

## CSU reveals new Stomper statue

By LAUREN VISKA  
Staff Writer

If you ever wanted a chance to cozy up next to Stomper, your time has come: There is a new Stomper statue on campus, a life-sized bronze likeness of the MSU mascot sitting on an eight-foot bench.

This statue has been planned for a long time to serve as a focal point on campus and to provide photo ops.

At a ceremony Wednesday, CSU Communications Coordinator Lenny Koupal gave a speech about how this will impact the campus and bring new traditions.

At the event, Koupal said, “Who better to embody that vision and foster a new tradition than Stomper? “Teams rally around Stomper. Students go out of their way for Stomper. He’s a symbol of the university.”

Brodin Studios, located in Kimball, Minnesota, crafted the statue. After looking at some of their work, Koupal chose them for the project.

Brodin Studios does similar projects for the military and police, but this was their first venture with a mascot.

“They use 3D printing to create. When we did this, they brought in a 3D photographer to capture the image of Stomper from all angles, and then they used 3D printing to create it and then mold it from there,” said Koupal.



NATHANAEL TILAHUN • The Reporter

Students pose with the new life-sized sculpture of Stomper that was revealed to the CSU on Wednesday. The sculpture captures the spirit of Minnesota State and is said to bring new traditions to campus.

Student Government President Sierra Roiger said she is excited for students to start traditions with this new campus feature. She said she hopes that it helps bring students together.

“I think it’s going to be a great opportunity at graduation and finals week. You always hear about at one campus, you rub the foot of the statue, and you get good luck for finals,”

said Roiger. “I think that’s really what we’re gonna see here with this, and I’m excited to see what it brings.”

In her speech, Roiger said, “Stomper is not just one person. Stomper is all of us. Stomper is the Maverick spirit and pride that each of us carries every day when we come to campus. And when we leave this place, we move on to the next great

thing.”

At the event, a crowd of on-lookers surrounded the statue, each waiting to get a picture with Stomper.

One was Maddie Wheeler, an intern for the CSU this semester who saw this project take shape from behind-the-scenes.

“I think it’s a cool idea. I think it brings our student body

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## MSU climbs rank in International Student enrollment

By JEREMY REDLIEN  
Staff Writer

With 1,177 international students enrolled in the fall of 2024, Minnesota State rose to the No. 8 spot on the annual Open Doors Report released by the Institute of International Education.

According to Provost and Dean of Global Education Anne Dahlman, “Having students from over 100 countries in classes, on campus, in clubs — it’s a great benefit, to be teaching everyone about how to work with people from other cultures. Also our international students are amazing students.”

MSU President Edward Inch expressed pride and gratitude at the news.

“We’re proud of our No. 8 national ranking and that international students are choosing Minnesota State Mankato to pursue their higher education goals,” Inch said in a university news release.

International students come to MSU Mankato for a wide variety of reasons according to Dahlman.

“They come here because of our great academics. An American education is the number one sought after education in the world, and to be able to get it here in Mankato, we have some great programs. The second reason is because someone tapped on the shoulder. They would not know Mankato in the many parts of the country, but they do know people who are here,” said Dahlman.

The reasons for choosing Minnesota State according to international students were also varied.

Majd Alharbi said he was looking for a small town in a place she had never been to.

“I was looking for a state I had never been to, hence Minnesota and I was looking for a smaller town so I chose Mankato,” said Alharbi.

Timi Olufemi said it was the assistance she received when she applied to MSU Mankato that brought her

**RANKING on page 2▶**

## Celebrating Dr. King and banned books

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN  
Variety Editor

Thousands of books have been labeled as banned; books that represent and inspire diverse children in the United States.

Paired with a service for Martin Luther King Jr, the Diversity & Inclusion Fellows Rec & Read Remix and student leaders of African-American Affairs gathered at Mankato Youth Place to read banned Black children’s books Monday.

“Dr. King very clearly honored the black community and represented the black community. What better way than to celebrate books that represent the black community?” said speech language pathologist Assistant Prof. R. Danielle Scott.

From Jan. 1 until Aug. 31, 2023, a record-breaking 1,915 titles were challenged for potential banning — a 20% increase from the same time period in 2022 according to the American



Courtesy Minnesota State Communication Sciences and Disorders Facebook Students from Minnesota State read banned Black children’s books to children at Mankato Youth Place on Monday for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Library Association.

Most of these books were written by or about a person of color or member of the LGBTQ+ community.

“The book banning is just really reflective of the fear sur-

rounding diversity, equity and inclusion,” Scott said.

Scott, who has worked as a SLP in Atlanta and Houston, said she recalls a diverse environment with many different spoken languages, where chil-

dren benefited from inclusion. In Mankato, where diversity is more sparse, children of color rely on books where they can feel represented.

“You can’t learn if what material is presented to you, you are not responding to it,” Scott said. “Just being able to see their experience will help them develop the skills that we want them to help.”

Utilizing books that are being challenged today were helpful to Scott’s practice as an SLP.

“Being a speech therapist, I’m trying to get kids to talk; well, they talk about what they know,” Scott said. “It made my life so much easier. ‘Oh my gosh, they love this book,’ It’s more language. And I saw it from that place.”

MSU Senior Xavier Thomas balances being the President of Black Intelligent Gentleman, a member of the Black Student Union, and the Diversity of Eq-

**BOOKS on page 3▶**



## MSU Community Engagement hosts Day of Service



JOSE LUIS MAGANA • The Associated Press

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial is seen during the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Wreath Laying Ceremony in Washington, Monday.

By AMALIA SHARAF  
Staff Writer

Minnesota State's Community Engagement office held an annual MLK Day of Service event Monday at CSU MavAve where students volunteered to help the community while earning volunteer hours.

"We are honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by doing small acts of service that anybody can do, and it is accessible to students here on campus," said Crystal Watts, interim assistant director of community engagement.

Watts said there were five projects available for students.

"First, we're doing children's size type blankets to be donated to Partners for Housing. Those are shelters for women and children in crisis. And then we are making mittens, which will be donated to different pantries that have a need for them," said Watts. "We're also portioning laundry pods and dryer sheets as well as servings of rice, and those will be donated to the Maverick Food Pantry and Campus Cupboard."

Additionally, students were making dog toys to be donated to the Blue Earth Nicollet County Humane Society, and making cards for nursing home residents.

"They're cards of encouragement that they love receiving, and hopefully soon we'll be able to take a whole crew

out there and hand them out and read it to some of the seniors," said Watts.

Senior Grace Larsen participated in making blankets for women and children. She said she believes volunteering is beneficial for everyone.

"I think it's really important to take time to reflect but also improve the community around you every day," said Larsen. "And it is a great way to honor a civil rights leader."

Students can volunteer throughout the year. Mavs in Action is a volunteer organization where students connect to help better the community.

"I joined Mavs in Action last year because I wanted to get more involved on campus," said senior Leyla Farah. "And then I came back this year and joined the board. I think it is a great opportunity for us to do more service and help people."

Freshman Terry Brennan participated in packing tide pods and dryer sheets into bags to donate to Maverick Food Pantry and Campus Cupboard.

"We are putting them in small dispensable bags, which you can give to people so that they can wash their clothes and other things," said Brennan. "MLK Day of Service is about going out and just giving back to the community. If you spend that time to help other people, I feel like that makes a really big impact."

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together even more, and I feel like it just symbolizes who we are as a school," said Wheeler. "A lot of work was put into it, even like the small details on the gloves or the pants. It took a long time.

MSU President Edward Inch said Stomper symbolizes what it means to be a Maverick.

He noted that Mavericks are known for being innovative and pushing the edges and

boundaries.

At the event, Inch said, "The bench that we unveiled today brings all of the symbolism of what it means to be Maverick together in one place. And Stomper is our symbol. Our mascot is proud, and it is committed, as you all are, as we are."

Students can see the statue of Stomper in CSU between Starbucks and the Campus Hub.

## Cold weather cuts car charges down

By TOM KRISHER  
The Associated Press

For nearly a week, frigid temperatures from Chicago to northern Texas have made life painful for electric-vehicle owners, with reduced driving range and hours of waiting at charging stations.

In Oak Brook, Illinois, near Chicago, on Monday, television reporters found Teslas that were running out of juice while in long lines for plugs at a Supercharger station. The temperature hit a low of minus 9 Fahrenheit (-23 Celsius).

Outside of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Teslas were plugged in at six of eight charging stations Wednesday as the wind howled with a temperature of 7 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 14 Celsius). At least one driver was nearly out of juice.

It's well known that EVs lose some of their travel range in the cold, especially in subzero temperatures like those that hit the nation's mid-section this week. Studies found that range loss varies from 10% to 36%.

EVs also don't charge as quickly in extreme cold. Some Tesla owners near Chicago told



CARLOS OSORIO • The Associated Press

Ankita Bansal prepares to charge her Tesla. A subzero cold snap across the nation has exposed a big vulnerability for electric vehicle owners.

reporters their cars wouldn't charge at all.

Experts acknowledge that cold weather can be hard for EVs, but they say with some planning and a little adjustment, owners should be able to travel pretty much as normal.

**WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?**

Inside EV batteries, lithium ions flow through a liquid electrolyte, producing electricity. But they travel more slowly through the electrolyte when it

gets cold and don't release as much energy. That cuts into the range and can deplete a battery faster.

The same happens in reverse. Since electrons move more slowly, the battery can't accept as much electricity from a charging plug. That slows down charging.

The problem is that when temperatures plunge, batteries have to be warm enough for the electrons to move.

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here.

"I did apply to a lot of other colleges but then they were very prompt in responding, so for me that was a good thing. Their prompt response in giving me an application and how they tailored it through for me," said Olufemi.

Olufemi and Alharbi both had things they enjoyed about Mankato that have kept them here.


For Alharbi it was campus engagement and the numerous sporting events that are regularly held here.

"Going to sports events every single weekend is something I've really enjoyed," said Alharbi.

Olufemi said it was the community she was able to find here through the Family Friendship program, which she spoke highly of.

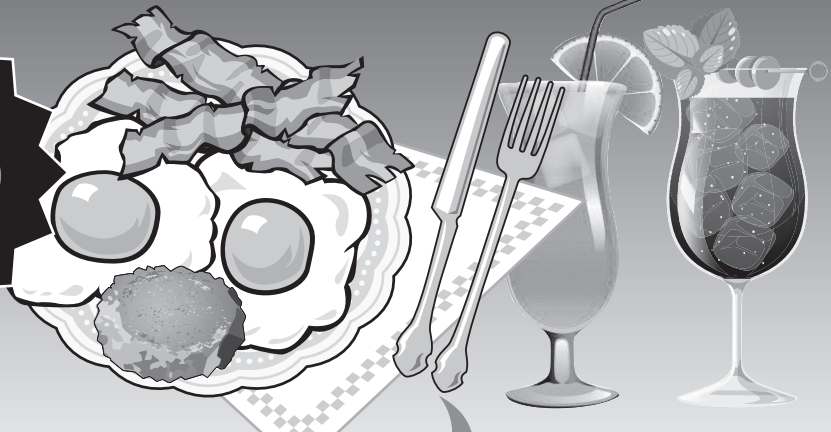
"I like the school, I like the

community, I like the faculty. You can always go somewhere and there will be somebody to help you. And then you have this fantastic program called the Family Friendship program. This is my first time in the United States. I don't have any family here and I was able to get connected through the school to families from here, from Minnesota who have been a lot of help and helped me settle in," said Olufemi.




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## Climate change responsible for cold snap across country



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST • The Associated Press

While the U.S. is shivering through bone-chilling cold, most of the rest of world is feeling unusually warm weather.

By SETH BORENSTEIN  
The Associated Press

Much of the United States is shivering through brutal cold as most of the rest of the world is feeling unusually warm weather. However strange it sounds, that contradiction fits snugly in explanations of what climate change is doing to Earth, scientists said.

In a map of global temperatures the last several days, big chunks of the world — the Arctic, Asia, parts of Africa, the Middle East and South America — show as dark red, signifying more than a dozen degrees Fahrenheit (7 degrees Celsius) warmer than the late 20th-century average. But the United States stands out like a cold thumb — a deep bluish-purple that is just as out of whack but on the frigid side.

Wind chills in parts of North Dakota reached minus 70 degrees (minus 56 degrees Celsius), while the heat index in Miami was more than 160 degrees warmer at 92 (33 degrees Celsius). The fourth-coldest

NFL football game took place in Kansas City, while across the globe the thermometer hit a blistering 92 degrees, 12 degrees (6.8 degrees Celsius) warmer than average on Friday during tennis' Australian Open in Melbourne. Warm temperature records fell overnight in Aruba, Curacao, parts of Argentina, Oman and Iran.

Where weather was warmer than usual, it was happening both in the southern hemisphere, which is in summer, and in the northern hemisphere, which is in winter. For example, Oman, in the north, had its warmest January night ever at 79.5 degrees (26.4 degrees Celsius). Argentina, in the south, had a record for warmest January night at 81.1 Fahrenheit (27.3 Celsius).

If it seems as if the world has gone topsy-turvy, in a way it has. Because this all comes from what's happening in the Arctic, where it used to be warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet. Now, it's warming three to four times faster.

### ◀BOOKS from page 1

uity and Inclusion Coordinator. He has also volunteered at Mankato Youth Place for a year.

"The lessons we learned from the Civil War is still impacting this day; it didn't go away," Thomas said. "Same thing with a banned book; even if you ban it, the message is still needed and needs to be out there in the public."

As someone who indulges in comics and graphics, Thomas stresses the importance of a character to look up to.

"A lot of times we don't have a role model, so you see a character that's very, very similar to you, you just relate to them. It's easy to relate," Thomas said.

As an alumna from Spelman College in Atlanta, Scott was taught by civil rights activist and sister of MLK, Christine King Ferris. She also attended the same church as MLK, and was familiar with

grand celebrations on MLK day. The inspiration for Monday's event was driven by the lack of celebration for the holiday in Mankato in past years.

"You realize his (MLK's) message wasn't just equality, treat everybody the same. His message is equity," Scott said. "His message is about giving people what they need, and black people have not been given what they need."

Students involved in the Diversity and Inclusion Fellows of the SLP are traveling to Mankato Youth Place weekly to continue to inspire and educate children.

"The same books that we read every week are being banned across the country," Scott said. "I want them (the children) to know that their stories are valid, and it's OK, and there's no shame in reading books that represent them because there's no shame in who they are."

# Supreme Court faces challenges

By MARK SHERMAN  
The Associated Press

Conservative Supreme Court justices on Wednesday voiced support for weakening the power of federal regulators, but it was not clear whether a majority would overturn a precedent that has guided American law for four decades over everything from the safety of food and drugs to environmental protection.

Billions of dollars are potentially at stake in front of a court that, like the rest of the federal judiciary, was remade during Donald Trump's presidency by conservative interests that were motivated as much by weakening the regulatory state as social issues including abortion.

The court heard three and a half hours of arguments in two challenges brought by commercial fishermen to a fee requirement, though the facts of their cases were barely discussed in the courtroom.

Instead, the focus was on whether the court should overturn the 1984 case colloquially known as Chevron, a decision that has been the basis for upholding a wide range of regulations public health, workplace safety and consumer protections.

Lower courts used the Chevron decision to uphold a 2020 National Marine Fisheries Service rule that herring fishermen pay for government-mandated observers who track their fish intake.

Two of Trump's appointees, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh led the attack on the Chevron decision, which says that when laws aren't crys-



MARIAM ZUHAIB • The Associated Press

The Supreme Court is taking up challenges by commercial fishermen to a fee requirement that could achieve a long-sought goal of business.

tal clear, federal agencies, and the experts that serve in them, should be allowed to fill in the details as long as they come up with a reasonable interpretation.

Gorsuch noted that some judges invoke the Chevron doctrine frequently and others, not at all. "Shouldn't that be a clue that something needs to be fixed here?" Gorsuch asked Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, defending the decision on behalf of the Biden administration.

When Prelogar talked about the shock to the legal system that would result from overturning such a longstanding and far-reaching precedent, Kavanaugh suggested that Chevron is to blame for the regulatory flip-flops that happen when a president of one party replaces a president of the other.

"The reality of how this works is that Chevron itself ushers in shocks to the sys-

tem every four or eight years whenever a new administration comes in," Kavanaugh said.

The outcome seems likely to come down to Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett, Trump's third appointee. Barrett suggested a "flood of litigation" challenging long-standing regulations that might result from overturning Chevron.

The court could stop short of jettisoning the Chevron decision and instead instruct lower courts to be less deferential to agencies, which might make it harder to sustain regulations. That outcome would be much less than what the conservative and business interests backing the Supreme Court cases want.

The court's three liberal justices seemed like sure votes to preserve the decision. Justice Elena Kagan used the example of a hypothetical law dealing with artificial intelligence to say it is unreasonable.

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# Editorial

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## The importance of MLK Day

Earlier this week, citizens everywhere celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Originating in 1986, the third Monday in January is a National Holiday to honor the life of the Civil Rights activist.

While several see the holiday as just an extended weekend, we should take the time to recognize King's goals and dreams he envisioned.

Several schools, places of worship and local community centers will often enact a day of service to have people participate in volunteering activities.

Several of the events revolve around social and political issues within Black communities and other minority groups. One of King's most famous quotes is "Life's most persistent and urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'"

To help fulfill his legacy, simply dedicating an hour or two to be a part of a project that can greatly impact others allows us to be selfless and help those less fortunate.

Another simple way we can reflect on King's life is by reading articles and books that discuss King's life and his impact on civil rights and fighting for racial injustice.

Known for ending racial segregation through nonviolent practices, we can learn a lot from his philosophies on how we want to advocate for change in the world.

Social injustices are still a problem in society and taking time to read up on the historic actions King led to advocate for equality can inspire us to get involved in projects with causes we feel are important.

Many of King's famous quotes and teachings are still relevant, with several of them being applicable to advocacy. His famous "I Have a Dream" speech highlights people being "judged for the content of their character and not the color of their skin."

He also said, "We are not makers of history. We are made by history."

Both messages are timeless and are reminders that we should treat everyone with respect and fight for equality around the world.

Instead of treating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as just another holiday, take time to observe and remember all he did and the dream he had of ending racial segregation.

Sharing the information we learn with our family and friends can be a way to keep King's legacy alive for a better future.

# Perspectives

## Why Not Today? We all live in Barbie's world now



Warner Bros. Pictures via The Associated Press

"Oh look, it's the Supreme Court!" Barbie exclaims midway through Greta Gerwig's film, "Barbie." She says the line while pointing at a billboard featuring Miss Universe participants and it's perhaps the funniest line in the whole film.

"So is 'Barbie' a feminist film or not?" is perhaps the question so many want to ask. I don't feel that I'm the person to answer that question but I do have some thoughts on some of the themes "Barbie" explores.

One of the more controversial moments in "Barbie" features the character Gloria, a Mattel employee who brought Barbie into the real world by playing with her daughter's Barbie doll, going on a rant about the various criticisms women receive throughout their lives. Much of the rant focuses on the various con-



Jeremy Redlien  
Staff Writer

traditions these criticisms take on.

"You have to be thin, but not too thin. And you can never say you want to be thin. You have to say you want to be healthy, but also you have to be thin," Gloria tells Barbie during the speech.

Some have accused this speech and the film of simply being examples of lazy Feminism 101. Others have related to the speech and found it powerful.

One point that I've seen raised is that this speech

was never set up in the film and is just a random social justice pro-feminist moment inserted carelessly into the narrative. I do not agree with this point and would argue that it is, in fact, well set up.

The key to understanding "Barbie" the movie is to understand that the thematic backbone of the main conflict is the various criticisms that have been aimed at Barbie the doll.

And there are a lot of criticisms that have been made. One of the biggest is that "Barbie" promotes unhealthy and unattainable beauty standards, which in turn have been linked to eating disorders and poor self image. "Barbie" is also seen as promoting shallow materialism and overconsumption and is a poor role model for girls by demonstrating that beauty is more

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# Pulse

## "How did you celebrate MLK Day?"

Compiled by Alexis Darkow



ERIN KAHN,  
SOPHOMORE

"I got my online classes done for the week to focus on my in-person ones."



DERRICK LODERMEIER,  
FRESHMAN

"I used it as an opportunity to catch up on things I'm behind on to have a great semester."



ANDREW ELTON,  
FRESHMAN

"I got caught up on my school work."



MAIRA SACKITEY,  
SOPHOMORE

"I used the time to study and reorganize for the semester."



ZACH STOCKLAND,  
FRESHMAN

"I got homework done and cleaned my room."



ELISE ADIE,  
SOPHOMORE

"I went to the gym and then did some studying."



# Overdraft fees could drop to as low as \$3 under new proposal



MARY ALTAFFER • The Associated Press

The cost to overdraw a bank account could drop to as little as \$3 under a proposal announced by the White House, the latest move by the Biden administration to combat fees it says pose an unnecessary burden.

By KEN SWEET and CORA LEWIS  
The Associated Press

The cost to overdraw a bank account could drop to as little as \$3 under a proposal announced by the White House, the latest effort by the Biden administration to combat fees it says pose an unnecessary burden on American consumers, particularly those living paycheck to paycheck.

The proposed change by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau would potentially eliminate billions of dollars in fee revenue for the nation's biggest banks, which were gearing up for a battle even before Wednesday's announcement.

Exactly how much revenue depends on which version of the new regulation is adopted.

Banks charge a customer an overdraft fee if their bank account balance falls below zero. Overdraft started as a courtesy offered to some customers when paper checks used to take days to clear, but proliferated thanks to the growing popularity of debit cards. So, for instance, a \$10 debit card transaction could cost a bank customer \$40 if their balance goes below zero.

"For too long, some banks have charged exorbitant overdraft fees — sometimes \$30 or more — that often hit the most vulnerable Americans the hardest, all while banks pad

their bottom lines," President Joe Biden said in a statement. "Banks call it a service — I call it exploitation."

Under the proposed rule, banks could only charge customers what it would cost them to break even on providing overdraft services. This would require banks to show the CFPB the costs of running their overdraft services, a task few banks would want to handle.

Alternatively, banks could use a benchmark fee that would apply across all affected financial institutions. Regulators proposed several fees — \$3, \$6, \$7 and \$14 — and will gather industry and public input on the most appropriate amount.

◀COLUMN from page 4

important than other traits and characteristics people can work on and so on.

These criticisms are made explicit in a different speech by Gloria's daughter, Sasha when she first encounters Barbie.

What the film does establish when we first meet Gloria though is that she is a very conflicted character. She clearly feels estranged from her daughter and appears to be suffering through a depressive episode, a fact made apparent through her obvious obsession with death.

This estrangement was probably fueled by the fact that she works for Mattel, who Sasha clearly thinks is the true enemy of feminism. Gloria clearly yearns for a simpler time when she could just play with dolls with her daughter, yet also very likely perfectly understands the

criticisms her daughter has for Barbie.

These criticisms of "Barbie" themselves are beset by the very contradictions Gloria highlights in the speech. "Barbie" does represent a shallow vision of feminism, a fact the filmmakers comment on by having Ken easily take over Barbieland with very little effort on his part, but she also does provide positive representation as well. Barbie can be anything we are told and anything here includes Barbie being a doctor, an astronaut, or a member of the Supreme Court.

A black woman even gets to be president of Barbieland. Sidenote: here's hoping that Kamala Harris gets to make that one come true in 2028.

As simple and arguably shallow as it might be to just say, "A woman can be president," is it not also important to make sure that it is said?

And do girls not deserve to have fun while imagining their future selves as both successful and happy?

One of the strengths of "Barbie" film is that Gerwig has a solid understanding of the strengths and limitations of Barbie herself and uses contradictions inherent to the character as fuel for the film's plot.

I would never argue that "Barbie" manages to make it to the same level as films such as Cheryl Dunye's "The Watermelon Woman," or "Liz-zie Borden's Born in Flames," two films that take time to explore complex feminist themes. However, whether or not "Barbie" manages to make a profound feminist statement, I would argue it's fun and worth seeking out. "The Watermelon Woman" and "Born in Flames" are also worth seeking out ... but not as fun.

# CNN's new chief says network needs to recapture its youth



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH • The Associated Press

CNN's new chief executive, Mark Thompson, said to his staff that the organization needs to recapture the "swagger" of its youth.

By DAVID BAUDER  
The Associated Press

CNN's new chief executive says the company needs to recapture the "swagger and innovation" of its early days — and that, he says, increasingly means embracing a future outside of television.

Mark Thompson, appointed CNN's chief executive last fall after stints at The New York Times and BBC, outlined a strategy to his staff Wednesday that included a corporate restructuring but few external specifics on how that transformation will take place.

Once a "scrappy outsider," CNN has been slow to respond to the reality of its primary television business shrinking, Thompson said in his memo.

He was not made available for an on-the-record interview with The Associated Press.

"There's currently too little innovation and risk-taking," Thompson said in the memo. "Like so many other news players with a broadcast heritage, CNN's linear services and even its website can sometimes have an old-fashioned and unadventurous feel as if the world has changed and they haven't."

CNN needs to follow the

audience, and smartphones are where most people under 40 first turn for news, he said.

To change the thinking, Thompson said the current national, international and digital teams need to be combined into one unit, under the leadership of Virginia Moseley as executive editor. Mike McCarthy will become CNN's managing editor.

Atlanta-based CNN is also hiring Alex MacCallum, currently chief revenue officer at The Washington Post, as an executive in charge of digital projects and services.

That's where Thompson, known for establishing the digital subscription service that transformed the Times as a business the past decade, will look for sustained revenue at CNN. It's not clear whether this will mean a paid subscription service or other products.

In the past, CNN hasn't always "gone the extra mile to squeeze every bit of value from the outstanding news and other intellectual property we create," he wrote. "No longer."

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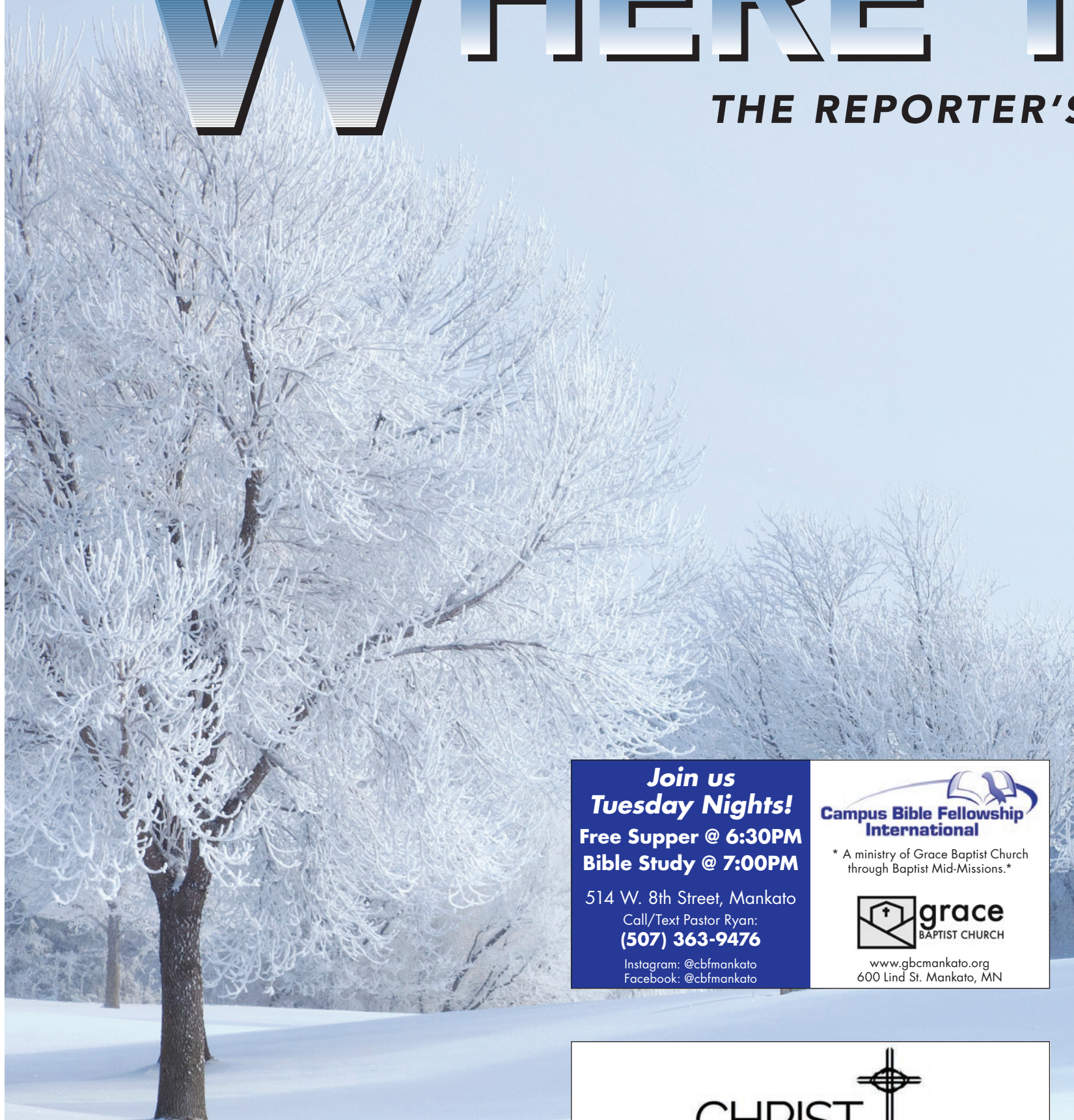
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## SPORTS

## BEST IN THE NATION

## Men's basketball earns #1 ranking in NABC Poll

By HAYDEN LEE  
Staff Writer

After moving up to the No. 2 rank in Division II basketball a week ago, the Minnesota State men's basketball has reached the pole position.

In the most recent edition of the National Association of Basketball Coaches Poll, the Mavs were unanimously voted as the No. 1 team.

This is only the second time in team history the Mavericks have been ranked first in the NABC Poll, with the first coming back on Feb. 1, 2005.

Their one-spot improvement comes after the previous No. 1 team, MSU Moorhead, suffered its first loss of the season over the weekend.

This leaves the Mavericks as the only remaining undefeated team in men's Division II basketball.

Despite the rise, the Mavericks nearly fell to the Bemidji State Beavers Friday night.

However, they were able to escape with a 94-92 overtime win before defeating Minnesota Crookston 101-64 on the road last weekend.

Now that the Mavericks own the top spot, they will have a target on their back, and every team will



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

Small College Basketball has announced that Minnesota State senior Malik Willingham has been named to the Bevo Francis Top 100 Watch List.

want to take them down.

Two more teams will get a chance to knock the kings off of their throne this weekend.

First, the Mavericks will head up to Minot State for a matchup with the No. 21 ranked Beavers.

The two teams have not faced

off yet this year, and Friday's matchup will mark their 12th meeting all-time.

The Mavericks own a 9-2 series

advantage.

The Beavers will enter Friday's game winners of five straight, looking to make it six.

They have gone 13-3 up to this point in the season, with an 8-2 NSIC record.

The next day, the Mavericks will travel to take on UMary, a team that has beaten the Mavericks in their last two matchups.

Overall, MSU holds a 13-5 advantage in the all-time series.

The Marauders are currently on a four-game losing streak and will be hungry for a tally in the win column come game time Saturday.

UMary will enter the weekend owners of a 6-10 record on the season, with a 1-9 NSIC record.

In a busy week of news for the team, guard Malik Willingham has been named to the Bevo Francis Top 100 Watch List.

The list, presented by Small College Basketball, consists of some of the top players from NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III, NAIA, USCAA and NCCAA.

As all of the dust settles from the big news, the Mavericks will continue their season on the road this weekend, where Friday's game will begin at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday's matchup will start at 5:30 p.m. in Moorhead.

## Defense continues to fuel the winning streak

By MOHAMED WARSAME  
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State women's basketball team is back in action against Minot State University Friday.

Last time out for the Mavs was a 100-49 victory of the University of Minnesota Crookston. Despite getting to the 100-point mark for the second time this season, head coach Emilee Thiesse believes their huge scoring output started with their stellar defense.

"We just had a real defensive focus in that game. They have a really talented point guard, and so all week we had been really focused on how to take her out of her game. So I think when we have that type of focus as a team, it seems to click on both ends of the floor," Thiesse said.

The Mavs forced Minnesota Crookston to commit 42 turnovers. Commitment to the defensive side of the game is something the Mavs look for when recruiting.

"We pumped that up with recruits on their ability to impact players in that defensive system, but it really zeros into the type of players that we bring into this program. That's 90% of our focus



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Mavericks will look to keep their winning streak alive when they face off against the Beavers Friday.

and practices too. So I think that's why we have such a good buy in," Thiesse said.

Along with trying to find play-

ers that will be able to learn the team's defensive system, there is also another specific quality that is wanted by the program.

"I would say one of the biggest ones is anticipation. You just can't be as successful and how frantic our defense is, if you react. You

have to be able to dictate and take some risks. That's another big part, how willing are they to kind of go outside their comfort zone and be ready to be a playmaker out there," Thiesse said.

The win against Crookston extended their winning streak to 10 games. This winning streak is off the back of some struggles at the beginning of the season. Injured players getting healthy again helped the Mavs get back on track.

"Getting healthy bodies back certainly has helped with our rotation, filling people into roles a lot better. Also kind of with a system like ours, that has very little continuity and very much about anticipation, and kind of that freedom. It takes time to really kind of get the intricacies of learning how to play off of each other and learning. We change our defense every year. So it's not uncharacteristic of us to take a little time to kind of get into it because we're constantly changing how we do things within it," Thiesse said.

As for the Mavs' upcoming matchup with Minot State, the Beavers have shown themselves to be a difficult opponent due to the way they handle the team's full-court press.

full story on our website ►



# NFL Divisional Round Predictions

By MOHAMED WARSAME  
Sports Editor

Baltimore Ravens defeat Houston Texans

If you're a Texans fan, then you might be pleased to see that I have picked against you guys again considering how wrong I was about the previous game. Let me start off by giving the Texans their flowers. While I wasn't overly shocked that the Texans were able to beat the Cleveland Browns in the Wild Card round, the manner in which it happened was jaw dropping. I expected a bit of a let down for the Texans after being crowned division champions a week prior. If that did happen, no one would blame such a young team for losing to a Browns team that is widely respected.

Instead, the Texans looked like anything but a young team. Led by their rookie quarterback CJ Stroud, who has played like anything but a rookie this season. Stroud was sensational against the Browns. He completed 16 of 21 passes for 274 yards and three touchdowns. As for the game against the Ravens. I expect the Ravens to come out ready to play and seize the moment. The Ravens have never had a better chance of getting to the Super Bowl



ED ZURGA • The Associated Press

The Chiefs travel to Buffalo to take on the Bills in what will be a rematch of the epic Divisional Round matchup between these two teams in the 2021-22 season. It is also Patrick Mahomes' first road playoff game.

in the Lamar Jackson era. While Stroud was able to have success against the Browns' defense, it was at home. I don't expect him to have

that type of success on the road. I also don't envision the Texans' defense being able to stop the soon to be MVP.

San Francisco 49ers defeat Green Bay Packers

Speaking of a young team and quarterback playing like absolute

worldbeaters in the Wild Card round, I introduce you to the Packers. Despite how awful the Dallas Cowboys were, Matt LaFleur and the Packers deserve so much credit for what they pulled off. To go on the road as the seven seed, and completely dominate was extremely impressive. Jordan Love in his first playoff game, completed 16 of 21 passes, for 272 yards and three touchdowns.

Heading into their matchup with the 49ers, I don't expect the Packers to be scared. However, unlike the Cowboys, the 49ers are a serious team. Kyle Shanahan won't allow his team to come out unfocused. Shanahan will also be the one to completely humiliate the opposing defensive coordinator. I expect a comfortable 49ers win.

Detroit Lions defeat Tampa Bay Buccaneers

I'm calling this game the "Wholesome Bowl". Just incredible feel good stories on both teams. For the Lions, they got their first playoff win in 32 years against the Los Angeles Rams. After having their best season in decades, it would have been cruel to Lions fans had they lost to Matthew Stafford. Their new hero, Jared Goff, came through and played well with the weight of the world on his shoulders. As for the *full story on our website* ►

# Champions League Group stage unfolded

By AHMED HASSAN  
Staff Writer

Group E

Atletico Madrid dominated Group E winning four games and drawing two being led by Antoine Griezmann scoring five.

Atletico Madrid looked strong throughout the group stages, and there was never a doubt or feeling that they wouldn't top the group. If they continue what they did during the group stages, and Griezmann keeps playing at the level he is, then they are some serious contenders to win it all.

Lazio has been very notable so far during this campaign getting second in the group. Lazio is a big team among the lower-level tiers of football clubs which unfortunately does not make them heavy favorites to make a run, but this is the Champions League for a reason which means anything can happen.

Group F

The group of death of this year's Champions League once again did not disappoint.

The group of death this year featured Dortmund, PSG, Milan and Newcastle United.

Every single game this year was nothing short of incredible with every single team having something to prove, and every game carrying a heavy weight.

Dortmund was first in the group this year, and they earned it. Dortmund was able to gain a result against every team this campaign with 3 wins propelling them to lead the group along with drawing against PSG on the final matchday.



MARTIN MEISSNER • The Associated Press

The Champions League returns February 13 for the knockout stage of the competition.

Dortmund's big test will be if they can sustain their form, and begin to find their identity more to make a serious run in the knockout stages.

PSG in my eyes was extremely lucky to be able to move on to the knockout stages as they were only able to get two wins against Dortmund and Milan, but still did not look impressive at all. One of the biggest controversies of the group stages this year would be PSG's

controversial last-minute penalty against Milan to salvage a point and draw.

PSG would end up getting second in the group thanks to the goal differential against Milan. PSG cannot sustain having Kylian Mbappe carry this team every game day as I do not see them making a run in this year's campaign unless Mbappe turns on another gear, and PSG can play at a level that they are simply not capable of.

Milan's run this year can be compared to PSG's in the sense of disappointing results but differ when it comes to their luck. Milan has a great core and a great team with rising stars like Pulisic, Leao and Hernandez.

They were simply not consistent enough, and when it comes to the group of death you must take everything you can get.

Newcastle United was one of my favorite teams in this year's

campaign as it was their first time back in the Champions League in 20 years. The atmosphere at St. James' Park was electric, and Newcastle started its campaign off with a loud 4-0 bashing of PSG at home.

They started slowly and lost back-to-back games against Dortmund.

Newcastle's match against PSG could be regarded as one of the worst officiated, and they were robbed of an away win against PSG due to a penalty. This game could have changed the tide for them, and maybe took them to the knockout stages.

Newcastle was a win away from making the knockout stages, but fell to Milan on the final matchday because of an inability to finish chances. Football is a cruel game and, hopefully, this isn't the last we see of Newcastle in the Champions League.

Group G

Group G would go as expected with Manchester City and Leipzig dominating the group and making it to the knockout stages.

The defending champions Manchester City did what they do best. They won every single game, and again looked like they were on a mission to win the Champions League for the second time in a row.

Leipzig showed everyone what they should expect out of this young and exciting squad, they won the games they were supposed to and lost only against City. I'm excited to see what this squad can do, as they've proven before that they're capable of making some noi *full story on our website* ►



# VARIETY

## Open Access Exhibition: accessible to all

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN  
Variety Editor

Minnesota State opened its CSU Gallery doors to the Open Access Exhibition Monday, a gallery dedicated to displaying original pieces from artists, non-artists, and anyone in between.

For the second year, the Registered Student Organization or RSO Future Art Teachers sponsored the exhibit located in the lower level of the CSU until Feb. 2.

"I feel like the community that it brings, and the non-hierarchical aspect of it, is how I feel art should be," said Gina Wegner, chair of the department of Art and Design. "It's something that I'm really happy to feel supported by all of our faculty and staff in doing this; having a show that is truly open."

The Open Access Exhibition features an array of different paintings, sketches, sculptures, collages and more without any distinguished theme to welcome any member of the Mankato community's contribution.

"I think it represents our school in a really collaborative way, which is pretty cool because it's giving anybody an opportunity to show their work," first-year MSU graduate student Amanda Jordan said.

Jordan, who specializes in painting, drawing, and installation work, is pursuing a master's degree after finishing a bachelor's degree in art education. She submitted a small study piece completed at the beginning of her first post-graduate semester to the gallery.



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

The Open Access Exhibition accepts submissions from anyone within the Mankato community, ranging from MSU students, faculty, local highschoolers, and more.

"I feel like, with art shows, you gain a lot of confidence in showing your work," Jordan said. "Some

people are very private about their work, so kind of pushing everybody to put their artwork out there

for others to enjoy is really important."

With submissions ranging

from MSU students, faculty and local highschoolers, exhibit spon-

OPEN on page 11▶

## Polymer clay shapes bonds inside the Women's Center

By ANAHI ZUNIGA  
Staff Writer

The Women's Center has resumed its popular Wednesday Crafternoons craft sessions.

This week introduced the use of polymer clay — a substance made of polymer polyvinyl chloride that isn't actually— where Minnesota State students came in to create and sculpt clay-like objects. Once completed, the polymer clay creations were to be baked and returned to students as souvenirs.

Senior Piage Norberg and sophomore Abby Degroot were head volunteers of this week's crafternoons. Degroot said the idea is to let students bring out their individual creativity.

"We try not to really stop people on what they can make. We give them the tools to make it, such as clay, and we tell them just kind of go wild, whatever they'd like to make," she said. "And then you can really see people getting excited about it. We have some molds that they can shape things with or just really trying to make anything that their imagination can think of."



NATE TILAHUN • The Reporter

The Women's Center holds the weekly event, "Crafternoons," every Wednesday. This week's craft involved polymer clay.

The center's goal is to bring people together and, through the art of crafting, participants can have

conversations between each other as a way to connect and spread the message of empowerment. Others

use crafting as a way to take a break from their academic studies.

"Conversations can lead off

once different people start coming. I feel like crafts are one of those things that bring a lot of people together of any background because a lot of people enjoy doing them. So then you get to meet new people, see their side of the story and get to have really nice conversations too while you're here," DeGroot said.

"I think it brings a lot of people that are just interested in making the craft and then they come back for the other craft week after week," Norberg said.

Both Norberg and DeGroot shared a few ideas on what crafts they would like to see or bring back again in the next few Crafternoons in the spring semester for students.

"I personally love embroidery. I know quite a few people liked it because then you really just get to do whatever you want," DeGroot said.

Norberg revealed the possibility of having a teaching Crafternoon where a special guest would come in and teach the craft to MSU students.

"We've done all the ones that we want to do. We just do or we modify a little bit so we are able to do

POLYMER on page 11▶



# MSU introduces first ever Maverick Furry Club



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

The Maverick Furry Club held its first event in the LGBT Center Monday afternoon, featuring an evening of art making.

By ELLIE MESCHKE  
Staff Writer

A brand new club has arrived this semester.

Mankato's newest student organization, the Maverick Furry Club, had its first event Monday in the Minnesota State's LGBT Center in CSU 194, in which attendees gathered together to create art.

Furries are people who have an interest in anthropomorphized animals. This can range from being a fan of Pokemon or Sonic the Hedgehog to creating an animal persona called a "fursona." The furry community often holds

conventions in which attendees can buy art, meet others in their community and more. As with every community, it's crucial to find and/or create a safe space for members to express themselves and meet others in the community.

E Cummings, the president of the club, said "It's called the Furry Club, so just ... fur people that are part of the community are interested in that kind of community, just to hang around because there's not much here for that in Mankato. There's a lot of stuff that goes on in the cities, but it can be

scary to go there alone, especially when you don't know anyone. So it's like 'Hey, we should have something here.'"

They also said, "I know that there's a lot of people that are part of the community, but there's no real organization for having group things to do."

"If you want to join, join, just be respectful. That's the main criteria. It's open for everyone, just mainly for students."

The Maverick Furry Club meets every Monday at the LGBT Center from 6-7, everyone is welcome.

## ◀OPEN from page 11

suri, a festival in March celebrating girls, or daughters in a family.

"The two that I made out of paper are specifically the ones that we own that were passed down from my grandma, to my mom, and will soon be passed down to my sister," Laidlaw said.

His creation took two and a half months to complete between daily art classes, combining materials such as paper, tape, paint, paint pens, cardboard and nail polish.

"I just wanted to try to capture that memory I've had of this piece of culture," Laidlaw said.

The Open Access Exhibition gives the Mankato community the opportunity to explore art as a hobby, as a career and as a passion.

"This is the purpose. This is giving an outlet, letting people find their voice," Wegner said. "Whether it is a hobby, whether it is a way of life, whether it is a chance to find the right voice in the creative community where

something. So that'd be nice to do like a painting class."

Next week's Crafternoon will be embroidery and will be from 1-2:30 pm in the Women's Center

CSU 218. For more Crafternoon updates and information, visit [www.mnsu.edu/womenscenter](http://www.mnsu.edu/womenscenter) or stop by the center.

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## Ava DuVernay and Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor seek the roots of racism



DAMIAN DOVARGANES • The Reporter

Actor Aunjaune Ellis, left, and director Ava DuVernay pose for a portrait to promote the film "Origin" on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

By JAKE COYLE  
The Associated Press

Ava DuVernay kept hearing she had to read "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents." She had Isabel Wilkerson's book in galleys before it was published in 2020. Oprah Winfrey kept telling her to read it. But she put it off. It seemed an imposing read. Copies kept proliferating in her home.

"At one point, a high-profile director said to me, 'I heard you got the book,'" DuVernay says. "And I was like, 'Yeah, I got a couple copies.' He said, 'No, I heard you're doing it.' I said, 'As in doing a movie?' So I said I better read this."

But even once she cracked Wilkerson's book open, it took DuVernay a few reads before it really sunk in. "Caste," a best-seller released shortly before the death of George Floyd, reframed American racism through historical stratifications of caste. "Race, in the United States, is the visible agent of the unseen force of caste," wrote Wilkerson. "Caste is the bones, race the skin."

For DuVernay, whose films ("The 13th," "Selma") have illuminated American history with rigor and passion, the thesis of "Caste" was eye-opening.

"I was so wrapped up with the idea of race as a Black woman. That was the lens through which I see myself and the world sees me," says DuVernay. "That's what I thought."

"Origin," DuVernay's new film, isn't a direct adaptation of Wilkerson's book. DuVernay, who wrote the script, centers it on Wilkerson (Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor), following the author while she researches the book and navigates her own personal joys and tragedies. The film takes a heavy-weight work of historical and sociological inquiry and transforms it into a deeply humanistic drama and a globe-trotting detective story.

"She's Indiana Jones. She's going around the world in search of the holy grail," says Ellis-Taylor. "She's on this process of discovery and then in the middle of that worldwide hunt, she loses, and her loss is immeasurable. But she's still searching. That is a hero. That is a cinematic hero."

DuVernay and Ellis met for an interview last month in the downtown offices of Neon, which

is releasing "Origin" theatrically Friday. They had only just begun talking about their still-fresh experience making the film. Ellis-Taylor hadn't yet seen it and wasn't sure she was going to. "It was so personal for me," she said. "I don't want to share it with anybody yet." Some have overlooked "Origin" since its Venice Film Festival debut. DuVernay has lamented Ellis-Taylor's absence thus far from the pomp of award season. But underestimating "Origin" would be a mistake. The film, which made numerous 10 lists including this critic's, is audaciously original in how it fuses big ideas with emotional warmth.

If "Caste" sought to describe some of the man-made hierarchies that repeat throughout history, "Origin" — which DuVernay and her producing partner, Paul Garnes, gathered financing for independently — is itself a work that boldly and beautifully transcends conventional Hollywood limitations.

DuVernay and Garnes raised \$38 million with the help of philanthropists — including the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation — many of whom had little Hollywood experience but believed in the movie. Melinda Gates is a producer. NBA stars like Chris Paul invested.

"We are in an industry and a society where everything has a label. If there's a Black woman director and a Black woman lead, it has to be about things they care about," DuVernay says. "My hope is that we can somehow break caste."

"Origin" opens with a dramatic recreation of the shooting of Trayvon Martin and later dips into historical vignettes including Nazi Germany, Jim Crow-era Mississippi and the experience of the Dalits in India. It steps into stories from history while capturing Wilkerson's life with her husband (Jon Bernthal) and mother (Emily Yancy) — intimate dramas that touchingly counter and clarify some of the social structures Wilkerson traces while seeking the roots of racism.


"I wanted something where her intimate personal journey ran alongside, mirrored, challenged and actually complemented this huge universal truth," DuVernay says.





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