasn't previously familiar with.

As I am planning for my new career and figuring out where to live while juggling work and school I definitely have developed a procrastination tendency. However, it is starting to get to that point where you know you have to finish what you started in order to move on to the next level. Although the obstacles may not seem like they are

the top priority lately, they matter and are crucial in order to move on.

Growing up without having the process I've been taking into account and cherishing that many events such as sporting games, celebrating the holidays with my roommates and fun-themed campus events are coming to an end.

I am mourning the end of an era. And I would be lying if I said I wasn't sad that I will not be a student ever again. I look back and think about how I've practically been going to school my whole life. Or at least the majority of my life.

From the early mornings to late nights, even sometimes more than being at home with my family. Although I dread the research papers, group discussions and busy work I have left, I will love hating every second of it.

# Pulse

“What’s your hidden talent?”

Compiled by Hayden Lee



**JULIA DUVICK,**  
FRESHMAN

“I can do a headstand.”



**HANNAH PELZEL,**  
FRESHMAN

“Writing.”



**GRIFFIN STRAPON,**  
SOPHOMORE

“My rizz.”



**KIDUS ASGEDOM,**  
SOPHOMORE

“Drawing.”



**SYDNEY SCHEEL,**  
FRESHMAN

“Sign Language.”



**NEIL HURNER,**  
FRESHMAN

“I’m good at multiple choice tests.”

# Letter to the Editor: what gets me through, versatility and caring

Dear Editor,

I recently gave an interview to Joey Erickson for his article about my art exhibit “Versatility” at the 410 Project. I was glad to interview at the Reporter because as a former MNSU writing instructor and a lifelong learner I have a message for students.

Communication—verbal, written, conveyed with or without body language, performed or produced through artistic expression—is complex and often very nuanced.

It is hard to distill and summarize, to interpret and paraphrase, and to accurately quote, even if you have adequate time for all the stages of the writing process.

Now add speed, brevity, and ubiquity, all characteristics of the communication we are required and desire to process and produce on a daily basis these days. It falls on us individually and communally to figure out what we value enough to give time and

concentration to. There are a lot of demands on our time. I get that.

I titled my art exhibit at the 410 Project “Versatility” because as a self-taught artist I’m exploring new methods, and as a person concerned about what’s happening on our planet, I’m struck by serious concerns on a daily basis.

The title “Versatility” spoke to a need to bring instinct, skill, and life experience to art-making. But it also speaks to the necessity for adaptability in this fast-moving unpredictable world.

My half-hour Zoom interview with Joey elapsed quickly. At the end he asked me to speak to the main point of my art exhibit at the 410.

I wanted to send you a message about loving who you are just because you are unique and worth it. About not comparing yourself to others even though you are surrounded by competition. About resilience and getting up after failure and

trying again.

And finally, about finding something you love to do, finding others who love that too, and that’s how to find your tribe, your community.

Partly due the brevity of our Zoom session, Joey and I had a slight lapse of understanding. (I don’t think either of us was at fault.) I wrote him in response to the article that I do care what other people think about my art. I especially love it when people look carefully at my art and talk to me about it. I care.

I just don’t want high standards, aspirations, or the artifice of the art “market” to thwart my creativity. The riches of art (or of finding whatever else you love to do) are fulfillment, care of the soul, and locating friends and community. These vital life elements are out there for us all. I hope you find them, if you haven’t already.

Emily Kretschmer,  
St. Peter, Minnesota

## ◀CANDY from page 1

opportunities in agriculture,” Lesley said. “It opens up all kinds of opportunities for people that are going to go into that niche.”

As a part of the Great Candy Challenge, students were tasked to create a candy charcuterie board around the theme of Valentine’s Day.

They had to choose what items were included, create the packaging and price their product.

Junior Jenna Mortier was part of a team that created a breakfast-in-bed board. Their board had chocolate eggs, bacon and toast alongside a working frosting pen.

Mortier said going up to the Plymouth facility to make the chocolate from scratch helped her gain hands-on experience.

“Coming out of college with just a degree, you don’t have a lot of experience. (The Great Candy Challenge) gives you something to put on your resume and say ‘I’ve worked with this company’ which was just a great experience,” Mortier said.

Senior Hailey Holmes was a part of the winning group that crafted a board around Galentine’s Day with strawberry and rose-themed treats.

“We have chocolate dip pretzels, hot cocoa bombs and chocolate drizzle popcorn. We brought in some gummies and sour gummy belts to bring in a little variety,” Holmes said.

Holmes said she enjoyed working with Maud Borup and the skills she learned.

“It taught us a lot about how to communicate and be attentive business owners. It was awesome to get to work with such a big company,” Holmes said.

### Christine Lantinen

Lantinen graduated from MSU in 1998 with a double major in public relations and marketing.

She said her time at MSU prepared her for Maud Borup with all of the responsibilities she juggled.

“I worked full time while going to school full time and I was also doing military training. I think the combination of all of those things gave me just a good grounding to move into the workforce,” Lantinen said.

Lantinen bought Maud Borup in 2005 for \$100,000. Now, it’s a \$50 million company.

With candies such as hot cocoa bombs and oversized gummies becoming popular over the last few years, Lantinen said she checks social media to see what the trends are to stay on top of them.

“There’s so much opportunity tapping into social media to market your brand and use it as a platform, especially with candy and young people,” Lantinen said.

Not only is Maud Borup women-owned and operated,

but it’s one of only 5,000 certified B corporations. B corporations meet standards in performance while prioritizing worker benefits.

One of those standards is using sustainable practices.

“One of the biggest things we do is recycle and pack anything that would be considered trash. We have a large container on-site that compacts it and it gets used to heat homes,” Lantinen said.

Lantinen said Maud Borup’s future goals consist of reaching \$100 million in a year and incorporating more sustainable practices.

“We’re looking at adding solar panels right now and looking at what more can we do at our other facilities. We’re spending this year getting our feet wet on soft candy manufacturing because we’re trying to build a facility,” Lantinen said.

Lantinen’s advice for young entrepreneurs is to work hard to get the most out of life.

“Every job you have is a stepping stone to where you want to be, so set high aspirations for yourself and surround yourself with people that you want to be like,” Lantinen said.

While they don’t sell products on the website, Maud Borup candies can be found at major retailers such as Target, Walmart and Hy-Vee.

## ◀CAREER from page 2

well—and it could be the same but I’ve never worked an on-campus job—but I think I have more prolonged interactions with people. I feel like on cam-

pus everything is so fast-paced versus, at least at the Fillin’ Station, we can take our time to talk to people.”

Students can find on cam-

pus job listings on Handshake by logging in with their Star ID and password, or by asking the Career Development Center.

## ‘Ted Lasso’ visits White House, promotes mental health care



JORDAN STRAUSS • The Associated Press

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden will host the cast of “Ted Lasso” at the White House on Monday to promote mental health.

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and ZEKE MILLER  
The Associated Press

Fictional soccer coach Ted Lasso used a White House visit Monday to encourage people, even in politically divided Washington, to make it a point to check in often with friends, family and co-workers to “ask how they’re doing, and listen, sincerely.”

Comedian Jason Sudeikis, who plays the title character — an American coaching a soccer team in London — and other cast members were meeting with President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden to talk about how mental health contributes to overall well-being.

Mental health and looking after one another is a theme of “Ted Lasso,” Sudeikis told reporters from the lectern as he helped press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre open her daily White House briefing. The Emmy-winning, feel-good show on Apple TV+ just opened its third season.

“While it’s easier said than done, we also have to know that we shouldn’t be afraid to ask for help ourselves,” Sudeikis said. “That does take a lot, especially when it’s something that has such a negative stigma to it, such as mental health and it doesn’t need to be that way.”

“And if you can ask for that help from a professional,

fantastic,” he continued. “If it needs to be a loved one, equally as good, in a lot of ways.”

Mental health is part of Biden’s bipartisan “unity agenda.” He has called on lawmakers to direct more resources toward fighting what some say is a crisis, and the administration has surged funding to bolster a new 988 suicide and crisis line and put more mental-health professionals in schools.

Sudeikis said there should be no stigma attached to reaching out for help because everyone knows someone who has needed a shoulder to lean on, or has been that person themselves.

“No matter who you are, no matter where you live, no matter who you voted for, we all probably, I assume, we all know someone who has, or have been that someone ourselves actually, that’s struggled, that’s felt isolated, that’s felt anxious, that has felt alone,” he said.

“It’s actually one of the many things, believe it or not, that we all have in common as human beings,” Sudeikis continued. “That means it’s something that we can all, you know, and should, talk about with one another when we’re feeling that way or when we recognize that in someone feeling that way.”

He issued a special appeal for people in the nation’s capital.

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# Miami spring break struggles with violence

By DAVID FISCHER and  
CURT ANDERSON  
The Associated Press

For the third year in a row, Miami Beach finds itself struggling with spring break violence, including two fatal shootings and unruly crowds, despite a massive police presence and activities designed to give people alternatives to drinking alcohol and roaming the streets.

The party-all-the-time vibe in the South Beach section of the popular barrier island city has already led officials to ban alcohol sales at larger clubs after 2 a.m. Police are stationed everywhere, including in mobile towers that give officers a birds-eye view of the streets.

Art, music, yoga and volleyball tournaments were added this year to give people something to do, at least during the day.

Yet the violence and street chaos continues at night. All night.

The city imposed an overnight curfew that ended Monday morning but decided at a City Commission meeting not to enact a second curfew next weekend, when the Ultra Music Festival will draw thousands of people to South Beach.

It's the third weekend of spring break when the worst



D.A. VARELA • The Associated Press

Crowds walk up and down Ocean Drive during spring break on in Miami Beach, Fla. Miami Beach officials imposed a curfew beginning Sunday night, March 19, after two fatal shootings and rowdy, chaotic crowds.

chaos occurs, said Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez.

"Ultra weekend is not the problem," she said.

Commissioner Ricky Arriola agreed, saying there may need to be metal detectors, security fences or other measures installed

next year in certain sections of Miami Beach. He noted that dozens of businesses and their workers depend on the crowds the Ultra event bring in.

"A curfew is not a long-term solution," he said. "We're taking it out on law-abiding busi-

nesses."

The panel did decide, as it did last year, to force liquor stores in the South Beach area to close early at 6 p.m. during next weekend.

Officials did point out the city manager still has emergen-

cy authority to order a 72-hour curfew despite the commission's reluctance.

Mayor Dan Gelber wants the violence and disorder to stop.

"The volume of people in our city, the unruly nature of too many and the presence of guns has created a peril that cannot go unchecked," Gelber said in a video statement issued Sunday. "It is clear that even an unprecedented police presence could not prevent these incidents from occurring."

Gelber added: "We don't ask for spring break in our city. We don't want spring break in our city,"

Miami Beach police reported at least 322 arrests on a variety of charges between Feb. 27 and Sunday. Gelber said more than 70 firearms were confiscated in that time.

This has been happening despite police officers working up to 14-hour shifts six days a week, according to a city emergency declaration.

The latest shooting happened at around 3:30 a.m. Sunday on Ocean Drive in South Beach, police said.

A male was shot and died later at a hospital, and officers chased down a suspect on foot, police said on Twitter. Their identities were not released, nor were any possible charges.

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# SPORTS

## MAGIC IN MANKATO

### *Mavs come back to win Mason Cup for a second time*

By KARSON BUELOW  
Staff Writer

With three minutes left in their season and a looming two-goal deficit, Minnesota State's men's hockey team looked destined to miss its first NCAA tournament since the 2016-17 season.

But as the horn sounded for the final time at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center this season, the Mavericks looked up at the scoreboard to see a 3-2 overtime victory in one of the most thrilling victories in Maverick hockey history.

"I don't really know what to say," said Minnesota State head coach Mike Hastings. "Crazy things happen in this building."

As history tells us, playoff championship games in front of a sold-out Mankato crowd can be a recipe for fireworks. And with two of the hottest teams in college hockey meeting for the CCHA's coveted prize, Saturday's matchup between Minnesota State and Northern Michigan was exactly that.

Slow starts have plagued the Mavericks this season, but they had the game's first grade-A scoring chance just under four minutes into the game. Junior defenseman Jake Livingstone drove the puck to the net and forced a net-front scramble, leaving a couple of Mavericks believing the puck was in the net. Officials reviewed the play



The MSU Men's Hockey team defeats Northern Michigan after the 3-2 comeback win last Saturday, March 18.

Photos by DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

but found no evidence to award a goal.

The Wildcats got the game's next major scoring chance. On a breakaway, the Wildcats' Andre Ghantous was slashed by Maverick defenseman Andy Carroll, which resulted in a penalty shot.

As Ghantous took off for his penalty shot attempt, the Wildcat forward was denied by the right pad of Maverick goaltender Keenan Rancier. Both goaltenders remained perfect through the remainder of the first period, keeping the score deadlocked at zero.

The Mavericks took a crushing blow to their lineup early in the second period as leading scorer David Silye was on the receiving end of a nasty collision that kept him sidelined for the remainder of the game.

"If we're going to err on one thing, we're going to err on the health and care of the student athletes," said Hastings.

After a first period that saw the Mavericks get the majority of the game's scoring opportunities, the Wildcats were the first to take advantage of one late in the second period.

Senior forward Alex Frye worked his way inside the left circle and fired a shot past Rancier to give the Wildcats the lead heading into the third period.

The Mavericks had known the feeling of getting scored on

MASON CUP on page 11 ►

## Senior Spotlight: Darrell 'Debo Two-Time' Mason

By MOHAMED WARSAME  
Staff Writer

Remember the name Darrell "Debo Two-Time" Mason. The 2022 Division II NCAA Champion may have competed in his last tournament as a Maverick, but the 2023 NCAA Championship third-place finisher is determined to make sure that wasn't the last time you hear of him on the big stage.

The Chicago native got his start in wrestling at the Harvey Twisters Wrestling Team. The senior didn't always have the love for wrestling that he does now. He, in fact, hated wrestling when he first started. The tough opponents at Harvey Twisters made him not enjoy it very much.

"The practices that we used to have, if you beat up all the kids younger than you and in your age group, you had to go up to all the older kids," said Mason. "Once you keep going, I started hating it be-

cause the older kids actually knew how to wrestle."

When Mason got to high school, he didn't want to wrestle anymore. He instead put his focus into football where he played running back and middle linebacker. During his sophomore season, his football team missed the playoffs by a whisker.

After the season ended, he was approached by the school's wrestling coach about joining the wrestling team. He was initially hesitant about joining the team but eventually caved and as Mason put it, "I don't have anything better to do."

One of the big differences between wrestling in high school compared to the collegiate level that Mason sighted, is that in high school he felt like there wasn't stiff competition until he was competing in state and regional tournaments. Meanwhile in college, the sport is more about technique.

"In college, everyone is good. It

is about more hardwork and dedication. It is actually about blood, sweat and tears," said Mason.

Going into the 2023 Nationals as the reigning champion, Mason had his sights set on winning again. Despite coming up just short, Mason was quite happy with his performance in the tournament.

"I feel good about it, no matter what, I feel good about it," said Mason.

He also expressed some disappointment as he labeled his elimination in the quarterfinals as shocking. "I know I could have beat that guy," Mason said.

There are some lessons that he took away from the loss. "It was like a little reset button. Never get too comfortable," said Mason.

Some of Mason's pre-match rituals consist of, "God on my side, breathing, drinking water, drinking gatorade, getting mentally and physically prepared, and going and

DEBO on page 11 ►



File photo

Senior wrestler Darrell Mason placed third at the NCAA National Championships. He hopes to continue a career on the big stage after graduation.

## Senior spotlight: Sydney Nielsen



Photo courtesy of Sydney Nielsen

Senior softball player Sydney Nielsen hopes to build a career in the sports industry after graduation.

By ALI REED  
Sports Editor

Hoping to be a voice in sports for the younger female generation, senior Minnesota State softball player Sydney Nielsen looks to remain in the sports industry. After her final softball season, she plans to major in sports management to help develop young athletes' athletic abilities.

"Sports are a driving factor in our society, it's the new social environment for our generation," said Nielsen. "Within sports, females are the minority, so allowing myself to represent sports outside of softball is a driving factor for me."

Nielsen grew up in Marion, Iowa, surrounded by a world of baseball and softball.

"My father played baseball and my brother played baseball in college as well," said Nielsen. "My brothers are my biggest role models, so playing softball and baseball was always involved."

As a two-sport athlete during her time at Marion High School, Nielsen was a four-time letter-winner for both the school's basketball and softball teams. As a guard, she helped lead her basketball team to three conference championships. She set many school records in softball with 10 home runs, 48 RBI and bat .508 in her sophomore season.

After high school, Nielsen decided to continue her athletic career in softball. Choosing where to play in college was an easy decision for her.

"Being a Maverick is a dream come true, coming to Minnesota State for a visit I knew right away this was going to be my home for the next 4 years," said Nielsen. "Coaches and players were so welcoming, and I knew it would be the best fit for me."

Nielsen has compiled impressive stats during her time at MSU thus far. In her 2022 season, she played in 50 games and batted .348, with six home runs and 26 RBI. She also found herself putting together an 11-game hitting streak, was named to the NSIC All-Tournament Team and owned a .995 fielding percentage.

For Nielsen, being a part of the Maverick softball team has been so much more than simply playing the sport.

"This program has built me to be the person I am today. It has allowed me to embrace my role as a female college-athlete while using my voice to motivate the younger generations beneath me," said Nielsen.

As her final season of softball has begun, Nielsen said that she has a different mentality as a senior.

"As a senior, my mindset this year is to enjoy every moment I get with my coaches and teammates. These last 4 years have flown by, so taking time for granted can be easy," said Nielsen. "After experiencing my season being canceled from COVID, I know how quickly a season can be ripped away, so I'm not taking anything for granted and enjoying the moment."

## What a year for women's ball



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

MSU Women's Basketball team concluded with a 26-5 overall season as well as making an appearance at the NCAA Central Region Semifinals. Junior guard, Joey Batt, scored the highest individual points of the season at 505.

By LUKE JACKSON  
Staff Writer

After the Mavericks Women's Basketball team was tragically taken down by the University of Minnesota, Duluth Bulldogs, yet again, there are a lot of positives to come from the season despite the loss and also a lot to look forward to in MSU's future.

Head Coach Emilee Thiesse was able to put together one of Mankato's best years yet. Their 26-5 season closed the record books as arguably the second-best season in the school's history with an overall win percentage of 86.4%. The only season better in MSU's history was the 2008-09 season when the Mavericks went 32-2 and won the NCAA Division II tournament.

This season opened up with a 10-game win streak, while the regular season closed on a nine-game win streak. This streak carried them to the NSIC Championship game. This was MSU's second time in school history in the championship game, but they could not find the win they needed as Duluth knocked them out and claimed the title.

This then brought the Mavs to the second round of the NCAA playoffs for the fourth time in MSU history, where once again, they were stopped by UMD's dominance. The last time they made it to the second round was in Thiesse's inaugural season back in 2013. Since then, the Mavs have made it to the Round of 64 twice, but were stopped both times and are still left looking to take home gold.

"It was a great year, not just because of the wins and losses, but just because I think our program took a big step forward,"

said Thiesse. "Our leadership has grown immensely this year. We just had a lot of fun this season and are just really excited about the future of Maverick women's basketball"

MSU found success this season in various different areas. The Mavs were a dynamic team that focused strictly on defense which set their offense in motion to score at will. Their mantra throughout the season was that their defense was their backbone and it worked.

The Mavericks led the NSIC in overall points, assists and turnovers. They ran a seemingly perfected full-court press which left opponents scrambling for answers on how to break through it. This helped the Mavericks force 798 turnovers throughout the season as they averaged 25.7 per game. This meant offense and a lot of it. MSU took home the scoring title as they averaged 83.7 points per game while also averaging 16 assists.

"We made a statement on both sides of basketball and I think we're excited to just continue to build off that next season," said Thiesse.

These efforts were led by junior guard Joey Batt. Batt ended the season being named the NSIC Defensive Player of the Year all while leading the Mavericks in points per game. She averaged 16.3 points throughout the season while leading the NSIC in steals per game and ranked fifth among all Division II players in overall steals. In turn, this helped her be named to All-NSIC First Team for the third time and to the D2CCA All-Central Region Second Team.

"This season my main goal was to step into a leadership position," said Batt. "I wanted to put this team on my back and take them

with me and excel as much as possible."

The team not only strives to be their best on the court but also off of it. Their grades are immaculate and they have amazing team chemistry as they often describe themselves as sisters or family.

Ten players were named to the NSIC Winter All-Academic Team while Batt, Destinee Bursch, Emily Herzberg and Molly Ihle were named to College Sports Communications Academic All-District Team.

When they aren't studying or practicing ball, they spend their days together as a team.

"We are all each other's best friends," said Batt. "I feel like we spend too much time together, honestly. We never spend days apart and even when we have the opportunity to go home most of us still stay in Mankato in the summer."

For the most part, this whole group of girls will be the same going into next year. Forward Carah Drees will be the only senior leaving the team and the Mavs will have three incoming freshmen in the 2023-24 season.

As more players step into leadership positions, the Maverick basketball program will continue to hone in on their skills and be a force to be reckoned with in the following season.

Players are already looking ahead to summer to work on their game and focus on the dynamic of the team. Thiesse won't be able to practice with the team as the NCAA prohibits coaches in the summer months, but this leaves the window open for the team's chemistry to build more and for players to step up. Watch for next year as the team has its eyes set on another strong season.



◀**MASON CUP** from page 9

first this season, but a break-away goal just over seven minutes into the third period by Frye had them in an unfamiliar position being down two with the clock ticking down.

But the Mavericks weren't denied their scoring opportunities as they were gifted a long 5-on-3 powerplay with under five minutes to play in the period. The Wildcats' penalty killing unit remained perfect as it had been all night.

But the Mavericks found their first spark of life as junior forward Ondrej Pavel deflected a net-front pass from freshman forward Simon Tassy to cut the lead to 2-1 with 2:17 remaining. Moments later, in unthinkable fashion, freshman forward Christian Fitzgerald found the

loose puck along the right post and shelved it past the Wildcat netminder to send the crowd of 5,000 into eruption and the game into overtime.

With the Mavericks garnering all sorts of momentum heading into overtime, it was only fitting the game would end quickly and easily in overtime. The unlikely hero came in the form of sophomore forward Zach Krajnik, who spun around the defender and flipped a backhand past the Wildcat netminder for the game-winning goal just 1:08 into the overtime period.

"I think we've grown together a lot in these last couple of months," said Krajnik. "It's been brewing for a while, but I think we're ready for this third season."

◀**DEBO** from page 9

wrestling Deebo style." Being hungry, happy, humble and smart are the lessons that the senior has gotten from his career in wrestling, and he applies them to his daily life.

Mason is majoring in applied leadership with goals of becom-

ing either a head coach, advisor or social worker.

After his senior year, Mason has no plans to stop his journey in combat sports. When discussing his plans for after school, Mason said "Hopefully I get a shot at the NCAA 2024 Summer Olympics, WWE, UFC or MMA."

## NFL: How will these stars fare in their new homes?

By HAYDEN LEE  
Staff Writer

The NFL's free agency period is coming to a close, and most players have been scooped up by a team at this point. Still, players like Odell Beckham and Bobby Wagner have yet to sign with a team, but they will. Here are how some of the free agency signings will affect their teams.

!! DISCLAIMER !! Trades will not be included in this article, only free agents that changed teams.

QB Derek Carr —> New Orleans Saints: One of the first dominoes to fall this year, this move is like taking \$150 million and giving it to me to play quarterback. Carr will lead the Saints to maybe 10 or 11 wins at most, but we will win the same amount of Super Bowls. 0.

QB Jimmy Garoppolo —> Las Vegas Raiders: Copy and paste the Derek Carr entry here.

LB Eric Kendricks —> Los Angeles Chargers: Kendricks will provide a great locker room presence and have a big on-field role for a Chargers team lacking severely at the LB position. Kendricks' play dropped off a bit last year for the Vikings, but there is still some gas left in the tank for the 31-year-old linebacker.

LB Tremaine Edmunds —> Chicago Bears: As one linebacker leaves the NFC North, another takes his place. Edmunds, despite entering his sixth season in the league, is still only 24 years old and has a lot of good football ahead of him. All of their moves considered, the Bears are starting to worry me just a little bit.

S/CB Chauncey Gardner-Johnson —> Detroit Lions: Staying in the NFC North, the Lions added the NFL's interception leader from the 2022-23 season on a one-year, \$8 million deal. The Lions get their DeShon Elliot replacement with CGJ, and he will be a versatile player for Lions' DC Aaron Glenn.

WR Adam Thielen —> Carolina Panthers: In the weirdest move of the off-season, Thielen moved that he just wanted to chase the bag, and the 32-year-old receiver failed to even do that right. In an



Courtesy of ESPN.com

Who even cares that David Montgomery signed with the Lions? And is Odell Beckham even relevant anymore?

offseason where Jakobi Meyers and Juju got 3-year, \$33 million deals, Thielen got a 3-year, \$25 million deal from the worst team in the NFL. I'm confused.

QB Baker Mayfield —> Tampa Bay Buccaneers: If Mayfield wears #17 again, his career will be over. That number was so ugly on him. As for the signing itself, this is the best place Mayfield could have signed, and the best QB the Bucs could have signed. I don't think this makes them contenders or anything, but there is definitely upside for both parties here.

QB Sam Darnold —> San Francisco 49ers: While we're still talking about QB's getting their last chance, here's Sam Darnold signing with the QB factory. I'm sure he will ball out while he has the chance, but he will be swept under the rug once Trey Lance or Brock Purdy are fully healthy, if he even gets a chance.

LB David Long —> Miami Dolphins: The Dolphins got a steal with this one. Long quietly made his presence felt for the Titans a season ago, and his PFF grade indicated that he is a top-15 LB. He is great against the run, where the Dolphins desperately need help. A great signing for Miami.

S Jessie Bates III —> Atlanta Falcons: Bates had a relative down year in 2022-23, but he still got PAID this offseason. The Falcons are in the middle of a rebuild, but clearly had money to burn, giving

Bates a 4-year, \$84 million deal, making him the fourth highest paid safety in the NFL, behind only Derwin James, Minkah Fitzpatrick and Jamal Adams.

WR Jakobi Meyers —> Las Vegas Raiders: As mentioned before, Meyers cashed in with a 3-year, \$33 million deal. It's weird, Meyers made one of the worst plays of all time against the Raiders, but they still were adamant in signing him. I think Davante Adams might be out the door, but if he is not, Meyers should have a productive season as a no. 2.

T Orlando Brown Jr. —> Cincinnati Bengals: I have no idea how this guy keeps getting paid. Bro is just robbing the Bengals blind. Burrow will be buried and the Bengals are trending down right now. I just don't like this signing for the amount of money he's getting paid.

T Mike McGlinchey —> Denver Broncos: Offensive line was not the Broncos' biggest problem a season ago, but McGlinchey should help QB Russell Wilson bounce back from his atrocious season in 22-23. Billy Turner sucked last year, so McGlinchey will be a definite upgrade.

TE Dalton Schultz —> Houston Texans: Since Jordan Akins caught the touchdown and two point conversion that cost them the no. one pick in the 2023 NFL Draft.

full story on website ▶

## Wolves overcome Randle's 57 points, beat Knicks 140-134

By BRIAN MAHONEY  
The Associated Press

Julius Randle scored 57 points to tie the third-highest game in Knicks history, but the Minnesota Timberwolves rode a sizzling start and a steady finish to beat New York 140-134 on Monday night.

Taurean Prince scored a season-high 35 points and went 8 for 8 from 3-point range for the Timberwolves, while Mike Conley added 24 points and 11 assists.

His three free throws gave Minnesota the lead for good with 2:17 remaining.

Randle's final basket, a three-point play with 42 seconds remaining, cut it to 137-134, but he

was beaten to a rebound by Kyle Anderson on Minnesota's next possession, and a cutting Prince scored inside with 10.1 seconds left before Conley made a free throw after Randle was called for a technical foul.

In a spectacular display of shooting and scoring, the Timberwolves made more than 70% of their shots in the first half and led by 17, before Randle carried the Knicks back with a franchise-record 26 points in the third quarter.

He finished tied with Richie Guerin behind the only two 60-point games in Knicks history, Carmelo Anthony's 62 on Jan. 24, 2014, and Bernard King's 60 on Christmas Day in 1984. But the

Knicks had their three-game winning streak snapped.

The All-Star forward threw down a powerful driving dunk in the first quarter but did most of his damage from much farther away. Randle made eight 3-pointers in surpassing his previous career high of 46 points.

The Wolves made their first 10 shots in the most sizzling start by an NBA team this season and didn't cool off much the rest of the game, finishing at 61.4% despite playing without Anthony Edwards for a second straight game because of a sprained right ankle.

Rudy Gobert's basket made the Wolves the first team this season to make its first 10 shots.



NOAH K. MURRAY • The Associated Press

Minnesota Timberwolves guard Mike Conley (10) drives to the basket against New York Knicks guard Josh Hart (3) during the first half.

# Sweeping up the U.S. Bank stadium series

By CHARLIE GROEBNER  
Staff Writer

Nothing punctuates the opening of a new season quite like breaking out the brooms for a good old-fashioned sweep.

Minnesota State's baseball team opened the season on a high note with three straight wins against Northern State last Thursday and Friday. Extending their current win streak to four straight and sit atop the NSIC.

Under the roof of US Bank Stadium, the Mavs would take the field on Thursday for a double header against the Wolves. In their first match up, the Mavs strike first in the second inning. Junior third-baseman Adam Schneider gave the Mavs a 1-0 lead on an RBI double.

However, after a single from the Wolves tied it in the fourth, the true onslaught began. Between the fourth, fifth, and sixth innings the Mavs scored 11 straight runs to give them a 12-1 lead entering the seventh. While the Wolves scored on an error to cut the deficit to 10, the game ended in a Mavs victory in their first game of the day.

Following a rest period, both sides take the field for game two of the day. The difference this time around is that it was a lower scoring affair between the two. The Wolves opened the first with a ground out RBI to score in the opening min-



File photo

The MSU Men's Baseball team swept Northern State with double-header wins 12-2 and 5-2 on Thursday, Mar. 16, in addition to the 5-2 win Friday, Mar. 17.

utes.

However, the Mavs responded in quick fashion with an RBI from sophomore shortstop Aiden Byrne, a triple from freshman second baseman Matthew Fleischacker, and a centerfield fly from junior

third baseman Mikey Gottschalk to give the Mavs a 3-1 lead.

While the Wolves tried to make a late comeback after homering in the fourth, junior first baseman Ryan Friedges hammered one to the wall to give the Mavs a 5-2 vic-

tory.

Following the double header Head Coach Matt Magers was pleased with his team's performance.

"Obviously in a conference season matchup, stakes are going to

be higher, and I thought we did a great job," Magers said. "Our goal is to win two out of three games every series and put us in a good situation. Ultimately the Pitching and defense did well only giving up six runs in three games and put us in a good situation to get the wins."

Following their exciting first day, the Mavs had a quick turnaround as they opened with a 7 a.m. opener last Friday. Once again it was a very similar outcome to the previous games. The Wolves struck first, with a single into right field, but fell short after a single and two doubles from the Mavs, followed by a homer to right field by the Wolves to give the Mavs a 5-2 victory and the sweep.

Currently sitting as the number one seed in the NSIC, the Mavs look to continue their momentum. A mixed group of experience and youth to help make them a nightmare matchup for anyone that they can face. Head Coach Magers still feels the team needs to focus on what it can control and not make small mistakes.

"I think we have had solid pitching that has helped us with nine out of our last 10," said Magers. "During which, we only gave up two or three runs which is a huge testament to the guys who are on the mound. Both are starters, and relievers have stepped up and answered some big questions to help us going forward."

## March Madness arrives in Vegas after years of avoiding it

By MARK ANDERSON  
Staff Writer

March Madness has long been a huge draw for gamblers who came to Las Vegas to place their bets on the tournament while partying at the city's famed casinos. But they were limited to watching the games on TV; catching one in person here was impossible not that long ago.

That changes this week when UCLA faces Gonzaga and UConn takes on Arkansas at T-Mobile Arena on the Vegas Strip.

The NCAA Tournament avoided the city until very recently because sports gambling is legal here. The governing body for collegiate athletics even had a policy prohibiting its championship events from being played in Nevada.

With legal sports betting spreading across the country, the NCAA now has no qualms about crowning its champions in Las Vegas. The Sweet 16 games scheduled here Thursday are among several championship events the NCAA has awarded to the city.

Others include hockey's Frozen Four in 2026 and the Final Four in 2028.

This no longer is Jerry Tarkanian's Las Vegas, at least in the eyes of the NCAA, which for many years had fought with the late Hall of Fame coach who sued the governing body and settled in 1998 for \$2.5 million.

Between the outlaw image of

UNLV's Tarkanian and an overall feeling that sports betting — legal or not — was inherently bad for athletics, Las Vegas was an outsider in the sports world for a decades.

It also was a much smaller city when Tarkanian ruled. Less than 800,000 people lived in the metropolitan area when the Rebels won the 1990 national championship, according to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. That figure last year was 2.3 million.

Professional sports leagues have taken note of the additional potential paying customers and now the NFL and NHL have teams here. The Oakland Athletics are also considering moving here, and an NBA expansion team could be on the way in future years.

Even before the influx of professional teams, Las Vegas began making headway, particularly in basketball. All 30 teams compete in the NBA Summer League in Las Vegas, which also is home to USA Basketball. Five college conferences play their men's and women's basketball tournaments in the area.

Views about legalized sports betting also have evolved dramatically, getting a big assist in 2018 when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act.

The federal ban blocked states from regulating sports betting, making exceptions for Nevada, Delaware, Montana and Oregon,



DAVID BECKER • The Associated Press

T-Mobile Arena stands in Las Vegas Feb. 1, 2022, in Las Vegas. With sports betting abound, the NCAA has no qualms about placing its college basketball championships in Las Vegas.

which already had legal sports wagering in some form. Only Nevada permitted single-game betting.

"Thirty years ago in the Tarkanian era, I'm sure they were pretty skeptical of Las Vegas," said Steve Hill, CEO and president of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. "I think as time passed,

they probably mellowed. We've had conference tournaments here and we've had a real partnership, it feels like now, that didn't exist before the change in the law."

The Supreme Court's decision created a path for any state that wanted to legalize sports betting, and soon many would begin the

process. That left the NCAA — already showing signs of drifting toward easing its stance on Nevada — with no choice but to allow its championship events even where sports wagering was legal.

"That was the impetus," said Dan Gavitt, NCAA vice president of men's basketball.

## LaVine, DeRozan lead Bulls past 76ers in double overtime



MATT SLOCUM • The Associated Press

Chicago Bulls' Zach LaVine, left, reacts after a foul call during double overtime in an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers.

By AARON BRACY  
The Associated Press

Zach LaVine scored 26 points, DeMar DeRozan had 25 and the Chicago Bulls defeated Joel Embiid and the Philadelphia 76ers 109-105 in double overtime Monday night to snap their eight-game winning streak.

Nikola Vucevic added 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Bulls, who have won three games in a row and five of six. Chicago is fighting for the final playoff spot in the East.

Embiid had 37 points, 16 rebounds and three blocks before fouling out with 3:54 left in the second overtime. It was the 10th straight game in which he has scored at least 30 points.

The teams meet again in the second game of a home-and-home on Wednesday night in Chicago.

Philadelphia could've clinched a playoff spot with a victory, but the 76ers struggled once Embiid left the court after a foul on LaVine.

Tyrese Maxey hit an elbow jumper and Tobias Harris followed with a baseline jumper to put the 76ers ahead 105-101 with 2:36 left in the second OT. But those were the last points Philadelphia scored, with Embiid only able to watch from the bench.

Maxey, who finished with 17 points, air-balled a pair of 3-point attempts and misfired on a drive. The 76ers still were down by just two late, but Derrick Jones Jr. blocked James Harden's jumper and Harris missed on a chance. Coby White got the rebound and made two free throws with six seconds to play to clinch it.

Harden had one of his worst performances since joining the 76ers at the trade deadline last season, finishing with just five points while missing 12 of 14 shots, including all six 3-point attempts. He also had five turnovers.

The 76ers had a chance to win in regulation, but Maxey's 3 at the buzzer was off the mark.

Chicago could've ended it after the first overtime, but DeRozan's 3 at the buzzer went off the heel of the rim.

### EMBIID MVP?

Embiid has been stating his case for his first NBA MVP award all season. Denver's Nikola Jokic has won the last two MVP's, and Giannis Antetokounmpo claimed the previous two. Boston's Jayson Tatum also is a strong candidate.

Philadelphia coach Doc Rivers said the debate around the award is too vitriolic.

"Joel is the MVP," Rivers said. "I thought he was the MVP last year. But can we stop trying to put people down? All of them are great. We don't need to put one down to elevate the rest."

### HONORING '83

The 76ers honored their 1983 championship team during a halftime ceremony. The team, led by Hall of Famer Julius "Dr. J" Erving met with the current team during shootaround on Monday morning. Rivers said it was a beneficial experience.

"It was really cool," Rivers said. "Great for me, great for our guys. Connecting teams and history is really important."

### BALL'S SURGERY

Bulls point guard Lonzo Ball had surgery for a cartilage transplant in his left knee.

"Everything went well," coach Billy Donovan said.

Ball is out indefinitely after a third surgery on the knee in a little more than a year.

"He has a long road to recovery," Donovan said.

Ball hasn't played in more than a year and Chicago ruled him out for the season last month. The 25-year-old former No. 2 overall draft pick averaged 13 points and 5.4 rebounds in 35 games with the Bulls in 2021-22.

### TIP-INS

Bulls: Alex Caruso (left foot) did not play. Caruso left in the second quarter of a 113-99 win over the Heat on Saturday night. ... Javonte Green (right knee soreness) returned to the lineup after not playing against Miami. He was scoreless in nine minutes. ... The Bulls improved to 14-21 on the road.

76ers: P.J. Tucker (left ankle) didn't play. ... Harden returned to the lineup after being sidelined for Saturday's 141-121 win over the Pacers due to injury recovery

## Ja Morant ready to rejoin Grizzlies

By TERESA M. WALKER  
The Associated Press

Ja Morant's eight-game NBA suspension is over, and the two-time All-Star has rejoined the Memphis Grizzlies.

The dynamic guard was on the bench for Monday night's game against Dallas, though it's unclear exactly when he'll play, with the earliest being Wednesday. The Grizzlies announced Sunday that Morant would not play against the Mavericks because of a "Return to Competition Reconditioning."

He arrived courtside just before tip-off and received a hearty ovation from the Memphis crowd. He then slapped hands with some of his teammates and was part of the line greeting starters as they prepared to begin the game.

"He is going to be part of practice (Tuesday), and obviously we're hopeful for Wednesday so long as everything medically clears out," Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said, adding the delay is part of the "ramp-up process."

The Grizzlies host Houston on Wednesday in the first of two consecutive games against the Rockets in Memphis.

The Grizzlies know Morant has been working out, trying to be ready for this moment. Memphis was off Sunday after back-to-back wins, and Jenkins said he would like Morant to practice or at least participate in a shootaround before seeing game action.

Morant first stepped away from the team March 4, hours after he livestreamed himself on Instagram displaying a gun at strip club in Colorado following a game against the Denver Nuggets. The Grizzlies said on March 8 that Morant would be sidelined for four more games.



KAREN PULFER FOCHT • The Associated Press

Memphis Grizzlies' Ja Morant is shown during an NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Lakers, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn.

Morant met with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver in New York before the NBA announced his suspension last week, including six games he already had missed.

The league investigation found that Morant was "holding a firearm in an intoxicated state" — but did not prove the gun was owned by Morant "or was displayed by him beyond a brief period." The NBA also did not find that Morant had the gun with him on Memphis' flight to Denver, or that he possessed the gun in any NBA facility.

Police in Colorado conducted their own investigation and concluded there was no reason to charge Morant with a crime after looking into the circumstances surrounding the video.

Morant said in an ESPN interview that the gun was not his and that he takes full responsibility for his actions.

But the strip club incident wasn't Morant's first eyebrow-raising

move. The Grizzlies had been talking with Morant about his off-court conduct even before the March 4 incident.

"I can see the image that I painted over myself with my recent mistakes," Morant told ESPN. "But in the future, I'm going to show everybody who Ja really is, what I'm about and change this narrative that everybody got."

Morant, whose suspension cost him \$669,000 in salary and possibly a chance to max out the five-year contract he signed last July by making the All-NBA team, also has to keep working on himself away from basketball.

Morant said he underwent counseling during his suspension.

"He'd probably be the first one to tell you: 'Nothing is going to change immediately overnight. I'm going to learn and grow, but I'm going to get the skills and methods to do that both personally and professionally,'" Jenkins said.

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# VARIETY

## Queerness through the decades

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN  
Staff Writer

For students like junior at Mankato State, Matt Bohm, the inviting and comforting backbone that the LGBTQ+ community provides is valuable, and fulfills the emotional need for acceptance.

"I'm lucky to have so much support from both inside and outside [the community], especially from people who went through similar experiences," Bohm said.

Since 1977, the LGBT center at MSU has been striving to fulfill this sense of belonging, with events like the Decades Ball that took place Friday 7-10 p.m. in the CSU Ballroom.

Interim Director of the LGBT Center, Stephen Thomas, conducted the event that celebrated pride throughout the decades. "It's really just a way for people to dress up, be a little different, and have their own sense of style," Thomas said.

The night consisted of good food and company, paired with a healthy amount of dancing. Students were also able to snap a memorable picture inside a photo booth.

DJ Ultralight Entertainment provided the music, a company that is involved with the LGBTQ+ community.

"My purpose was to make sure the DJ was part of the queer



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

The CSU Ballroom was home to a Decades Ball last Friday, thrown by the LGBT Center. The event offered many queer students the solace they've always wanted, as well as a fun dance party.

community so that I'm able to shine light on a more diverse company," Thomas said.

A costume contest also took place and one lucky student was gifted a Maverick hockey jersey for their decade attire, which is fitting considering the team secured the trophy for the Mason Cup the following night.

Thomas, who displayed an 80's look for the evening, noticed how the university lacked school dances since the COVID-19 pandemic. He graciously volunteered the LGBTQ+ center to potentially start events like this back up and running.

"When I look around the room, if I see smiles and less

people on their phones, that's when I know that it's a success," Thomas said.

Thomas finds strength in numbers as he intends for the center to continue to gather and celebrate what it means to be a part of a community that embraces its differences.

"I always see it as just like a

family," Thomas said. "I see it as a way where people can express who they are cognitively, and sometimes not cognitively, and that's why I'm here."

The LGBTQ+ center prepares for future events, including the Semi-Annual drag show April 5, T-shirt dying later in April, and a lavender graduation to top off the semester April 28.

The drag show will provide a cast of queens, as well as invite students at MSU to perform if they would like.

The lavender graduation will honor graduates that wish to represent or support the queer community.

Thomas desires for the center on campus to extend a further hand in Mankato, as students, faculty, and anyone in the local area is able to utilize what the institution provides.

"Recently a lot of students in the LGBTQ+ community, they only feel like this [the LGBT center] is their safe space, but I focus on making sure that the whole university is a safe and welcoming environment as well," Thomas said. "I want to make sure that this isn't just for us within the LGBTQ+ community, this is for us, within the community of the university."

Students can contact Thomas if they have an interest in future events and want to participate. Contact him at [Stephen.thomas.2@mnsu.edu](mailto:Stephen.thomas.2@mnsu.edu) for more details.

## MSU Theatre Department debuts 'At Home at the Zoo'

By LAUREN VISKA  
Staff Writer

Get ready for a three-person play. Yep. That's right. Minnesota State's Theatre program is debuting "At Home at the Zoo" this week, and it features just three actors.

"At Home at the Zoo" is a combo of two different Edward Albee plays: "The Zoo Story" and "Homelife."

The play opens with "Homelife," which provides a candid look at Peter and Ann's troubled marriage, their ruthless communication attempts and the loneliness they experienced while living together. "The Zoo Story," a 1959 play by Albee, is the act that sees the tension rise. At Central Park, a man by the name of Jerry approaches Peter and starts telling him tale after tale while probing deeply into Peter's life and attempting to grab the park bench for himself.

Director, Casey Ring, said he chose this play because it spoke to him.

"It's a story about a man who thinks he's got his life completely figured out and then is pointed out to him by a couple of different people that, in fact, he's living kind of a passionless just get by existence," said Ring. "He's forced to really question the things that he holds dear and what he has been taught and conditioned. That kind of concept really speaks to me. The idea that maybe what we've been taught — or that we've learned what's important — isn't, and that what we should be doing is seeking out our passions and the things that excite us."

One of the actors, Ryan Sturgis, plays Jerry, the stranger Peter meets in the park. Sturgis said he has wanted to play this role since he was an undergraduate. He got the opportunity to play Jerry due to a lack of actors available. He has done other small roles in shows, but nothing this big of a role.

"I'm actually not a student here, but my wife is a professor in the theater department, and

ZOO on page 15▶



Photo Courtesy of The Department of Theatre and Dance

Pictured above, a snippet of the dress rehearsal for "At Home at the Zoo," the latest theater production put on by the department. The show is a combination of two plays: "The Zoo Story" and "Homelife."

# Place all your bets on Casino Night



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

The Casino Night event, hosted in the CSU Ballroom, was home to major big winnings for a select few students. Some prizes included an air fryer, tickets to a Twins game, and a light-up Stompers sign.

By JOEY ERICKSON  
Variety Editor

On Saturday, the Centennial Student Union Ballroom was transformed into the Las Vegas Strip, for a one-night-only event allowing students to come and play their favorite casino games.

In charge of the event was Hayley Whipps, Special Events chair of the Student Events Team and one of the people in charge of many of campus's past events, such as the Raptor Center Bird Show in February.

According to Whipps, the success of the show couldn't have been accomplished without A Sure Bet Casino Parties, the company working at the event hosting all the card games for students.

"The ballroom was pretty crowded, it was great. I started planning it a few months out, so I'm really happy with how it turned out. I think all the guests really enjoyed it," Whipps said.

Some of the games offered included blackjack, bingo and Texas hold'em, along with oth-

er poker card games. The event boasted a wide variety of prizes, including an air fryer, Twins tickets, and a light-up Stomper sign.

Other amenities at the event included a food and mocktail bar and a craft area where attendees could decorate a picture frame for any photos they may have taken during the event.

The prizes amassed over \$800 in value, and 27 students ended up bringing home a prize.

"I wanted to get a good variety, so that there was something that anybody could enjoy. That's why I chose to do more prizes, versus splitting up the money into just a few larger ones," Whipps said.

Whipps wanted a self-proclaimed "Las Vegas vibe" for the event, which led her to eventual decision to host an event with a casino theme. Putting on an event as large-scale as the Vegas Strip was a sure-fire way to improve student interactivity, according to Whipps.

"I knew that I wanted to do something like a larger, more interactive event this semester. I thought a Casino Night would be a great way to put on a fun event and get a lot of students involved at once," Whipps said.

Casino Night is just one of the many events put on by the Student Events Team. The team's main goal is to cater to the entire student body, rather than just one portion, in an effort to make everyone feel included.

Some of the upcoming events hosted by the Student Events Team include the Masked Maverick, a local spinoff of the hit TV show "The Masked Singer," a public talk by Nickelodeon child star Josh Peck, and a spring concert by pop singer Iyaz.

"The whole team puts a lot of thought and effort into all of the event details, and in finding events that we think students would really enjoy. We try to provide a good variety, so there's something good for everybody," Whipps said.

## ◀ZOO from page 14

there weren't other male actors available because there's a really big show going on at the same time," said Sturgis. "Jerry has aspects about him that are just very uncommon for normal human behavior, and being able to tap into that and the philosophy behind people who can't act normally and connect with people on that sort of polite level is fascinating to me."

Sturgis said he enjoys playing Jerry and has a lot of fun playing this different character.

"He's very empathetic in the sense that he can read people, and he can pick up on their cues socially, and he's almost creepy in the sense that he can figure out what people are thinking and understand their history and their background," said Sturgis. "At the same time, he doesn't really know what to do with that information. There's a lot of special nuances that come with playing a character like Jerry because he's so different than your average person."

"At Home at the Zoo"

opens at 7:30 p.m. March 22 and runs through March 25 in the Andreas Theatre at the Earley Center for Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 regular, \$9 for seniors ages 65 and older and children under 16. MSU students get in for only \$5.

Students can find ticket information by either going to the box office located in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center or going to the MSU Theater website. The box office hours are 4-6 p.m.

## Irish goodbye to the school year



STEVEN SENNE • The Associated Press  
Spectators watch the annual St. Patrick's Day parade, Sunday, March 19, 2023, in Boston's South Boston neighborhood.

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN  
Staff Writer

As if spring break festivities weren't fulfilling enough, another lucky holiday calls for the gathering of college students all across the globe.

St. Patrick's day celebrates the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick, who converted the country to Christianity in the 5th century. As generations have continued to commemorate the occasion, March 17 has evolved into a day packed with green booze, leprechauns, rainbows, and Irish jigging. Those with Irish heritage get the opportunity to flaunt their roots, as millions of people in America are ancestors of the country.

Restaurants and bars located in cities with universities take advantage of the mosh of green-accessorized college kids hurdling their way, with specialty deals and events to draw in a crowd with jingling pockets of gold doubloons. Establishments in the Mankato area such as the 507, Tav on the Ave, Rounders Sports Bar and Grill, Pub 500 and more used Irish-themed marketing strategies to promote their businesses, serving a variety of green cocktails and Irish cuisine. Mankato State and surrounding colleges supplied them many customers, as the day is tremendously popular for university students.

If you happened to find yourself in downtown Mankato Friday, you were likely shivering from pub to pub with the low temperatures and high wind chill. You may have also had to fight your way through a sea of green to venture into the next bar. Whatever the case may be, the celebration was jam-packed with people, with lines out the door at locations like Rounders.

Celebrating the holiday as an elementary student in comparison to nowadays is like night and day. I recall the morning of every St. Patrick's day from over a decade ago, where I eagerly pulled a green t-shirt over my head and ran to the bus, hoping to walk into a classroom filled with gold dust and little green footprints. Now, I wake up to the hymns of Irish music and chug Irish car bombs to prepare for the day.

St. Patrick's day is widely celebrated due to its location on the calendar, as students need something to look forward to at this point in the year. The fun-filled holiday lands in the smack dab middle of March, a month that is rather long and cold for us Minnesotans. This is also the month where students are chugging along to reach the end of the semester.

With Spring just around the corner, students are eagerly anticipating the end of the academic year. For those who graduate in May, this might be the last big celebration they have in the books for their college experience. Whatever the case may be, St. Patrick's day is a day to show pride for the Emerald Isle, and spend time with good company before splitting up over summertime.

**\$5 Tickets for MSU Students!**

**At Home at the Zoo**  
March 22-25 at 7:30 p.m. | Andreas Theatre

# CANARY IN THE COAL MINE:

## *Reinvesting in the Health, Prosperity, and Wellness of America*



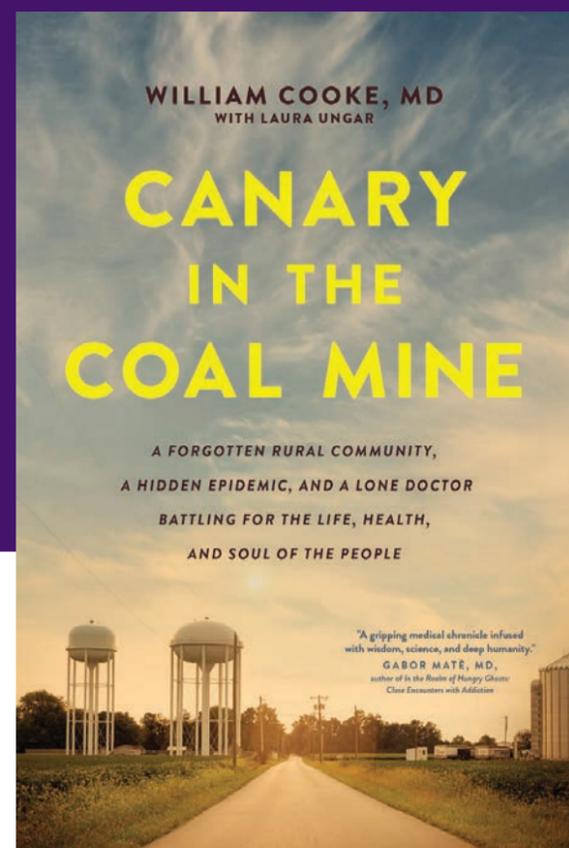
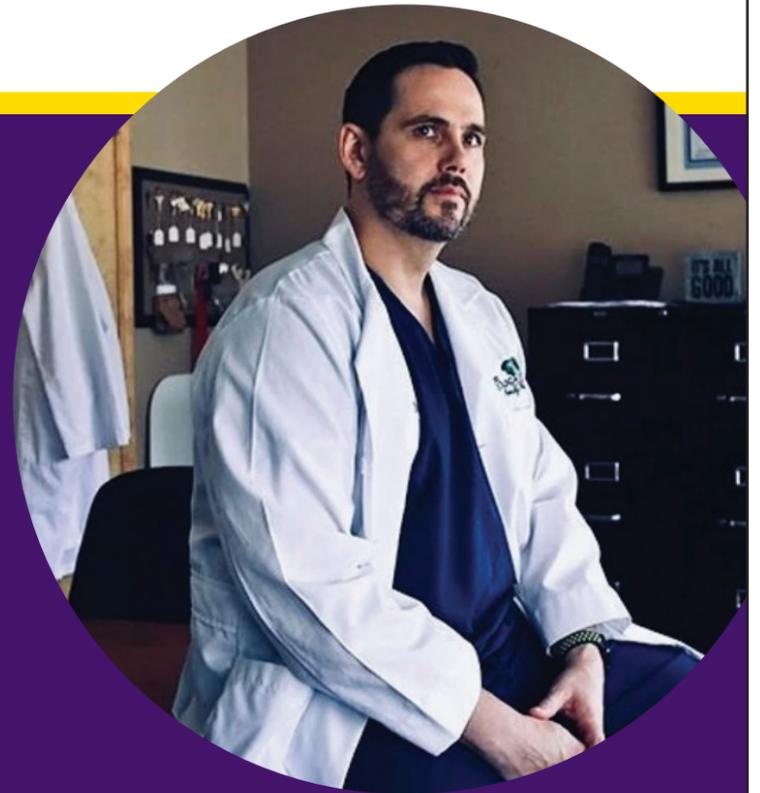
MINNESOTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

CENTER FOR RURAL  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Please join the Center for Rural Behavioral Health as they welcome Dr. William Cooke, physician, author, and rural health advocate, to campus to speak about his book "Canary in the Coal Mine" which chronicles his inspirational journey of fighting two unprecedented healthcare disasters: an opioid epidemic and the worst drug-fueled HIV outbreak ever seen in a rural American community.

Dr. Cooke and his message offers inspiration for anyone fighting in the face of daunting obstacles and a road map for those concerned about the future of our nation's healthcare.

About Dr. Cooke: William Cooke, MD, is a fellow of the American Society of Family Physicians and the American Society of Addiction Medicine. In 2019, Dr. Cooke was named the Family Physician of the Year by the American Academy of Family Physicians.



**Thursday, March 23, 2023**  
**10:00am – 11:30am**  
**Ostrander Auditorium**

**FREE** event for all Minnesota State Mankato students, staff, and faculty. Registration is not required.



Minnesota State University, Mankato  
A member of Minnesota State

Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please contact [insert Department or Office Name] at 507-389-1397(V), 800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY) at least 5 days prior to the event. This document is available in alternative format to individuals with disabilities by calling the above numbers. HESG86FL-1222

Interested in reading Dr. Cooke's book? The Minnesota State Mankato Library has unlimited free eBook access to the text and the bookstore will be selling hard copies.