

\$2,894,040

Student Government conclude student activity budget meeting with a near 9% increase

By JULIA LIN
Editor in Chief

Minnesota State's Student Government recommended \$2.89 million in allocations Wednesday after roughly six hours of deliberation.

The senate's decision means students will pay \$10.21 more in student fees each semester, which amounts to a nearly 9% increase in the overall student fee budget. However, because the increase is larger than 2%, the student body will vote to approve the increase. That vote will take place in April during the Student Government elections. Although it is ultimately up to President Inch and the board of trustees to approve this budget.

"I hope that everyone goes out and supports the primary budget request. It is an 8.96% increase in student fees," President Emma Zellmer said.

If the student body does not pass this recommended budget, the senate will defer to its backup budget which would decrease substantially most departments' budgets across the board.

Programs that saw their bud-



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

BUDGET on page 2▶

MSU Student Government body calls to order the annual college budget meeting, discussing terms for the upcoming 2023-24 academic year.

Mavericks return to NCAA



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

The MSU Men's Hockey team returns to the NCAA tournament with its first game against St. Cloud State today at 4 p.m in Fargo, ND.

Police and security luncheon creates engaging conversation

By EMMA JOHNSON
News Director

The Mankato Department of Public Safety and Minnesota State Security sat down with faculty and students over lunch Wednesday to ask questions about policies and address concerns.

Attendees were encouraged to have a healthy discussion and express their thoughts following a presentation from MDPS and MSU security about how they assist the community and ways to connect with them.

Director of University Security Sandi Schnorenberg said students think of MSU security as ticket writers who get people in trouble, but they do much more than that.

"Our main focus is to help

ensure everybody has a safe living and learning environment. While we have to enforce policies and rules, we are your friend and partner in creating a safe space," Schnorenberg said.

Schnorenberg said MSU security takes on more than responding to emergencies on campus.

Besides 24-hour patrol, officers are responsible for the lost and found, helping students jumpstart and unlock cars and reviewing incident reports.

Matt DuRose has worked for Mankato Public Safety for almost 24 years.

DuRose said he attended the luncheon to engage more with the community as one of the three pillars of their philosophy is community outreach.

LUNCH on page 2▶



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Students raised their name cards to signal approval at the Student Government Annual Budget Meeting which took place Thursday.

◀BUDGET from page 1

gets increased by the senate include the Maverick Food Pantry, which received an increase of \$5,000. Other departments that got an increase included the Multicultural Center, Gender & Sexuality programs and Music Ensembles by \$1,000.

Other departments were not as lucky. Student Government recommended decreasing the Maverick Involvement Team funding by \$3,760.

"I am slightly disappointed," Yohanis Ferede, Graduate Advisor RSOs and Leadership, said. "However, I am relieved that the initial higher suggested cut by a few senators did not go through, as it would have resulted in a decline in the quality and support we provide to recognized student organizations we have on campus."

The meeting began, with a period of drama. Zellmer called for an executive session — where the entire student leadership body goes into a private session — to discuss a situation involving a full-time staff member and what she called "ethical standards." The situation involved the ethical standards regarding the appeal process.

"(The executive session occurred because of) something Idman and I found out last Thursday about a university staff member who sent an email out to departments," Zellmer said. "Although it never directly asked them not to appeal, depending on who you are, it could've been interpreted that way."

To address this concern, Zellmer sent an email Monday to those departments stating they extended the appeal deadline until the meeting.

"We will have our ethics and standards committee conduct a review of what was sent out, and the possible issues that were brought up, and how the student government can address that moving forward," Zellmer said.

One major motion that impacted the length of deliberations was the passage of an omnibus bill that approved over 10 different activities fees at once including The Reporter's allocation of \$136,645.

"We trusted the Student Allocation Committee's judgment on many line items. We spread the cuts that needed to happen equally among the departments, while still prioritizing diversity, equity and inclusion and student support," said Zellmer.

◀LUNCH from page 1

(The other pillars are problem-solving and partnerships.)

"It's an opportunity to hear people's experiences and stories because then we can take them and bring them back to the department to the officers who are not able to make it today," DuRose said.

A few attendees shared stories of anxieties about traffic stops.

In today's social media climate, there's no shortage of viral videos documenting negative encounters with law enforcement during traffic stops.

DuRose said hearing those stories helps raise awareness for his department.

"While they didn't share anything that happened here, we do know that there are some experiences that people had in the city of Mankato that haven't been positive," DuRose said.

"We'd like to hear about those, so we can make improvements. We always want to learn from our mistakes, but we want to do our best to have positive interactions."

DuRose mentioned that Mankato Police has several training protocols to combat any incidents that may occur within mental health, LGBT and BIPOC communities along with trying to get involved as much as possible.

"We walked in the Juneteenth parade. We attend the pride festival here in Mankato. We go there and participate. We're not

LUNCH on page 4▶

Women's Center hosts networking dinner for Women in STEM



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

A panel of women spoke to a number of students and faculty on Tuesday as a part of Women in STEM dinner. The panel talked about how they navigate STEM jobs and what support options are available on campus.

By CARLY BAHR
Staff Writer

Students gathered in the Centennial Student Union Ballroom Tuesday to network and hear from alumni in the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) field.

The Women's Center worked with the Alumni Association to put together a panel of industry professionals who spoke on mentorships and offered advice for students interested in entering their field.

The panel consisted of Aer Teale, Amanda Thomas, Anura Berdyeva and Emily Javens.

"This is an area I wish I would have done more of. So ladies, find a mentor," Emily Javens, water resources engineer, said. "I always felt like I was such a burden, and now that I'm older, I don't look at it that way, and I wish I would have sought out some people."

According to Brie Shaun-Kearns, a graduate assistant at the Women's Center, the conference was specifically oriented

around networking and making personal connections with professionals in the careers students want to enter.

Professors also shared experiences and "some of the blockades" they have navigated as women in STEM and what support options are available on campus and in the professional world.

Jenna Moseng, psychology major, attended the dinner to learn general tips from professionals that she can apply to her

STEM on page 7▶

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

GOOD LUCK MAVERICKS!

BEAT THE ST. CLOUD STATE HUSKIES!!

from MAVERICK HOCKEY



BLUE LINE CLUB

Police find vehicle of Denver school shooting suspect

By COLLEEN SLEVIN and
JESSE BEDAYN
The Associated Press

The vehicle of a Denver high school student suspected of shooting two school administrators on Wednesday was found abandoned in a mountain community west of Denver as the search for the teenager continued.

Police were searching for Austin Lyle, 17, who they say shot the administrators as they were searching him at East High School.

A shelter in place order was issued by authorities around the small town of Bailey, in Park County, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of Denver.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

DENVER (AP) — A student shot and wounded two administrators at a Denver high school Wednesday morning, after a handgun was found during a daily search of the boy that was being conducted because of behavioral issues, authorities said.

The 17-year-old suspect remained at large.

Denver school officials, facing criticism over lax security, said they would put armed officers into the city's public high schools.



A student, rear, hugs a woman as they reunite following a shooting at East High School, Wednesday in Denver. Authorities say two school administrators were shot and wounded after a handgun was found during a daily search.

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI • The Associated Press

The shooting occurred at a school shaken by frequent lockdowns and violence, including the killing of a classmate that prompted East High School students to march on the Colorado Capitol earlier this month.

Parents who converged on

the 2,500-student campus on Wednesday faulted officials for not doing enough to protect their children.

"I am sick of it," said Jesse Haase, who planned to talk with her daughter about taking her out of classes for the rest of

the school year.

Police were searching for Austin Lyle for attempted homicide.

The gun used in the shooting was not immediately recovered, Denver Police Chief Ron Thomas said.

Police issued an alert linking Lyle to a red 2005 Volvo X90 with Colorado plates and offered a reward up to \$2,000 for information on the case.

The shooting happened just before 10 a.m. in an office area as the student was undergoing a search as part of a "safety plan" that required him to be patted down daily, officials said.

One of the wounded administrators was released from the hospital Wednesday afternoon and the second remained in serious condition, said Heather Burke, a spokesperson for Denver Health hospital. Both victims are male.

Thomas said police know where Lyle lives and believed they would apprehend him.

"He obviously is armed and dangerous and willing to use the weapon, as we've learned this morning," Denver Mayor Michael Hancock warned as law enforcement searched.

Hundreds of students on March 3 skipped class and marched in support of stricter gun laws following the death of Luis Garcia, 16, who was shot while sitting in a car near the school.

There were no school resource officers on campus at the time of Wednesday's shooting, Thomas said.



PICK UP & DROP OFF ON CAMPUS

- Board Shuttle at Waves Sculpture, Lot #11 (Horseshoe Parking Lot) between the Student Union & Library
- MSP Airport Shuttles
- Daily Campus Departures
- Carry Up to 3 Pieces of Luggage

FREE Wi-Fi

One-Way Pricing
Starting at Only

\$11




Travel to THOUSANDS of Destinations Nationwide

☎ (888) 736-9190
Book online today! ➤
WWW.LANDTOAIREXPRESS.COM

Dr. Seung Bach announced as the new COB Dean



Photo courtesy of MSU Media Relations

Dr. Seung Bach will be the College of Business dean starting July 1.

By JULIA LIN
Editor in Chief

Dr. Seung Bach announced to succeed Dr. Brenda Flannery as the dean of Minnesota State Mankato's College of Business effective July 1.

Provost & senior vice president for academic affairs, David Hood, announced Tuesday that Bach, "brings a commitment to student success and equitable outcomes for all, and a strong foundation in teaching and learning, academic leadership and community engagement."

Bach currently serves as the interim dean of the school of business and administration at California State University, Bakersfield. He has held this position since September 2022

and held other roles at that institution prior.

"Dr. Bach played the lead role in establishing two new Centers and fellowship/grant programs, bringing in approximately \$7 million in endowments to CSUB School of Business and Public Administration," Hood said.

Bach's previously earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Hanyang University in Seoul, Korea. His master's in business admin from George Washington University and his doctorate in business admin from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Flannery has served as dean of Minnesota State Mankato's College of Business since July 2011 and plans to return to MSU after her sabbatical.



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

Students and faculty gathered with Mankato Police and MSU security to discuss policies and answer questions over lunch on Thursday.

◀LUNCH from page 2

there to be security guards with our arms crossed and our sunglasses on," DuRose said.

"We're invited because I think people see us as open and engaging and want us to be transparent in the community and get to know the community as best we can."

Beyond attending community events, DuRose said officers must go through yearly implicit bias training and de-escalation training.

Officers also must renew their licenses every three years.

Grad student Orozco Luis said he attended the luncheon because it allowed students to realize security wants to help

out in any way it can.

"Students sometimes may not feel that they are adequately being helped and it's nice to know they want to help out," Luis said.

Luis said these events help build communication between the community and MSU.

"If we as students are also in the know about what MPS is trying to do, we can all do it together," Luis said.

To better support students' needs, DuRose said getting involved not only in the Mankato community, but also in the MSU community is important.

"We have a couple of officers that are assigned to MSU as a neighborhood, so you

might see them just walking the campus. I like to come up here and have lunch every once in a while because we talk in classes, primarily the law enforcement classes," DuRose said.

Schnorenberg said the luncheon helped create an opportunity for students to voice their concerns and questions in a comfortable environment.

"Anytime we can have conversations when there's low stress will help us in a high-stress situation. People will feel more comfortable coming to us," Schnorenberg said.

Any students who have concerns they'd like to address can go to Wiecking Center room 222.

NOW HIRING

Caswell Park is looking for Concession Stand Workers

Mostly weekend positions
starting in April and lasting
through September.

To apply visit the City of
North Mankato website:

<https://www.northmankato.com/>

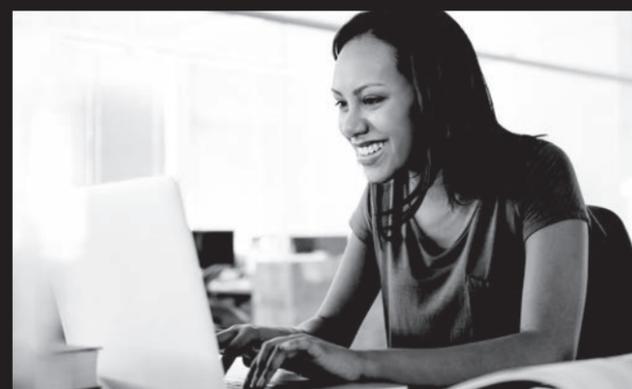
Find the Contact tab, and select
Employment Opportunities and
look for "Caswell Concessions."



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO
LIBRARY SERVICES

ASK A LIBRARIAN

service is available online 24/7
to assist you with your research
questions big and small!



libguides.mnsu.edu/ask/

TikTok sends influencers to Washington D.C.

By **KELVIN CHAN,**
HALEUYA HADERO and
FARNOUSH AMIRI
The Associated Press

TikTok is ramping up a public relations campaign to fend off the possibility of a nationwide ban by the Biden administration, and it's bringing some unconventional advocates to help: online influencers.

Dozens of TikTok creators — some with millions of followers on the video-sharing app — came to Capitol Hill on Wednesday to lobby in favor of the platform, one day before lawmakers are slated to grill the company's chief executive about concerns over user data falling into the hands of the Chinese government.

Shou Zi Chew plans to tell Congress on Thursday that TikTok, which was founded by Chinese entrepreneurs, is committed to user safety, data protection and security, and keeping the platform free from Chinese government influence. He will also answer questions from U.S. lawmakers worried about the social media platform's effects on its young user base.

At the heart of TikTok's trouble is a Chinese national intelligence law that would compel Chinese companies to fork over data to the govern-



JESS RAPFOGEL • The Associated Press

TikTok influencers Janette Ok and Imani Carrier record a video during a media availability Wednesday.

ment for whatever purposes it deems to involve national security. There's also concern Beijing might try to push pro-China narratives or misinformation through the platform.

At a media event coordinated by TikTok on Wednesday, some content creators acknowledged

that concerns about data security are legitimate, but pointed to precautions the company is taking, such as a \$1.5 billion plan — dubbed Project Texas — to route all U.S. data to domestic servers owned and maintained by the software giant Oracle.

TikTok has been attempt-

ing to sell that proposal to the Biden administration, but skeptics have argued it doesn't go far enough. The administration is reportedly demanding the company's Chinese owners sell their stakes or face a nationwide ban.

Janette Ok, a fashion and beauty influencer on TikTok,

said in an interview Wednesday that TikTok invited her to the lobbying event a few weeks ago and paid for her trip to Washington. She's been able to make a full-time career from her videos, earning income from partnerships with brands looking to capture the eyes of her 1.7 million followers. She said her popularity on TikTok has also allowed her to have other opportunities, like TV and commercial acting roles.

"I don't know much about politics, but I know a lot about fashion, and I know a lot about people," Ok said. "And just to be here and share my story is what TikTok has invited me to do."

Tensions around TikTok have been building on Capitol Hill, reaching a boiling point late last year when a proposal to ban the app off of government phones passed with bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Joe Biden. House Republicans are pushing a bill that would give Biden the power to ban the app.

Other bills have also been introduced — some bipartisan — including a measure that would circumvent the challenges the administration would face in court if it moved forward with sanctions against the social media company.

Summer Jobs

YOU MUST BE ENROLLED FOR FALL TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT.

- Apply for these positions on Handshake.
- A work permit is required for employment (for international students).




MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO
RESIDENTIAL LIFE

| Position | # Hiring | Hrs/Week | Employment Dates | Pay Rate |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------|------------------|----------|
| Air Conditioner Service Worker | 8 | 40/week | 5/8 - 8/11 | \$12.75 |
| Materials Management | 12 | 28-35/week | 5/5 - 8/21 | \$12.75 |
| Cleaning Staff | 12 | 28-40/week | 5/5 - 8/22 | \$12.00 |
| Painter | 21 | 40/week | 5/5 - 8/11 | \$12.25 |



MINNESOTA STATE

Minnesota State University, Mankato
A member of Minnesota State

A member of the Minnesota State system and an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity University. This document is available in alternative format to individuals with disabilities by calling Residential Life at 507-389-1011 (V), 800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY).

Editorial

Editorials represent the opinions of The Reporter editorial board. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the college, university or student body.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Julia Lin Editor In Chief | Emma Johnson News Director | Joey Erickson Variety Editor |
| Alicia Reed Sports Editor | Dylan Engel Photo Editor | |

Take your career the long way

March is coming to a close, and for many college seniors, the idea of graduation can be quite daunting.

In just under seven weeks, we will turn in our final class essays or project assignments online, and log out of D2L for the last time.

For many of us, we've been in school our whole lives, from diapers to diplomas. School is all we've ever known, apart from the odd summer break job or after-school gig to pay home the bills and bring home the bacon (figuratively and literally.)

But for the first time (unless you're going back to school for a Master's Degree - good for you!) we will no longer be full-time students.

Our years and years of schooling will be over, and it will finally be time for us to put on our big boy pants and go out into the world.

The application process is long, and grueling. Entry-level jobs require years, plural, of experience.

But in order for students to get adequate work experience, you need a job; a job that won't hire you if you don't have prior experience. Schrödinger's job search.

There is a stigma surrounding post-graduation plans in the professional field.

Many believe that after graduating from college, you're obligated to find a full-time position at a major corporation, working 40 hours a week in a cubicle at minimum wage plus benefits.

If you settle for anything less, you aren't reaping the fullest benefits from your degree you worked so hard and paid so much for.

We as students, and we as future employees need to realize that it's okay to take the slow road toward your career. We have the rest of our lives to work. Assuming you're graduating in your 20s, and retiring in your 60s, that's four decades of working to do.

Sure, you could walk right out of graduation and into a top-ranked, high-paying spot, but if you're already at the metaphorical ceiling, you can't go any further up, unless you like the taste of fiberglass insulation.

We as students need to normalize internships after graduation. They offer just as much insight as a full-time position and require less experience than a full-time position.

Opting for an internship first, rather than launching right into a full-time spot could help you secure connections that can help you for your professional future.

Although it may sound sad, we spend most of our lives working. That being said, it's important to make the most of it and do what works for you, rather than what society says is best.

Perspectives

Laramie, Wyoming: Spring Break



Photo courtesy of Andrea Schoenecker

One of my family's biggest traditions on any road trip is that we take a picture with the Ronald McDonald in Windom, MN when we pass through.

By ANDREA SCHOENECKER
Staff Writer

This week I brought my roommate, Sophia, back home to Minnesota to give her a small glimpse into the average American life.

Because Sophia is from Switzerland, she requested I show her my "everyday" life, so I did my best to give her the best impression of the Midwest that I would.

The first part of our adventure was making it back home. We chose to drive back home. For Sophia, the 12-14 drive from Wyoming to Minnesota was the longest car ride she had ever been on. I felt that this was a good way for her to see the landscape of the midwest.

One of my family's big-

gest traditions on any road trip is that we take a picture with the Ronald McDonald in Windom when we pass through. We did this both on the way to Minnesota and on the way back to Wyoming.

Sophia also experienced Midwest weather. On our drive up, the weather was less than ideal, snowing with icy road conditions and a lot of wind. Something she noted was there was more snow than she was accustomed to. She said the massive piles of snow scattered about was interesting.

We made a trip to Minneopa Falls State Park to see the frozen falls, something I had never seen before. Having someone travel with me helped me see things I hadn't seen before or had not no-

ticed in a while.

Sophia, my cousin and I took a trip to the Mall of America. There were Irish dancers performing in the rotunda, and Sophia said "This is so American, I would never see something like this in Switzerland." It made me happy to know that she got to see first hand the melting pot of different cultures coming together.

She also explored the Lindt store, and as a chocolate lover she was very much in love. In Switzerland, she had done an internship with them prior to coming to the US and was very excited to experience an American store.

There were a few foods on her "must try" list, one of

COLUMN on page 7

Pulse

"How do you save money?"

Compiled by Mohamed Warsame



PAYTON JOSEWSKI,
SOPHOMORE

"I just don't eat out and buy groceries because it's cost efficient."



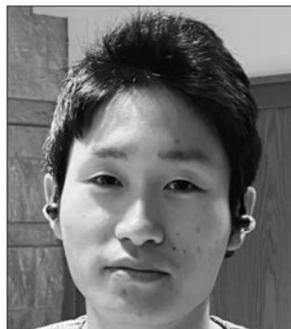
SARI HALABI,
GRAD STUDENT

"Create a budget. Through apps or through the bank."



LENNA MATTHIES,
JUNIOR

"Go to Aldi for groceries."



YUHI SEKINE,
SENIOR

"I don't eat out a lot. I make dinner at home."



AVERY KIRKLEY,
JUNIOR

"I don't eat out a lot. I like to cook my own food."



NITIBEN PAREKH,
JUNIOR

"I prefer home cooked meals."

Los Angeles strike highlights paltry US school worker pay

By JOCELYN GECKER and COLLIN BINKLEY
The Associated Press

Bus drivers shuttle America's children to schools where cafeteria workers feed them and teacher aides assist students who need the most help.

And their pay is notoriously low. School support staffers earn, on average, about \$25,000 a year in Los Angeles, barely enough to get by in one of the most expensive cities in America.

The pay is a driving factor behind a three-day strike that has shut down the entire Los Angeles school system and put a spotlight on the paltry pay of support staff that serves as the backbone of schools nationwide.

Even outside pricey California, the school gigs often don't pay enough to live on.

Arthur Anderson, a school worker in Virginia, says it's a shame it took a walkout to draw attention to the long-standing problem, but he hopes it helps.

"People are so frustrated. We all are," said Anderson, a teacher's assistant in the Chesapeake Public School System where he has worked for 30 years and makes \$32,000. He works three other part-time

jobs to make ends meet. "I struggle to pay my rent. I struggle to pay my bills," he said. "I love what I do. I just don't love what I get paid."

Anderson works 36 hours as a special education aide in his school's science department.

But he is also asked to fill in as a bus driver and a custodian. When a science teacher is absent, he fills in as a substitute, which pays an extra \$10 per class. "I did that today. I got an extra \$20."

The strike against the Los Angeles Unified School District that started Monday has been led by the teachers' assistants, custodians and other support staff who are among the district's lowest-paid workers.

They're demanding better wages and increased staffing. Teachers joined the picket lines, in a show of solidarity that forced the district to close schools in the nation's second-largest district that serves a half million students.

School support staff around the country tell stories of spending entire careers in public education, filling jobs that keep schools functioning. Yet, many are not making a living wage and like the striking workers in Los Angeles cannot afford to live in the communities where they work.

"The issue in Los Angeles is not confined to Los Angeles. It's an issue across the country and it has been decades in the making," said Princess Moss, vice president of the National Education Association, which represents about half a million educational support staff.

The NEA, the nation's largest teachers' union, last year released data that showed full-time school support staff earned an average salary of \$32,800.

Delaware had the highest salary for full-time K-12 support staff (\$44,738), while Idaho had the lowest (\$25,830), but salaries vary widely by state. They can also vary by metro area and even within school districts, depending on how long a person has been in a job.

Amid staff shortages exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, schools have struggled to hire during a strong labor market, adding to the burden on the staff that remain.

A RAND survey of school leaders last year found that around three-fourths of school leaders say they are trying to hire more substitutes, 58% are trying to hire more bus drivers and 43% are trying to hire more tutors.

◀STEM from page 2

own career.

"I'm still trying to figure out what I am going to do with my major. But, being here and learning how the panelists were able to be successful, I was able to gain a lot of knowledge and get some tips on how I can be a better student and how I can further my own ways to learn what steps I want to take with my major," Moseng said.

The event organizers gave students a networking guide with pre-written questions students were encouraged to ask and use as inspiration for their own. Biomedical Sciences major Lizzy Blair said she utilized this tool.

"Walking into this, I didn't

know exactly what to expect. But when I got this purple sheet with all the questions on it, I was really excited that I would get to know these answers," Blair said.

Blair transferred to Minnesota State last fall and hoped to learn more about campus resources and internships from this dinner.

"I wanted to really focus on my education and getting settled in. That's why I went to this event, to hopefully get into some connections and networking," Blair said.

The STEM field has been actively trying to diversify since it had been notoriously white-male dominated in the 20th century, with a 45%

growth in representation from 1970 to 2019, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Liz Steinborn-Gourley, Director of the Women's Center, has STEM experience as a former Marine Biology major.

"I think industry is starting to catch on that if they don't diversify, they're really pigeonholing themselves as far as their reach," Steinborn-Gourley said. "So, if you have app developers that are only cisgender, white men, they're only going to have the lens of cisgender, white men. When you involve women, when you involve non-binary people, when you involve the LGBT community, when you involve different races, you start to see an evolution."

◀COLUMN from page 6

them was S'mores. Because the weather conditions were not quite ideal, we chose to improvise by using my parents' gas stove to roast marshmallows.

Growing up, this was something my dad would have us do on occasion so it was fun to share this part of my home life in particular.

We went to Lake Waconia for a stroll on the ice. We also went bowling, and my roommates and I hosted a game night.

Something Sophia said made her feel more at home was the ability to cook again and being a part of a family dynamic.

Living in the dorms does not permit for either of these things so I was more than happy to share them with her.

I chose to bring Sophia with me for multiple reasons. One of the main ones was it didn't feel right to leave her in Wyoming alone when I had the ability to bring her with me. Another reason was that she had been wanting to see where I am from. I really appreciated her interest in my home life.

Having someone view and explore a world that is very familiar to me also gave me a sense of newfound joy in some of the smaller parts of my life.

I absolutely love Minneso-

ta, but at times I can be cynical with winter.

Hearing someone talk about the beauty of the snow and the other things that come with winter — like the frozen lakes and waterfalls — reminded me of the beauty of it. (I was glad to hear Sophia agree that the winter there is a bit too cold.)

All in all, I truly enjoyed my time home reconnecting with my family and friends, but more importantly giving my roommate a chance to have a slice of home since she is not able to travel home the way that I am.

Letter to the Editor: Scholars Serving Time Program

Dear editor,

I am a 41 year old, mother of 4, and a student in college... I am also an inmate at MCF-Shakopee Correction Facility.

I never thought those two worlds would collide.

I can't say that I ever thought the latter would be a part of my story, but it is.

At the end of this semester, with 105 credits earned over 23 years, I will finally receive an AA degree.

In my life, I have worked so hard to find only dead ends and empty dreams. I thought I had gotten my picture perfect life together.

That I could give my children the opportunities I was never afforded.

Unfortunately, one never knows what lies around the bend. The universe had different plans then I did.

I have spent the better part of the last 10 years trying to do time, so it won't do me.

Prison will eat you alive if you let. Being caged, stripped of life and of dignity, separated from your family, and all of this under duress of anyone that will take the job.

Forgotten and dismissed by not just society, but by the people closest to you.

The people that you have memories with on the playground and put gum in your hair.

There is only limited programming offered to heal, grow, and inspire a positive mindset.

Prison is where you hold hell in one hand and hope in the other. That hope can't survive without the help of community.

The opportunity to be able to not only go to college and earn a degree, but to have staff and professors that care enough about us pariahs to come to our hell and give us an equal opportunity for a great education, is beyond sublime.

It motivates me to keep going and keep fighting. It shows me that somebody (several somebodies) do care. That I do still exist. That I do matter.

There are no words that can describe that magnitude if my appreciation for this program and every person that plays a role in it. The Scholars Serving Time Program gives hope.

With sincere gratitude,
Amanda Peltier

DO YOU LIKE HELPING PEOPLE?

Apply with Mankato's only locally owned staffing agency to become an Employment Specialist, helping people find a great job!

LEARN KEY BUSINESS SKILLS:

- SALES
- RECRUITING
- MARKETING
- HUMAN RESOURCES
- PAYROLL



NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY TO APPLY!



APPLY ONLINE | SCAN QR CODE | OR CALL
WWW.EXPRESSPROS.COM | 507-387-5620
113 MONROE AVE., NORTH MANKATO, MN

Where to

Services at 8:15 and 10:45 AM
See our website for education hour and ministry information.

354 Carol Court,
North Mankato

facebook.com/riverridgekato
youtube.com/mankatoefree



River Ridge

Evangelical Free Church

Glorify God | Make Christ Known | Disciple His People

www.riverridgekato.org | office@riverridgekato.org



Hope Interfaith Center

All Sacred Pathways Welcome!

- * **Spiritual Service** 2nd Sunday every month
- * **Yoga and Meditation**
- * **Reiki and Sound Healing**
- * **Individual Spiritual Counseling**

To Find out more: hopeinterfaithcenter.com
hopeinterfaith01@gmail.com | 507-386-1242



mankato church of Christ

SUNDAY:
Bible Study 9:30 a.m. | Worship 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY:
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

1210 Warren Street | Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 387-2521
mankatochurchofchrist.org



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mankato, MN

"UNITED IN CHRIST
A JUST WORKS CHURCH"

LIVE-STREAMED AND
SUNDAYS A
CALL OR MESSAGE US

A PROGRESSIVE, OPEN AND AFFIRMING
AND IMMIGRANT WELCOMING



MANKATO SDA CHURCH

JOIN US THIS SATURDAY!

- Sabbath School at 10:00 a.m.
- Worship Service at 11:15 a.m.



Close to Campus!

210 Pohl Road • Mankato, MN
507-625-8625
mankatosda.org



1502 WARREN ST

THE NEWMAN CENTER

Live Differently. Live for Jesus

DAILY MASS
BIBLE STUDIES
ADORATION
VOLUNTEERING
PRAISE/WORSHIP
MISSION TRIPS

FOLLOW US!
@Catholicmavs




Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday, Apr
Maundy Thurs
Good Friday, Ap
3pm Childr
(All ages
Saturday Vigil
Easter Sunday, A
@CTKChur

Worship

WE ARE **STORY** PEOPLE



Please join us at Centenary as we tell the stories:

Palm Sunday: April 2nd - 10:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday: April 6th - 6:00 p.m.
Good Friday: April 7th - 12:00 noon
Easter Sunday: April 9th - 10:00 a.m. - Love Wins!

CENTENARY CHURCH www.MankatoCentenary.org
 501 S. 2nd Street • On The Corner of Second & Cherry • Downtown Mankato

ALL ARE WELCOME

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass Times:
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday.... 8:15 a.m.
 Saturday..... 5:15 p.m.
 Sunday..... 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Word/Communion Service Times:
 Monday & Thursday..... 8:15 a.m.

Check out our website:
stjohnscatholicchurch.com or on Facebook for up-to-date info!

You are invited to come & pray with us!

507-625-3131
 632 S. BROAD ST. • MANKATO, MN

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

SUNDAY 9:30AM WORSHIP
10:30AM COFFEE & EDUCATION
WEDNESDAY 5PM DINNER
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL
6:15PM WORSHIP

Connect:
 720 S. 2nd St.
blcmankato.org
 /bethlehem.mankato
 @blcmankato
 Bethlehem Lutheran Mankato

A Reconciling in Christ Community

CAMPUS CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

Tuesdays from 11am-3pm & Thursdays from 12-5:30pm

LUNCH-4-A-BUCK

Tuesdays from 11am-1pm

Worship with us Sunday Evenings at 8:00pm.
Food to follow. All Are Welcome!

CHRIST'S LOVE, GLD FOR ALL."

IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM

MEET EACH WEEK FOR THE LINK

CONFIRMING, CREATION JUSTICE, & CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION

150 STADIUM COURT
 MANKATO.UCC.ORG
 (507) 387-6592

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP TIMES
 8:15 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

BIBLE STUDY
 9:30 A.M.
TOPIC: GOD'S PROVIDENCE

WEDNESDAY LENT
 Meal @ 5:00 p.m.
 Service @ 6:00 p.m.

THEME: Psalms of the Passion

Early Service Livestreamed

SUBSCRIBE TO YOUTUBE AND SOCIAL MEDIA DEVOTIONS VIA PEACEMANKATO.COM

2090 COMMERCE DRIVE • NORTH MANKATO, MN

Check Facebook for New Events and Worship Opportunities

@MankatoCrossroads @Crossroads_MNSU

331 Dillon Avenue
 (Across from Trafton East)

Crossroads
 Lutheran Campus Ministry

Crossroads is LGBTQIA+ friendly, welcoming all people of good will, no exceptions!

CHRIST the KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2: 8:15am & 10AM
 April 6: 7pm
 April 7: 12pm & 7PM
 Women's Service (welcome)
 April 8: 5:30pm
 April 9: 7, 9 & 11AM
 ChurchMankato

eight:twelve

WEDNESDAYS
 FREE PIZZA @ 7:45PM
 WORSHIP @ 8:12PM

SUNDAYS
 WORSHIP @ 10:00AM

HOSANNA HIGHLAND
 329 ELLIS DRIVE
 507-382-3981

HOSANNA.CHURCH FOR MORE INFO

HOSANNA HIGHLAND

Worship Here

CASUAL, MEANINGFUL, ENCOURAGING WORSHIP, BIBLE STUDY, FUN EVENTS

The Beacon CAMPUS MINISTRY
 1506 Warren Street | Mankato
mankatocampusministry.org
 507-345-7049

St. Paul's LUTHERAN CHURCH
 304 Monroe Avenue
 North Mankato
stpaulsnorthmankato.com
 507-345-7049

The Chosen Video Bible Study
 Mondays at 7:00PM

Women's Bible Study
 Wednesdays at 5:30PM

Thursdays
 Dollar Dinner & Chapel at 5:30PM

Worship
 Saturdays at 5:30PM
 Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30AM

fun events, study spaces, wifi

SPORTS

Mavs open NCAA regionals against Huskies

By KARSON BUELOW
Staff Writer

With the No. 10 Minnesota State Men's Hockey team's thrilling victory over unranked Northern Michigan last Saturday, the Mavericks advanced to the NCAA Division I tournament for the ninth time in program history. The first-round matchup for the Mavericks is set to feature the No. 6 St. Cloud State Huskies in a rematch at Scheels Arena in Fargo, North Dakota.

The other first-round matchup in the Fargo region features the No. 1 University of Minnesota Golden Gophers squaring off against the unranked Canisius Golden Griffins. The winners of the two contests will meet Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in the regional championship for a date to this year's Frozen Four in Tampa Bay, Florida.

"To be at a regional with two other Minnesota teams and Canisius is an opportunity we were hoping we'd have when we started this season," said Maverick head coach Mike Hastings. "We're excited to be here and we look forward to the challenge."

Historically speaking, the Huskies have had the Mavericks' number in recent years, as SCSU head coach Brett Larson's club has defeated Hastings' club six times in their last ten matchups. Two of those six wins for the Huskies came earlier this season, where one goal was the deciding factor in both games.

Senior forward Grant Cruikshank was a standout for the



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

After a dramatic win Saturday against Northern Michigan, the Mavericks are preparing for their first round in the NCAA tournament.

Huskies during their earlier series against the Mavericks this season. The Delafield, Wisconsin native tallied three goals on the weekend against the Mavericks in addition to his 35 pts so far this season.

"If we want to get to that ultimate goal, we gotta focus on the process," said Cruikshank. "Focusing on our game is huge for us and playing our game since we've been playing great hockey lately."

In addition, the Huskies have

gotten the beneficiary of a solid goaltending tandem throughout the entirety of their season in junior Dominic Basse and senior Jaxon Castor. Castor has gotten the better of Basse, however, as he leads the Huskies with a .920 save percentage and 2.07 goals allowed average.

The Mavericks have also gotten solid goaltending in the form of sophomore Keenan Rancier this season. Though the Mavericks

were still in the search of a pure starter during their series with the Huskies earlier this season, Rancier has been able to solidify himself as the No. 1 this season.

In addition to being the wall behind the Mavericks' 15-2-1 record since Jan. 1, the Victoria, British Columbia native currently sits third in the NCAA in goals allowed average at 1.813. Additionally, Rancier also sits tenth in the NCAA in

REGIONALS on page 11 ►

I would be a great NFL agent

By HAYDEN LEE
Staff Writer

It is March 22 as I am writing this, nine days after NFL free agency opened. Over 200 players have signed new deals, but some still remain unsigned. Teams usually break the bank in the first few days to pursue the best and hottest free agents on the market, so the ones that remain may not be lucky enough to secure a lucrative, long-term deal.

A season ago, Geno Smith was a great example of someone who took their prove-it deal and did exactly that. After not being expected to win the starting job, all Smith did was throw for 30 touchdowns, lead the league in passing touchdowns, and light a spark under the young Seahawks. After his breakout season where he won Comeback Player of the Year, he was rewarded with a 3-year, \$75 million contract. So who will be this year's Geno Smith?

LB Bobby Wagner: After playing his first 10 seasons with the Seattle Seahawks, Wagner signed a one-year contract to chase a ring with the Los Angeles Rams. Wow, did that backfire. The Rams' most memorable moment from last season was demolishing the pathetic Denver Broncos on Christmas Day.

Best Fit: Buffalo Bills. If Wagner is truly chasing a ring, what better team to join than the Bills. The Bills lost LB Tremaine Edmunds to the Bears earlier this offseason and are in need of a new man in the middle. Wagner could actually improve the Bills defense that took a step back in 2022. He posted a 90.7 PFF grade while playing for the Rams, and could be a cheap addition for a Bills team desperate for a championship.

WR Odell Beckham Jr.: Another former Ram that joined the team to chase a ring, but the difference is, Beckham Jr. actually got one. After tearing his ACL in the Rams' Super Bowl win against the Bengals, Beckham spent the entire 2022-23 season rehabbing that injury. After being linked to the Dallas Cowboys, Minnesota Vikings among other teams, he went unsigned and remains there to this day.

Best Fit: Minnesota Vikings. Hah. Yea, not only would I love Beckham to sign with the Vikings, he would actually fit in nicely with Kirk and the Boys. After losing Adam Thielen to the Panthers this offseason, the Vikings would be fine with K.J. Osborn as their number two receiver, but I would prefer if he was not. I love K.J. but I think he thrives as a no. four option behind Jefferson, Hockenson, and now Beckham. He has already

NFL on page 12►

Going up to bat with the Beavers

By CHARLIE GROEBNER
Staff Writer

With the bats now starting to heat up after the long winter, there is no rest for Minnesota State Baseball. Coming off a sweep of Northern State, the team hits the road for the first time in the regular season. They prepare to match up Saturday and Sunday at noon against fellow NSIC rival, Minot State.

Last season, the Mavs dominated the Beavers in two out of their three games. One of which was a 7-0 shutout in the opening game of the 2022 season. Currently riding a four-game win streak, things have been humming along for the Mavs. A successful spring training and start to the year has been great for the team. Even with having to go on a long stretch away from campus, Head Coach Matt Magers has not seen it affecting his group.

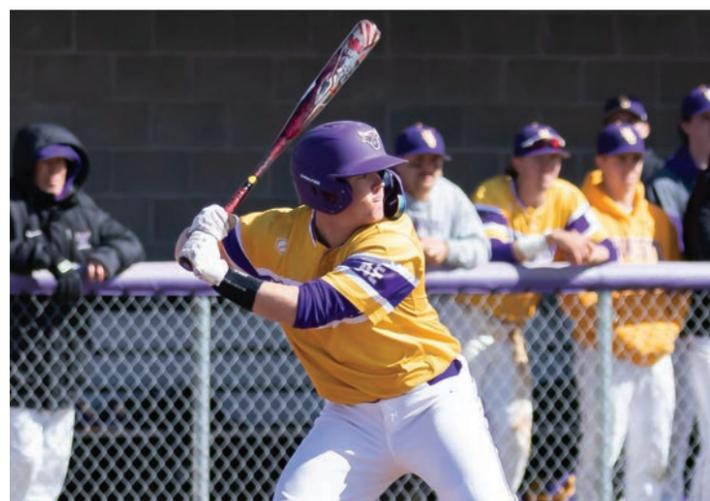
"At this point, we really haven't known the difference. "We have played in Missouri, been to Florida and now in Omaha. At this point, it's more just like we are getting the chance to play and take advantage of that. While we still look forward to playing outside, it's just some-

thing that we can't control, and are thankful for the opportunity to go out and play regardless of the location," said Magers.

They will certainly need to be in control as they prepare to take on the Beavers. Last season, the Beavers fell short in two out of three games against the Mavs. This year, they have begun the journey to reassert themselves as one of the top dogs in the NSIC after a successful spring training and start to the regular season. Currently, the Beavers are riding a three-game win streak after sweeping the University of Sioux Falls.

Overall, the Beavers have had many stories and players of note going into this contest. However, the one that all eyes will be watching is junior first baseman Gunnar Kozlowitz. The native of Littleton, Colorado is without a doubt the best hitter in the team's lineup. Already, he has five HR to his name and leads his team in Batting Average, Slugging, Hits, and RBIs. He is a man who has mastered both the art of the small and long ball, the nightmare for any pitcher that is put into a matchup against him.

While the Mavs have been rid-



File photo

The MSU Men's Baseball team competes against Minot State Sunday, March 26 with a double-header and a single game Monday, March 27.

ing high in the previous weeks, this one will certainly test them. Not only are the Beavers a strong team in their own right, but it's also the first of many times they will have to play in hostile territory. Both sides are writing another chapter in their long-standing rivalry. Even Coach Magers realizes how important this matchup is and what he needs from his guys to get the win.

"Kind of like last week, it really is going to come down to what we can control and to be prepared by getting in the weight room. Particularly this week we have been focusing on strength and getting guys stronger as we prepare to hit the road. Minot is a good opponent and a top team, but all were gonna do is give it our all and control what we can," said Magers.

Men's golf previews conference championship



File photo

The MSU Men's Golf team prepares for the NSIC Preview event next week Monday, March 27 and Tuesday, March 28.

By LUKE JACKSON
Staff Writer

The Maverick Men's Golf team looks to head to Blue Springs, Missouri to get a taste of the NSIC Championship course Monday. Every year, the NSIC hosts two tournaments for the men's golfers to showcase their talents. First, the men's team will play in the NSIC Preview Monday and then they will return April 21 for the NSIC Championship.

This year, the two tournaments will be held at Adams Pointe Golf Club. The preview is for teams to gain a feel for the course and the second is for the teams to hone in on their skills with a chance to win the conference. Luckily for the Mavericks, these tournaments were on the same course last year and the majority of the Mavericks have a fair share of experience with it.

Along with that experience, coach Alex Schmitz played the course when he was younger and is able to share a vast amount of knowledge about the course with the team. Throughout the week, Schmitz and the team have been going over yardage books, green reading material and setting out a game plan for how to achieve their best possibilities at success.

"We develop game plans just like any other sport does," said Schmitz. "Basketball has an in-bound play and football has a kickoff. In golf, it can be the same but also a little different. It's all about managing the course and putting yourself in a position to score just like other sports."

The Mavs have a good opportunity to showcase who they are on the course as Adams Pointe Golf Course plays into a lot of the Maverick's skill sets. Right off the bat, the first hole is a dog leg to the left. MSU is bringing a few lefties to the course that will bring the ball right to left to close out the hole with ease.

The team's main strength is hitting the ball far. Schmitz highlighted that on par fives the team will play aggressively. They will hammer in on the ball, hoping to get themselves in range to hit wedge shots to eliminate the use of long irons.

"You make the game shorter, it becomes easier," said Schmitz.

Through these strengths, they will still be practicing one thing in particular: staying patient on the course.

"The one thing I want us to focus on more this spring is staying patient," said Schmitz. "The more you're patient on the golf course, the better you are and the more good things will happen."

This tournament will give the Mavericks an even better understanding of the course and what it will take to beat the rival teams of the NSIC in the conference tournament a month from now. The golf program has a new facility with two golf simulators and a complex putting green. These new additions have helped them score their season-low score of 291 at the Maverick Desert Classic and will help them sharpen their skills for their upcoming competitions.

◀ **REGIONALS** from page 10
goalie win-percentage at .672%.

The Mavericks are fortunate to own one of the best defensive rosters in the nation. Sitting at third in the nation in defensive scoring, the Mavs also sit at plus-49 this season and have only allowed 77 goals all year.

"They make us better every

time we play them," said Hastings. "We're within the same border and I know we have different conferences we compete in. But when anyone within our state gets together and plays each other, I think it's definitely a rivalry."

Puck drop is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. today at Scheels Arena in Fargo, North Dakota.

Women's golf to 'putt' their competitive foot forward



File photo

The MSU Women's Golf team travels to Missouri next week for the Holiday Inn Express Mo. West Invite. The last time the Mavs were in competitive action was October, 2022.

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Staff Writer

After five months away from the course, the Minnesota State Women's Golf team is back in action. The Mavericks will make their way to St. Joseph for the Holiday Inn Express Missouri West Invite on Monday and Tuesday.

The last time we saw the Mavs take the course in a competitive tournament was at the NCAA Super Region Preview back in October 2022. The team turned in a third-place finish at the tournament held at the Grand Falls Golf Resort in Larchwood, Iowa.

Although that was the last time the team got to compete against other schools, apart from the recent SMSU Spring Invitationals that took place on Mar. 7 and Mar. 8, there has been no shortage of intense competition for the camp since the installment of the new golf facility on campus.

The opening day of the new facility was on Jan. 27, but both the men and women were able

to get into the facility to hit balls way back in November. This gave them an opportunity to continue working on their game while the winter months were kicking in.

"Building this new facility, we've never had anything like this on campus before. We're always just hitting balls into a net in a gym with no flight and no swing data. So from October to before the spring invitational being able to have our women's team in there practicing their short game, putting and all the other clubs throughout their bag made a big difference," said head coach Alex Schmitz.

With the tournament only a few days away, Schmitz highlighted the mental aspect of the game as something that the group will be striving to get back.

"Staying in a competitive mindset is really hard to do. I'll go back to that facility, they've stayed competitive. There are mini games and closest to the pin that they play against each other, so keeping a competitive mindset

throughout the winter and then stepping onto a golf course knowing I competed to a certain degree. It wasn't against this team or that team but it was competing against my teammates, keeping with that competitive mindset to a point where they feel comfortable on the golf course competing again," Schmitz said.

Schmitz believes the difference in the team's competitive fervor is night and day compared to a year ago, due to the work they've been able to put in throughout the winter.

"Last year being in the gym and hitting off of a mat, the competitive mindset wasn't there. All we're doing is hitting balls into a net," said Schmitz.

The Mavs will look to use their length to their advantage at the St. Joseph Country Club course. This course allows teams with length to use it in their favor by shortening up a lot of the holes.

One thing that Schmitz sees as a potential stumbling block for his

PUTT on page 12 ▶

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

GOOD LUCK
MAVERICK
HOCKEY!

PRESIDENT EDWARD INCH

Senior spotlight: Brooke Bryant



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Senior forward, Brooke Bryant, concludes her hockey career with thirty overall goals, seven alone from this year.

By KOLE BUELOW
Staff Writer

When you crunch the numbers, a high school hockey player's chances of making it to the college level are slim to none. Of the 1.7% of players that make it, only 58% of those players are from the United States and a majority of those players come from the states of Minnesota and Massachusetts.

Looking at senior forward Brooke Bryant's player profile, it is easy to look straight at where she's from, and notice its the warm state of California. Traditionally, ice hockey is not that popular out on the west coast, let alone California, specifically.

So how did Bryant get into hockey? Well, she is kind of a pioneer for it in her family.

"No one in my family has ever played hockey," said Bryant. "I started to use my mom's roller skates, and I would just skate in the driveway all over. Then, my dad brought home a cheap hockey stick where the blade was straight down the middle, and I would just shoot and mess around."

From there it was only a matter of time before Bryant's parents finally took her to the ice rink. She was hooked. Enough so, that like any player who loves the game, Bryant explained her parents "couldn't really get me off the ice."

Bryant was successful in other sports while growing up like volleyball and softball, but nothing ever compared to the love she had for the game of hockey whether it was on the ice or in a pair of roller blades.

In the offseason and while she's not at the rink, Bryant is heavily active outside. She enjoys playing spike ball with her friends, going to the beach, and experiencing life out on the water.

Although she has all these hobbies, it is hard to get her away from the game she loves. Bryant

likes to keep in shape all year round, and one of her favorite ways of doing so is by competing for the Pama Labeda Golden Knights Roller Hockey team.

Bryant explained roller hockey isn't quite the same as traditional ice hockey as it is highly dependent on good strategy and play setup.

"It's only four people on the rink at one time, and then it's a little bit smaller of a rink," explained Bryant. "There's no icing, there's no off side. The game's a lot different. It's more of a strategy. You take it back when you don't have an odd man rush, stuff like that. It definitely makes you think a lot more than ice does."

Growing up about 15 minutes away from Stockton, Bryant had a quick trip over to the local roller hockey club and would often find herself there playing with the boys teams. "I lived there basically," said Bryant with a laugh.

Bryant often entered tournaments once or twice a month and when she got old enough, started to compete for the women's team in the pro division. Every summer she returns to California to compete with the team, and can never get enough of it.

As she closed out her final year at Minnesota State this past season, Bryant racked up 66 points during her time as a Maverick during 161 career games. Known as the "feisty and competitive" one on the team, Bryant was well-known for her physical and fast pace of play, which proved vital for the Mavericks' top-five penalty killing unit this past season.

As she is nearing graduation, Bryant is planning on leaving Minnesota State with a degree in sports management. Although her first choice is to continue playing hockey in the Professional Hockey Federation (PHF), it is most important to her to continue being involved in the sports world while not sitting behind a desk all day.

◀NFL from page 10

played in coach Kevin O'Connell's offense, not to mention he went to LSU. Come on now. He's signing with us.

EDGE Jadeveon Clowney: What a career Clowney has had. Everyone remembers his iconic hit from when he played at South Carolina, but he has been kind of disappointing in the NFL, considering he was the first overall pick in the 2014 NFL Draft. He played last season with the Cleveland Browns, but I bet you didn't even realize it. It remains cloudy for Clowney's future, but he will be picked up.

Best Fit: Chicago Bears. As much as I hate to admit it, the Bears would actually be a great fit for Clowney. He has not earned the right to a long-term contract, and the Bears have cap space to give him a one or two year deal worth a considerable amount of money. He would also fill a hole for the Bears, who traded Robert Quinn at the trade deadline. For a young team trending in the right direction, Clowney would make a great addition to a Bears defense that should rebound in 2023.

WR D.J. Chark: Mikey, I know you're going to love this one. The LSU product Chark broke out in 2019, eclipsing 1,000 yards for the Jaguars, but has not hit the thousand yard mark since. He played a solid role on an upstart Lions team in 2022, upping his value considerably. But I guess maybe he didn't, considering he hasn't



Courtesy of 1075 The Fan

Guys Juice WRLD is dropping a song on Friday. Drop all of this football stuff, we have bigger things to focus on.

found a team yet.

Best Fit: New England Patriots. Despite signing Juju Smith-Schuster, the Patriots still have a hole at WR. Kendrick Bourne seems to have fallen out of favor, Devante Parker is nothing special, and Tyquan Thornton didn't show much in his rookie season. Enter Chark, who has shown that he can make plays and be a solid receiver. Mac Jones regressed significantly in 2022, so the Patriots should do everything in their power to help him return to the Pro Bowl caliber QB we saw in his rookie year.

CB Marcus Peters: At this point in his career, Peters is nothing more than a stopgap in the secondary. He has shown that he has first-team All-Pro talent, but it has

been four years since he played a full season. He still has some gas left in the tank, and a team may be able to squeeze out one more productive season.

Best Fit: New York Giants. Why? Bobby McCain is expected to start alongside Adoree' Jackson. That's why. The Giants ranked 22nd in pass defense defense-adjusted over average last season, and have done nothing to address that yet this offseason. Peters would make the Giants cornerback room solid, as he and Jackson could hold down the boundary and let Darnay Holmes play his natural role in the slot. Even if he does sign back, they won't be able to beat the Vikings again in *full story online* ▶

◀PUTT from page 11

squad is their short game.

"The one thing that scares me a little bit, if there's anything, is our short game. We can work a little bit on short game in there, but it's not the same, because the short game is all about feel," said Schmitz.

The team will travel to St. Joseph Saturday and will get the chance to hit some balls before having their practice round Sunday. The Mavs plan on using that time to shake off some cobwebs when it comes to their short game and get a feel for the green before going into the tournament all guns blazing.

The Mavs head into the tournament with the same top five they had throughout the fall. Schmitz is looking forward to seeing his freshman play well and his leaders to pick up where they left off. The team hopes that the effort that they've put in throughout the winter asserts itself on the golf course.

S4L MANKATO

CIGS • CIGARS • PIPES • CHEW • ECIGS • RYO TOBACCO

LARGE SELECTION OF EDIBLES IN STOCK!

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>S4L MANKATO CIGS • CIGARS • PIPES • CHEW • ECIGS • RYO TOBACCO</p> <h3>20% OFF</h3> <p>ANY E-CIG (Includes Disposables)</p> <p><small>EXPIRES 5/4/23</small></p> | <p>S4L MANKATO CIGS • CIGARS • PIPES • CHEW • ECIGS • RYO TOBACCO</p> <h3>15% OFF</h3> <p>ANY MISCELLANEOUS ITEM (Includes: Tapestries, Clothing, Incense, etc.)</p> <p><small>*Some exclusions apply. EXPIRES 5/4/23</small></p> |
| <p>S4L MANKATO CIGS • CIGARS • PIPES • CHEW • ECIGS • RYO TOBACCO</p> <h3>20% OFF</h3> <p>ANY CBD/DELTA PRODUCT</p> <p><small>EXPIRES 5/4/23</small></p> | <p>S4L MANKATO CIGS • CIGARS • PIPES • CHEW • ECIGS • RYO TOBACCO</p> <h3>30% OFF</h3> <p>ANY SINGLE GLASSROOM PURCHASE</p> <p><small>*Some exclusions apply. EXPIRES 5/4/23</small></p> |

1130 South Riverfront Drive | Mankato
507-385-7799
Monday-Saturday • 10am-10pm | Sunday • 11am-8pm

Across from
Cub Foods

Russia, Belarus barred from next season's ice hockey worlds



KREMLIN POOL • The Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko pose for a photo prior to talks at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia and Belarus teams were excluded by the International Ice Hockey Federation on Wednesday from all its world championships next season, including the women's event in the United States.

The IIHF cited security concerns for players, competition staff and fans — because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine — to extend the exclusion that will stretch beyond two years when the 2023-24 season is over.

"It is too soon," IIHF president Luc Tardif said about letting Russia return. "Too many risks."

The women's worlds is set to be played in U.S. cities in March or April next year and the men's event in the Czech Republic is scheduled next May.

Ice hockey is a favorite sport played by both Russian President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

The Russian Hockey Federation dismissed the IIHF's security concerns as a "contrived reason" to keep its teams out of competition.

"It is a decision which is nei-

ther constructive, nor beneficial for world hockey," the federation said in a statement.

The IIHF has followed guidance given by the International Olympic Committee within days of Russia starting the war in February last year to remove Russian teams from international competitions and to find new hosts for events the country was to stage.

However, the IOC is now pushing Olympic sports governing bodies to find ways to include Russian and Belarusian athletes as neutrals in qualifying events for the 2024 Paris Games. The international governing bodies for judo and fencing have said this year that they are prepared to readmit Russian and Belarusian athletes.

The IOC executive board is due to discuss the Russian issue at a meeting next Tuesday in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Tardif, speaking after a decision by the ruling council he chairs, said the IIHF must decide in the next year if Russia and Belarus can take part in the 2026 Milan-Cortina d'Ampezzo Winter Games.

March Madness betting guide

By MARK ANDERSON
The Associated Press

March Madness was just that over the first two rounds with No. 1 seed Purdue going down to No. 16 seed Fairleigh Dickinson and No. 2 seed Arizona falling to No. 15 seed Princeton. And then things got crazier on the final shot of the weekend when TCU's Damion Baugh hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer that covered the 4 1/2-point spread against Gonzaga. Now, the NCAA Tournament moves to the Sweet 16 and beyond. Here's a look at what to watch for from a betting standpoint when games resume Thursday.

WHO'S FAVORED TO REACH THE FINAL FOUR?

Alabama, the No. 1 overall seed, is a minus-145 favorite to come out of the South Region, according to FanDuel Sportsbook, meaning someone would have to bet \$145 to win \$100. Sixth-seeded Creighton is next at plus-175.

Houston is the other No. 1 seed still playing, and the Cougars are minus-115 favorites in the Midwest Region. No. 2 seed Texas is next at plus-190.

In the West Region, No. 4 seed UConn is the favorite at plus-185, second-seeded UCLA is at plus-195 and No. 3 seed Gonzaga is not far behind at plus-230.

All four East Region teams are somewhat close to each other — fourth-seeded Tennessee at plus-125, No. 7 seed Michigan State at plus-270, No. 3 seed Kansas State at plus-320 and No. 9 seed Florida Atlantic at plus-470.

WHO'S FAVORED TO WIN THE TITLE?

After a batch of upsets, the favorites heading into the Sweet 16 are: Alabama at plus-330, Houston at plus-410, UCLA and UCONN at plus-850, Creighton at plus-950



BUTCH DILL • The Associated Press

Alabama coach Nate Oats reacts after a score during the second half of the team's second-round college basketball game against Maryland.

and Texas at plus-1,000. According to FanDuel, Houston has been the most bet on team since the tournament began, but UConn has received the most money.

WHO IS THE BIGGEST UNDERDOG?

This might be the tournament to take a flier. Two south Florida teams, No. 5 seed Miami and FAU, are each listed at plus-5,000 and Xavier is at plus-4,200. Princeton is the only school not listed on the FanDuel website.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST SPREAD DIFFERENCE?

Alabama was a 7 1/2-point favorite to eliminate fifth-seeded San Diego State. Houston is favored by the same amount over Miami.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST OVER/UNDER?

Only two games have totals north of 140 points — Texas-Xavier at 148 1/2 and UCLA-Gonzaga at 145 1/2.

HE DID WHAT?

Gonzaga led 84-78 with .7 sec-

onds left in Sunday's second round and had no interest in playing defense in a game that was wrapped up. Baugh wasn't ready to stop, however, even as the players and coaches began to shake hands. He jogged behind a rolling ball up the court so that the clock wouldn't tick all the way down. Then shortly after crossing midcourt, Baugh scooped up the ball and threw in a 3-pointer to make the final score 84-81. Gonzaga players didn't seem to notice, but those who bet on the game certainly did. Baugh's shot awarded those who bet TCU with the cover on the 4 1/2-point spread. Gonzaga bettors were not too pleased and let Baugh know about it. He responded on Twitter by saying, "Nobody Told Y'all To Bet."

NOTABLE EARLY BETS

A Caesars Sportsbook bettor in Indiana put \$500 on Fairleigh Dickinson to beat Purdue at 20-1 odds and took home \$10,000. One Caesars customer in Kansas looked for the sure thing and put \$150,000 on Texas at minus-1,200.

Location & Lifestyle to Meet Your Needs!

Find a home that is just right for you and your family.

Scan here to check our Available Apartments!

Choose from one, two, and three bedroom apartments, each offering amenities that will make your life easier.

SMR has been helping families find a home since 1976.

Now it's your turn with over 70 locations to choose from!



SMR MANAGEMENT

A Professional Apartment Management Company

201 N, Broad St., Suite 109
Mankato, MN 56001

507-345-1290
smrrental.com



NEED TO SCRAP YOUR VEHICLE?
\$\$ CALL US \$\$

- ★ USED PARTS
- ★ HIGHEST PRICES PAID FOR ALL GRADES OF METAL INCLUDING APPLIANCES
- ★ TOP DOLLAR PAID



MONDAY-FRIDAY 8-4:30

507-524-3735

(10 MILES SOUTH ON HWY. 22)

BANDRAUTOTRUCKSALVAGE.COM



VARIETY

Masked Mavericks take the stage

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Staff Writer

In 2019, another American reality singing competition series, “The Masked Singer,” was released to the public, only the competitors were famous people disguised in outlandish costumes.

The FOX series quickly became a popular sight in the world of media. The Mankato state student events team took their own spin on the hit show by putting together the Masked Maverick event Tuesday at 7-9 p.m. in the Ostrander Auditorium.

Student events team member, Maggie Driemeyer, conducted the event, intending for it to be more unique than any other singing competition.

“I wanted to do a talent show, but something a little more elaborate than that,” Driemeyer said.

Of the students who auditioned to be a part of this experience, six were selected to perform in disguise. These included a Venetian mask, a jester, a duck, a leopard, a marshmallow, and a purge mask. The masked-up Mavericks were evaluated by three judges, professors at MSU Elisabeth Cherland, Thad Shunkwiler, and Douglas Snapp. The audience voted on which mask belonged to which performer by referencing a list of names with faces

and music style descriptions on screen.

The first to perform was the marshmallow, worn by MSU student Halley Weinberger. Weinberger sang a country tune by Carly Pearce titled, “I hope you’re happy now.” The audience roared with excitement and the judges claimed they were, “feeling squishy inside.”

“It was such a cool experience,” Weinberger said. “The student events team was a blast to work with and they made sure we were supported and ready to perform.”

Following this, the man behind the purge mask sang “All of me” by John Legend. “I love a good tenor voice, and there certainly was one up there,” Cherland said.

Right behind him waddled in the duck, who quacked to Amy Winehouse’s “Valerie,” while flaunting her vocal riffs.

Next up to the stage was the leopard, who performed the song, “Put your head on my shoulder,” by Paul Anka. “I don’t know how dangerous Leopards are, but I would put my head on your shoulder,” Shunkwiler said.

The last two to perform were the Jester, with the Olivia Rodrigo classic, “All I want,” and the Venetian mask, who stole the stage with her version of “Scared to be lonely,” by Martin Garrix and Dua Lipa.

While the judges discussed



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Halley Weinberger (right) was the voice behind the Marshmallow in the Masked Maverick event. She was the first to perform.

the winning titles, MSU alumnus, Daniel Leon-Kit, presented an R&B solo that blew the audience away.

Of the three winners, the leopard took third place, the jester took second, and the Venetian mask won first place.

Although the masks were in the singers’ way of fully projecting to the room, their vocals were authentically theirs. “I’m really impressed with the singers because on the Masked Singer everything is pre-recorded and they’re just lip-synching,” Driemeyer said.

Between the interactions from the students and the masked singers, the event brought out a lively audience,

and sparked motivation to continue this event in future years.

“It truly was a blast to get to be a part of the experience,” Weinberger said. “I was in my sweet spot getting to encourage other people and cheer them on as they sang. It was such a great night.”

Future events such as a conversation with Josh Peck, AMC movie night, the spring concert featuring Iyaz and Nur-D, and second chance prom will occur throughout the remainder of the semester. Students can visit the student events team portion of the campus website for more information.

Top 5 randomly generated objects, ranked

By JOEY ERICKSON
Variety Editor

When I was searching up ideas for my weekly column, “Listen to Joey talk ad nauseam about topics so niche you question his mental stability” (a working title,) I was having some trouble thinking of a third topic.

This is a problem that presents itself in many forms throughout my life; I’ll come up with two topics and struggle to find a third that matches the grandeur of the first two. The number three is a tough one for me. Is that why I failed high school geometry?

As such, I decided to rank another set of items. However, this time it isn’t a restaurant with foods I’m familiar with. In fact, the upcoming set of items consists completely of juxtaposed paraphernalia that I’ve rarely used, if ever. I figured that if I had a reliable, worthwhile opinion on anything, it would be things I’ve never encountered or had any experience with!

The five items on this list include: a pencil holder, a set of nail clippers, a teapot, a jar of jam and swim goggles. Groundbreaking stuff, truly. If you need to pause to wipe tears from your eyes, the pages of The Reporter work great as tissues.

I know the President of the JJCSA (Jam Jar Collective Society of America) or the Executive Chair of SGWDK (Swim Goggles for Water Deficient Kids) may be reading this. I mean no disrespect by this ranking list, at all. But I do have to say, if the most valuable item in your life is a \$1.29 nail clipper from Target, I have some questions. 1) Why? 2) For what? 3) Really?

That being said, in last place is the nail clipper. For a normal person, the nail clipper serves as a very efficient home care tool, used to trim nails to appropriate lengths, snip off stubborn hangnails or cut a very, very tiny sandwich in half.

I, however, am a little bit unhinged. When my nails grow too long, I opt to rip them off entirely like a madman rather than snip them off like leaves on a bonsai tree. It’s all very neanderthalic in nature, ripping my nails off. It also might just be the fact that I do it in a dimly lit wet cave, though, guided only by the

RANKING on page 15▶

Performing series continues with Sarah Morris

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

Sarah Morris, whose Feb. 28 concert on campus was canceled due to COVID, will perform tonight in the Ellas J. Halling Recital Hall in the Earley Center for Performing Arts.

Morris said she is excited to be coming and performing at MSU. She has performed here in the past.

“I came down to MSU with Molly Maher and Eric Koskinen for a songwriter round back in October,” said Morris. “Dale Haefner asked if I would come down with my own band, which is really kind of him, and I said yes.”

Morris originally wanted to be a music teacher when she was in school. However, after some time there, she realized performing was what she wanted to do.

“I have always loved singing. When I was younger, I signed up for dance, and then choir and theater, and anything I could do in that realm. I went to college thinking maybe I wanted to be a music teacher, but also that I

wanted to keep performing,” said Morris. “Eventually, I realized that with teaching, I didn’t get to perform very much. So performing kind of won out, and I just kept following that thread throughout my life.”

Morris described her music style as a singer-songwriter. Her life, in general, inspires her.

“I’m a mom, and a wife and human. So I feel like that’s where I get all my inspiration. I’m passionate about being outside. So that’s something that’s inspiring to me,” said Morris. “I belong to a songwriting group, and I find it inspiring watching other people devote themselves to their craft. That’s something that keeps me going.”

Many students have to attend this concert to fill requirements for their major, but Morris hopes anyone who goes gets a lot out of her performance.

“Anyone that has to be there, I hope they end up having more fun than they thought they would,” said Morris. “My favorite thing is writing songs, so if anyone else is really passionate about writing songs, I hope they hear something that



Photo Courtesy of Sarah Morris and the Sometimes Guys
Sarah Morris (above) has performed in music festivals all over the country, from Minnesota to Texas.

makes them think or feel something.”

She hopes to get a lot out of the performance as well.

“I’m super excited to bring down the full band. I don’t get to play with a full band in a theater setting as often as I would like, and I’m bringing down Haley Rydell out to be part of the band. She’s a violinist and a singer, and she’s amazing,” said

Morris. “I also hope to connect with people I haven’t met before. I hope that somebody in the audience may hear something they needed to hear for their heart and that maybe I can say hi after the show.”

The show is free for MSU students and \$10 for general admission. Head to the MSU website and click the events tab for more information.

Rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine injured in assault at gym



LUCA BRUNO • The Associated Press

Palm Beach County, Fla., Sheriff's investigators said an altercation occurred Tuesday night, March 21, between Hernandez and several people. Hernandez's injuries were not considered life-threatening.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine, whose testimony against his own gang helped convict two high-ranking members, was assaulted by several people at a gym in Florida, officials said Wednesday.

An "altercation between several individuals" brought Palm Beach County sheriff's deputies to an LA Fitness outlet in Lake Worth on Tuesday night, the sheriff's office said in a social media post.

The assault left the rapper, whose real name is Daniel Hernandez, with several injuries. He was taken to a hospital but his injuries were not considered life-threatening, officials said.

A motive for the assault, including whether it was connected to his cooperation with

prosecutors, was unclear. No arrests have been made, and investigators have asked anyone with information to contact them.

The rapper's attorney, Lance Lazzaro, did not respond to an email from The Associated Press. But he told other news outlets that Hernandez was attacked by three or four people in the gym's sauna.

Tekashi 6ix9ine, known for his rainbow-colored hair and "69" tattoo on his forehead, previously faced decades in prison as part of a racketeering case in which he was accused of using a violent gang as a "personal hit squad."

Instead, his sentence was reduced to about two years after his testimony against the Nine Trey Gangsta Bloods, earning him a label as a "snitch."

◀RANKING from page 14

dying light of the sun setting in the West. Just me?

In fourth place are the swim goggles. Right away, swim goggles are probably one of the nerdiest accessories one can wear, right behind the Minnesota State lanyard you can put your MavCard in, like a kangaroo pouch, or Velcro shoes with fake shoestrings to hide the fact that you never learned how to tie your shoes.

Also, where are you swimming in Mankato in 2023 that requires goggles? I can promise that, no matter what lake you may be swimming in, the water will still be brown and murky, no matter how clear your vision may be. One suggestion: putting on a VR headset, playing an underwater ocean video and getting into a bathtub.

Third place is a pencil holder. The wrangler of writing utensils, a pencil holder can come in many forms: a box, a coffee mug, or even a subservient little crab with two upright claws that can clamp the pencil down securely. If you're really looking to break the law, you can even put things into pen-

cil holders that aren't pencils. Pens? Highlighters? My hands are shaking in fear just typing this sentence. It took me 10 minutes just to write this clause.

In second place, the first alternate, is a tea pot. Similar to the pencil holder, a teapot has many uses. A carrier of liquids. A paperweight. A centerpiece on a table for an Alice in Wonderland-themed birthday party.

If you're a big fan of tea pots, I wouldn't recommend going to a restaurant called Melting Pot, though. I've never been there myself, but based on the restaurant's name, it sounds like they do pretty scary things to any tea pots that show their faces there. Sad, really.

In first place, finally, is the highly-acclaimed jar of jam. Sometimes, on sleepless nights where I'm staring at my ceiling and questioning the frailty of life, I ponder whether or not in Jamaica, jam is just called "aica," similarly to how French vanilla in France is just a vanilla bean with a pencil mustache on it. Things to think about.

Exploring Culture Through Art

By KENDALL LARSON
Staff Writer

Art is different for everyone, so it should be no surprise that two master's students chose art that is a little different than what is considered traditional.

Mai Tran pursues woodcut printmaking. She takes thin cuts of wood and carves out designs to create prints.

Each piece can take months to create, but it allows Tran to express herself and the culture she grew up with.

"I get my inspiration from my Vietnamese culture and blend it with American culture," Tran explained.

One such print that displays the two cultures Tran lived in is "There Will Always Be a Fence." Tran said she tried to find the similarities between American and Vietnamese culture but found a barrier as she made it.

"We are just so different, and I feel like no matter how hard I try, there is this wall or fence between us," expressed Tran.

Many of Tran's prints incorporate the cultures she grew up in and her love of mythology.

"I have a lot of interest in mythology and animal studies," she said.

That interest comes alive in every print. "Not Meant to Be" is one of Tran's favorite pieces from the collection. She said the inspiration for the piece came from the Greek mythology tale of Apollo and Daphne and brought in strokes of her Vietnamese background to portray the two deities in a more animalistic form.

"I like to tell classic stories in different ways," said Tran.



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Mai Tran and Selena Medellin, both Masters students, display exhibitions to showcase their heritage.

Selena Medellin chose ceramic as her medium of choice. She said she loves creating works resembling other ordinary materials such as fabric while expressing her Mexican heritage.

"Ceramic is one of the most versatile mediums, and when I create my pieces, I play around with the idea of what is clay and what is not clay," said Medellin.

Each display piece incorporates a non-clay element to show how easily the clay is blended with the other mediums to create a mixed media piece.

"Generally, people don't exactly know it's ceramic unless they touch it," Medellin said.

Medellin's "Tradición" collection is inspired by her life growing up.

"It's basically a celebration of the people that have passed in my family and what I've grown to learn and love from them," said Medellin.

Medellin has created eight pieces inspired by her culture, some of which viewers will recognize, such as "Remembrance," which is tied into Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Some may even know the historical inspiration behind "Knick Knack to Life" numbers 1 and 2. Both of which touch on the Aztec ancestry of Medellin's Mexican heritage.

Both Tran's and Medellin's artwork is experimental. They encourage other artists to try new methods and not give up even when it feels too hard.

Said Tran, "Everything is hard at first, but give it time and have patience."

Medellin stated, "Don't be afraid of what other people say, and don't be afraid to play around. Never say you're a bad artist. And know that we're all just different kinds of artists."

The artwork will remain displayed in the Conkling Art Gallery in Nelson Hall until Friday.

NOW HIRING!

SUMMER OPERATIONS

CHS Inc., a Fortune 100 Company, has an exciting career opportunity at our soybean facility in Mankato, MN. Responsibilities include: clean Soybean Crude tanks and other general clean up inside and outside of buildings, pick up piles of beans, flakes, and meal. Job requires considerable periods on feet including walking, standing, climbing steps, and climbing ladders.

If successfully completes the first summer, the opportunity exists to return for other summer work. Students are encouraged to apply.

Must apply online at www.chsinc.com.



EEO/AAP Employer



Agromy



Grain



Energy



Open Door strives to improve the physical and socio-economic health of our Southern Minnesota community through an integrated model of health and human services.

- Locations in Mankato and Jordan.
- Medical, Dental, and Behavioral Health Services.
- Human services such as Insurance Enrollment, Legal Help, and an On-Site Food Pantry.
- All major insurance, including Medicare and Medicaid.
- Sliding fee scale for uninsured and under-insured individuals and families.
- Drive-up COVID testing available.
- COVID series and boosters for ages 5+.

Open Door Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Open Door Health Center receives HHS funding and is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C 254b, and is deemed a Public Health Service employer under 42 U.S.C. 233 (g)-(n)

STUDENTS:

Want to see someone off-campus?

We offer telehealth appointments for Behavioral Health, as well as lab tests, check-ups, etc.

NEED A RIDE?

Bus Route 6 passes ODHC at :11 and :33 on the hour

Only a 20 minute ride!



309 Holly Lane Mankato, MN 56001
507.388.2120 phone | 507.388.3924 fax

www.odhc.org