

## MSU celebrates annual Diversity Dinner

By AMALIA SHARAF  
Staff Writer

The Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hosted its 51st Annual Diversity Dinner on Friday where faculty, students and staff celebrated Minnesota State's diverse population.

Vice President for DEI Henry Morris said the dinners were started by his predecessor, Michael T. Fagin, when the population on campus was less diverse than today. When the first dinner was hosted, the university's population of international students may have been about 1% and domestic students of color may have comprised about 2%.

"It was a way to highlight, let the university community know what's happening with diversity in the region, what's happening with diversity at Minnesota State," said Morris. "Today, we want to celebrate our champions in diversity because there's still a lot of pushback in the nation and the state about people questioning the need for equity, diversity and inclusion."

After Morris gave an introductory speech to attendees, President Edward Inch opened the event by recognizing the work of the DEI and reminded about the main goals of Equity 2030.



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

The Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hosted its 51st Annual Diversity Dinner on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024 at the CSU Ballroom.

"One is to make sure that every student that crosses our threshold and seeks education here will have an education that is equitable and will help spring them to suc-

cess along the pathway that they choose," said Inch.

Attendees had indigenous food prepared by guest chef Kim Brave Heart.

"It is crucial to pause and reflect on the roots of the culinary heritage, our connection to the land and the soil beneath our feet," said Brave Heart. "Indigenous com-

munities have developed a deep understanding of our local ecosystems, harnessing the richness of our native ingredients to create dishes that are not only delicious but viewed centuries of wisdom and tradition."

Students from different backgrounds played music, danced and gave speeches during the event. One of the performances was a dance by the dance community Mexico Lindo.

"I'm here to represent Mexico Lindo, a dance community from the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Minneapolis, a group of children, youth and adults dedicated to maintaining the folklore dances of Mexico," said freshman Kendra Hernandez.

The keynote speaker for the event was Bukata Hayes, a vice president and chief equity officer at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. Hayes talked about addressing racism and its impact on health and invoked attendees to be proactive in solving issues in the community.

"I would say when we are courageous enough to continue to stand and speak to and declare our ideals," said Hayes. "It provides a vacuum of source for someone to then say what we should not be able to enter a counter-narrative."

DIVERSITY on page 2

## Kentucky Senate limits diversity and equity

By BRUCE SCHREINER  
The Associated Press

Kentucky lawmakers plunged Thursday into the contentious issue of diversity, equity and inclusion efforts on college campuses as a GOP-led Senate panel advanced a bill over objections from Democrats.

The bill — introduced on the opening day of the legislative session — received its first committee hearing more than a month later, as lawmakers approach the halfway point of the 60-day session. Supporters say it's a needed response to what they see as discriminatory trends in higher education. Opponents say the measure could hurt efforts to expand the presence of underrepresented groups on campuses.

The measure won approval from the Senate Education Committee to advance to the full Senate, where Republicans hold an overwhelming majority.

Republican Sen. Mike Wilson, the bill's lead sponsor, said lawmakers are justified in delving into the issues because of their primary role in determining how state funds are spent in education.

"We need to ensure that those funds are promoting educational



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY • The Associated Press

Exterior photo of the Kentucky State Capitol in Frankfort, Ky., Wednesday, April 7, 2021. Kentucky lawmakers on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024.

excellence and rigor to help our students ... succeed in this 21st century, intellectual economy and not trendy, divisive, ivory tower theo-

ries," he said. Democratic Sen. Reginald Thomas countered that there's a misunderstanding of diversity, eq-

uity and inclusion efforts on campuses. He said those initiatives are working to create broader opportunities that include underrepre-

sented groups of people.

"The fundamental notion of DEI programs is that everybody should be included, that all people belong in the college setting," Thomas said in opposing the measure. "And that we only grow ... as a nation when we all participate in the process. That we do learn from each other, in all sorts of ways."

Similar debates are ongoing in other statehouses around the country.

Already this year, GOP lawmakers in at least 17 states have proposed some three dozen bills to restrict or require public disclosure of DEI initiatives, according to an Associated Press analysis using the bill-tracking software Plural.

Wilson told the committee that he filed the bill on behalf of students and faculty at risk of having their free-speech rights violated amid a "stifling, politically correct academic atmosphere."

Among other things, the measure would bar public colleges and universities from providing preferential treatment based on a person's political ideology.

It would bar the schools from requiring people to state specific ideologies or beliefs when seeking admission, employment, or promotions.

# Poland, France and Germany vow to create a Europe stronger



EBRAHIM NOROOZI • The Associated Press

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, right, and Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk attend a press conference in Berlin, Germany, Monday, Feb. 12, 2024.

By SYLVIE COBERT  
The Associated Press

The governments of Poland, France and Germany vowed Monday to make Europe a security and defense power with a greater ability to back Ukraine, amid concerns that former U.S. President Donald Trump might return to the White House and allow Russia to expand its aggression on the continent.

The foreign ministers of the three countries met in the Paris suburb of La Celle-Saint-Cloud to have talks about Ukraine, amid other issues. They discussed reviving the so-called Weimar Triangle, a long dormant regional grouping that was designed to promote cooperation between France, Germany and Poland.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who met with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin on Monday, said he wanted to "revitalize" his nation's relations with its key European partners.

"There is no reason why we should be so clearly militarily weaker than Russia, and therefore increasing production and intensifying our cooperation are absolutely indisputable priorities," Tusk said in arguing for the European Union to become "a military power" in its own right.

The diplomatic push came after Trump shocked many in Europe over the weekend by appearing to invite Russia to invade any NATO member not spending enough on its own defense.

"You didn't pay? You're delinquent?" Trump recounted

telling an unidentified NATO member during his presidency. "No, I would not protect you. In fact, I would encourage them to do whatever the hell they want. You gotta pay. You gotta pay your bills."

The Republican front-runner's words at a campaign rally were particularly shocking for front-line NATO countries like Poland, which experienced both German and Soviet occupation during World War II and later spent decades under Soviet control. Anxieties run high there over the ongoing war just across Poland's eastern border.

Speaking alongside Tusk in Berlin, Scholz blasted Trump's comments.

"NATO's promise of protection is unrestricted -- all for one and one for all," Scholz said without mentioning the former president by name. "And let me say clearly for current reasons: Any relativization of NATO's support guarantee is irresponsible and dangerous, and is in the interest of Russia alone."

"No one can play, or 'deal' with Europe's security," the chancellor added.

Earlier Monday, Scholz inaugurated a new ammunition factory, underlining Europe's efforts to ramp up weapons production.

Tusk also urged European nations to invest more in military projects in order "to achieve as quickly as possible... in the next dozen or so months, much greater air defense capabilities, much greater production capabilities in terms of ammunition."

Asked about Trump's remarks,

Tusk said they "should act like a cold shower for all those who continue to underestimate this increasingly real threat which Europe is facing."

Macron, speaking alongside Tusk in Paris, said Europe's will "to further supply and meet Ukrainian needs is crucial," after leaders of the 27 EU member nations sealed a deal to provide Ukraine with 50 billion euros (\$54 billion) in support for its war-ravaged economy.

This "will enable us to make from Europe a security and defense power that is both complementary to NATO and a pillar of the Atlantic alliance, Macron said.

Trump's remarks raised concerns that if reelected, he could embolden Russia to attack other countries besides Ukraine. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg issued a statement Sunday saying that Trump's remarks put American troops and their allies at greater risk.

NATO does not require its 31 members to pay bills, but they are expected to invest a certain percentage of their own budgets — ideally, 2% of their gross domestic product — on defense.

Some countries, like Poland, have long met the target. Other European nations ramped up their military spending after Russia invaded Ukraine almost two years ago. Speaking in Rome, Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani dismissed Trump's threat as "electoral campaign joke," but said it was legitimate for all NATO members to do their part. Italy hasn't yet reached the 2% GDP defense spending target.

in our country."

Attendees enjoyed seeing the diversity and feeling included.

"As a person who belongs to multiple minority groups, I felt like I was seen," said senior Sachita Pokhrel. "I felt like I was included, which doesn't happen a lot when you're in a foreign country."

## Rio Carnival parade makes plea to stop illegal mining



SILVIA IZQUIERDO • The Associated Press

A performer from the Salgueiro samba school parades during Carnival celebrations at the Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday, Feb. 12, 2024.

By DIANE JEANTET and  
FABIANO MAISONNAVE  
The Associated Press

Carnival dancers have taken the biggest stage in Rio de Janeiro to pay tribute to Brazil's largest Indigenous group and pressure President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to deliver on promises to eradicate illegal mining.

Carnival has long been a platform for samba schools to protest. Percussionists had "Miners out" written across the skins of their drums as participants marched through the Sambadrome on Sunday evening, delivering their message to more than 70,000 revelers and millions watching live on television.

"The chance that's left for us is an Indigenous Brazil," they said as part of Salgueiro's samba school's tribute to the Yanomami — one year after Lula declared a public health emergency for the group in the Amazon. They suffer from malnutrition and diseases such as malaria as a consequence of illegal mining.

"Ours is a cry for help from Brazil and the world in general," said Davi Kopenawa, a Yanomami leader and shaman who advised the samba school. "My hope is that the world, upon hearing our call, will put pressure on the Brazilian government to remove all the miners, destroyers of our

mother Earth, who are soiling the water and killing fish."

Kopenawa paraded with feathered armbands and head-dress, plus a beaded necklace depicting a jaguar. Thirteen other Yanomami participated.

Sônia Guajajara, who leads the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples created in 2022 under Lula, congratulated Kopenawa and Salgueiro on Monday for their efforts recounting the group's long struggle, from colonization to more recent efforts to repeal Indigenous land rights.

Some 30,000 Yanomami live in Brazil's largest Indigenous territory, spanning more than 9 million hectares (22 million acres) in the northern Amazon rainforest.

Three weeks after assuming the presidency, Lula declared a public health emergency over the effects of illegal mining there and sent the armed forces, doctors, nurses and food. Still, over 300 Yanomami died of various causes in 2023, according to the health ministry.

Lula also created an inter-ministerial task force to fight illegal mining and in 2023, Brazil's environmental agency destroyed a record 33 aircraft found on or near Yanomami territory.

The agents also wrecked or apprehended mining barges, fuel, Starlink internet units and campsites.

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#### ◀ DIVERSITY from page 1

And I think it's important for us to continue to make those declarations plain and visible."

Hayes said we need to think about the way people build systems of inclusion.

"How do we build systems of inclusion that will last as long as

the systems of exclusion?" said Hayes. "The systems of exclusion we are currently in have lasted for centuries. If we think about how to lay the foundation, those systems of inclusion, those equitable systems we are trying to create will last as long as the systems of exclusion and inequity have lasted

## Trump asked to delay his election interference trial



MANUEL BALCE CENETA • The Associated Press

Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at a Get Out The Vote rally at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C., Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024.

By MARK SHERMAN  
The Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump is asking the Supreme Court to extend the delay in his election interference trial, saying he is immune from prosecution on charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 election loss.

His lawyers filed an emergency appeal with the court on Monday, just four days after the justices heard Trump's separate appeal to remain on the presidential ballot despite attempts to kick him off because of his efforts following his election loss in 2020.

"Without immunity from criminal prosecution, the Presidency as we know it will cease to exist," Trump's lawyers wrote, repeating arguments that have so far failed in federal courts.

The filing keeps on hold what would be a landmark criminal trial of a former president while the nation's highest court decides what to do. It met a deadline to ask the justices to intervene that the federal appeals court in Washington set when it rejected Trump's immunity claims and ruled the trial could proceed.

The Supreme Court's decision on what to do, and how quickly it acts, could determine whether the Republican presidential primary frontrunner stands trial in the case before the November.

There is no timetable for the court to act, but special counsel Jack Smith's team has strongly pushed for the trial to take place this year. Trump, meanwhile, has repeatedly sought to delay the case.

If Trump were to defeat President Joe Biden, he could potentially try to use his position as head of the executive branch to order a new attorney general to dismiss the federal cases he faces or even seek a pardon for himself.

The Supreme Court's options include rejecting the emergency appeal, which would enable U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan to restart the trial proceedings in Washington's federal court. The trial was initially scheduled to begin in early March.

The court also could extend the delay while it hears arguments on the immunity issue. In that

event, the schedule the justices set could determine how soon a trial might begin, if indeed they agree with lower court rulings that Trump is not immune from prosecution.

In December, Smith and his team had urged the justices to take up and decide the immunity issue, even before the appeals court weighed in.

"It is of imperative public importance that Respondent's claim of immunity be resolved by this Court and that Respondent's trial proceed as promptly as possible if his claim of immunity is rejected," prosecutors wrote in December.

Trump's legal team has ascribed partisan motives to the prosecution's push for a prompt trial. "Conducting a months-long criminal trial of President Trump at the height of election season will radically disrupt President Trump's ability to campaign against President Biden — which appears to be the whole point of the Special Counsel's persistent demands for expedition," the former president's lawyers wrote.

Courts should not rush into a trial because the subject of presidential immunity from criminal charges is "a novel, complex, and momentous question that warrants careful consideration on appeal," the legal team led by D. John Sauer wrote.

In their request to keep the trial on hold, Trump's lawyers indicated they would seek to stretch out the delay by also asking the full federal appeals court in Washington to weigh in. Only after that would they file a formal appeal to the Supreme Court, the lawyers wrote.

That could add weeks, if not months, before trial preparations could restart.

Now it's up to a court on which three justices, Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, were appointed by Trump when he was president. They have moved the court to the right in major decisions that overturned abortion rights, expanded gun rights and ended affirmative action in college admissions.

But the Supreme Court hasn't been especially friendly to Trump on legal matters directly concerning the former president.

## Republicans work to recruit females

By KEVIN FREKING  
The Associated Press

House Republicans are critical of diversity and inclusion programs within the federal government and elsewhere, but they see recruiting women and minority candidates, along with veterans, as key to expanding their slim majority in November.

Rep. Richard Hudson, the chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, recently listed for reporters a slew of candidates that he described as fitting the "formula" for the GOP expanding their ranks in November.

There was Prasanth Reddy, a cancer doctor who immigrated to the U.S. from India and joined the military after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He's running for a congressional seat in northeast Kansas. Then there was Alison Esposito, a gay former police detective running for a seat in New York. Another example Hudson cited was George Logan, whose parents came to the U.S. from Guatemala and is running for a seat in Connecticut. Also, there's Kevin Lincoln, an African-American and Hispanic mayor in Stockton, Calif., and Mayra Flores, who is making another run. She made history by becoming the first Mexican-born congresswoman, but she subsequently lost in the 2022 mid-terms.

"These are not run-of-the-mill generic Republicans," Hudson said.

Republicans are hoping the gains they made in the 2022 mid-term elections will continue with their latest slate of candidates. House Democrats have a sizeable advantage when it comes to minority voters and don't intend to



ADAM GRAY • The Associated Press

Mazi Pilip, center, the Republican congressional candidate for New York's 3rd district, reacts as she votes early at a polling station in Massapequa, N.Y., Friday, Feb. 9, 2024.

cede any ground, announcing a \$35 million investment last month focused on reaching out to voters of color through polling, organizing and ads. The contest to appeal to female and minority voters will certainly be one of the factors determining which party controls the House next year. Hudson noted that in the last presidential election, prognosticators were predicting that Republicans would lose seats.

"We beat 15 Democrats and every one of those we beat with a woman, a minority candidate or a veteran," Hudson said. "That's really been the playbook for the last two cycles. And so we're using that same formula."

When asked what she makes of the House Republican focus on recruiting females and minorities, the chair of the campaign arm for House Democrats was skeptical.

"I think they say a lot of things, but I think their actions really are what folks should look at," said

Rep. Suzan DelBene, the chair of the campaign arm for House Democrats. "And their actions have been the opposite. They mock diversity and equity, and they put forward policies that go against diverse communities across the county."

DelBene is referring in part to the scores of policy mandates that House Republicans have included in spending bills. Most of the bills sought to prohibit taxpayer dollars from going to offices and programs related to diversity, equity and inclusion, which focus on ensuring fair treatment and participation of all people, especially those that have been subject to discrimination. It's not just House Republicans seeking to end such programs. Republican lawmakers in at least 17 states have proposed some three dozen bills to restrict or require public disclosure of DEI initiatives, according to an Associated Press analysis using the bill-tracking software Plural.

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## Why you should utilize professors

How many of us actually know who our professors are as people? Most of us follow the same routine of heading straight for the door as soon as class is dismissed.

Apart from answering the attendance call or answering the odd question here and there, we may not even have that many interactions with certain professors.

We as students should get into the habit of maximizing what our professors have to offer.

Apart from the knowledge professors give us through lectures or whatever way they teach something in class, there are plenty of benefits students can get from talking to our professors outside of the class period and striking up a relationship with them.

First, there is only a limited amount of time they are realistically going to be able to give us if we try to bombard them with a whole bunch of questions during class.

They have things such as lesson plans, a course schedule and other students that they have to worry about.

Instead, consider coming to class a little early, or staying afterward assuming they don't have a class to rush to after that one ends. This is where professors don't have to worry about holding up class time and can answer questions and comments.

Students engaging with them, and for example coming up to them with comments about what they think about a certain topic that was discussed in class, is a great indicator that students are engaged with what is being taught.

In these conversations, we can ask questions and talk about things that we may not be as comfortable saying in front of our classmates.

Another avenue students can take is by showing up to professors' office hours.

In this scenario, students get all the benefits of talking to professors before or after class, but get the benefit of the professor having your undivided attention of the student.

It also signals that the student is committed to getting the information that they need.

Getting to know our professors on a personal level also helps us with opportunities that we may want to pursue outside of the class that they may be teaching.

If a professor knows that a student has an interest in a particular thing, then they will be inclined to let you know about it or put in a good word for said student.

# Perspectives

## Step aside, responsibilities, I'm doing self-care



Courtesy of Emma Johnson

The self-care craze over the past few years has grown exponentially thanks partly to social media making it a popular trend. The ideas of #SelfCareSundays and lavish days of lounging around in robes at spas grace social media timelines with a sense of elegance and grace. As someone who has never shied away from buying a load of beauty masks at Target, I didn't realize how important self-care was until last summer.

One of the factors that can contribute to anxiety is stress. Toward the end of my sophomore year, I was overwhelmed with the idea of starting a new role at The Reporter, a summer internship and finishing up finals. I was not only trying to accomplish all that was on my to-do list but my mind was additionally occupied with thoughts of all I'd have to get done in a few months. I wasn't setting aside



Emma Johnson  
Editor In Chief

time for myself. I was putting other responsibilities before myself.

When people think about self-care, they think about setting aside hours and hours to pamper themselves, but it doesn't have to be that long. My therapist said even setting aside five to 15 minutes each day to focus on myself can be just as beneficial as setting aside a whole day. What matters most when doing self-care is catering to what you want to do and temporarily forgetting your troubles.

There are many ways to

indulge in self-care. Like the different types of love languages, what works for one person might not work for another. I love to kick back with a good book, a soothing beauty mask and lighting a scented candle. Each morning, I'll do a yoga session or meditate for 15 minutes. My self-care changes daily, but for some, having a consistent routine is key.

Another common misconception regarding self-care is it has to be physical materials. While a 19-step skincare routine or a few hours of retail therapy can be great for some people, it's most likely not in a student's budget to spend money all the time. Sometimes self-care can mean going to bed at an earlier time and improving your diet. Others prefer hitting the gym to work their problems out. Even going for a simple walk around the block can do

COLUMN on page 5▶

# Pulse

### "What is the hardest class you've taken??"

Compiled by Davis Jensen



ELIZABETH ALBENESIUS,  
SOPHOMORE

"Astronomy."



ELLA HALPERN,  
JUNIOR

"Human Physiology."



GARMUNEE PHILLIPS,  
JUNIOR

"AP Micro Economics."



KLARA LYBECK,  
FRESHMAN

"Econ."



LANDON HUDSON,  
SOPHOMORE

"8th grade algebra."



TYSON SHANNON,  
SOPHOMORE

"Calculus."

# Israeli forces rescue 2 hostages in Gaza raid that killed 67 Palestinians

By NAJIB JOBAIN,  
JOSEF FEDERMAN and  
SAM Y MAGDY  
The Associated Press

Israeli forces rescued two hostages early Monday, storming a heavily guarded apartment in a densely packed town in the Gaza Strip as airstrikes carried out to cover the raid killed more than 60 Palestinians, including women and children.

The rescue in Rafah briefly lifted the spirits of Israelis shaken by the plight of the dozens of hostages held by Hamas. The nation is still reeling from the militant group's cross-border raid last year that started the war.

The overnight bombardment brought devastation in Rafah, which is packed with some 1.4 million people, most of whom fled their homes elsewhere in Gaza to escape fighting. Associated Press footage showed a large area of flattened houses, tattered tents and lines of bloodied bodies brought into nearby hospitals.

Israel's offensive has killed more than 28,000 Palestinians in the territory, displaced over 80% of the population and set off a massive humanitarian crisis.

More than 12,300 Palestinian children and young teens have been killed in the conflict, Gaza's Health Ministry said Monday. About 8,400 women were also among those killed. That means children and young teens make up about 43% of the dead, and women and minors together make up three quarters.

The ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians, provided the breakdown at the request of the AP. Israel claims to have killed about 10,000 Hamas fighters but has not provided evidence.

In Hamas' cross-border raid on Oct. 7, an estimated 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed, and militants took 250 people captive, according to Israeli authorities.

Israel has described Rafah as the last remaining Hamas stronghold in the territory and signaled that its ground offensive may soon target the town on the southern edge of the Gaza Strip.

Israel says about 100 hostages remain in Hamas captivity after dozens were freed during a ceasefire in November. Hamas also holds the remains of roughly 30 others who were either killed on Oct. 7 or died in captivity.

The government has made freeing the hostages a top aim of its war, along with destroying Hamas' military and governing



HATEM ALI • The Associated Press

Palestinians mourn a child killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip at a hospital morgue in Rafah, Monday, Feb. 12, 2024.

capabilities. But as the fighting drags on, rifts have emerged in Israel over how to retrieve them.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says persistent military pressure will bring about the captives' freedom even as families of the hostages and many of their supporters have called on the government to make another deal with Hamas.

### A DRAMATIC RAID

Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said special forces broke into a second-floor apartment in Rafah under fire at 1:49 a.m. Monday, accompanied a minute later by airstrikes on surrounding areas. He said Hamas militants were guarding the captives and that members of the rescue team shielded the hostages with their bodies as the battle erupted.

The army identified those rescued as Fernando Simon Marman, 60, and Louis Har, 70, who were abducted from Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak on Oct. 7. They also hold Argentinian citizenship. They are among just three hostages to be rescued; a female soldier was rescued in November.

The rescue, which Hagari said was based on precise intelligence and planned for some time, is a morale booster for Israelis but a small step toward winning the release of the remaining hostages, who are believed to be spread out and hidden in tunnels.

Har's son-in-law, Idan Begerano, who saw the released captives at the hospital where they were airlifted, said the two men were thin and pale, but communicating well and aware of their surroundings.

Begerano said Har told him immediately upon seeing him: "You have a birthday today, mazal

tov." The men held long, tearful embraces with their relatives at the hospital, according to video released by Netanyahu's office.

### DOZENS KILLED IN STRIKES

The airstrikes hit jam-packed Rafah in the middle of the night, and dozens of explosions could be heard around 2 a.m. Ashraf al-Qidra, spokesman for the Health Ministry, said at least 67 people, including women and children, were killed in the strikes.

Al-Qidra said rescuers were still searching the rubble. An Associated Press journalist counted at least 50 bodies at the Abu Youssef al-Najjar Hospital in Rafah.

Mohamed Zoghroub, a Palestinian living in Rafah, said he saw a black jeep speeding through the town followed by clashes and heavy airstrikes.

"We found ourselves running with our children, from the airstrikes, in every direction," he said, speaking from an area flattened by the bombardment.

Footage circulating on social media from Rafah's Kuwaiti hospital showed dead or wounded children.

The footage could not immediately be verified but was consistent with AP reporting.

A young man could be seen carrying the body of an infant who he said was killed in the attacks. He said the girl, the daughter of his neighbor, was born and killed during the war.

"Let Netanyahu come and see: Is this one of your designated targets?" he said.

### CONCERNS ABOUT RAFAH

Netanyahu has said sending ground troops into Rafah is essential to meeting Israel's war goals.

# A shooter opened fire in a Houston church



KTRK-TV ABC13 via AP

Authorities respond to a shooting at Lakewood Church, the Houston mega-church of celebrity pastor Joel Osteen, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024.

By JIM VERTUNO  
The Associated Press

The weekend shooting at Joel Osteen's megachurch in Houston is not the first time gunfire has caused panic and tragedy at a Texas house of worship.

It also underscored the ease of bringing weapons into sanctuaries in a state with few limits on gun possession, as well as a growing effort by some churches to provide armed security, either through volunteers or paid off-duty officers.

The shooting Sunday at Lakewood Church ended when two off-duty officers, who were working security, returned fire on a shooter who police say entered the building with a long rifle and a backpack. A 5-year-old who accompanied her into the church was also shot and critically injured, authorities said.

Here is a look at shootings at other places of worship in Texas and the laws surrounding firearms:

### 2017: SUTHERLAND SPRINGS

In November 2017, a gunman killed 26 people, including eight children, and wounded 20 more at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs. The gunman later died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound after being shot and chased by two men who heard the gunfire at the church.

### 2019: WHITE SETTLEMENT

In December 2019, a man pulled out a shotgun during a service at West Freeway Church of Christ in White Settlement and killed two worshippers, before he was shot and killed by two congregants who were part of a volunteer security team.

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### ◀COLUMN from page 4 wonders.

Connecting with others can be a helpful form of self-care as well. Talking with family, friends or people we trust can take a lot of stress away. Spending quality time with them can also help take your mind off of whatever is going on. If talking

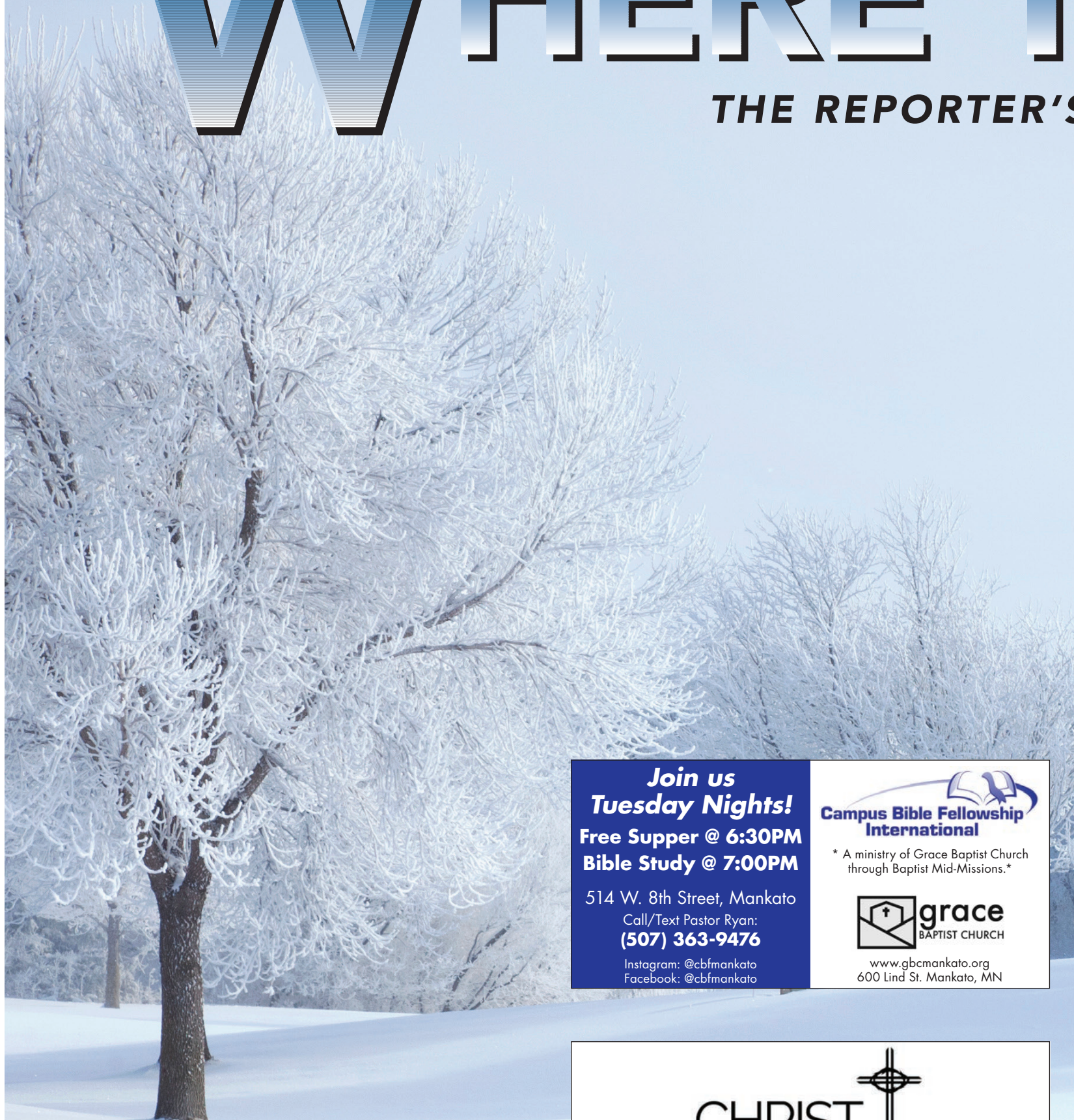
with other people isn't something you're comfortable with, journaling or writing down what you're grateful for can help put your thoughts to paper and help you figure out how to solve some of your problems.

We're all busy students and it can be easy to neglect ourselves

for other projects we deem more important. I'm still learning how to take time out of my day and have started scheduling certain times of day to dedicate to myself. A little self-care can go a long way, so set aside work and take time for yourself. You deserve it.

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# SPORTS

## Men's hockey on top of the CCHA

By AHMED HASSAN  
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State men's hockey team is back on top of the CCHA standings after a series split with Michigan Tech in the Winter Carnival Series with Sam Morton cementing his place in the history books.

The Mavericks now sit one point above St. Thomas in the conference after the Tommies dropped points and were swept by Bemidji state. But the Tommies have two games in hand over MSU.

The Michigan Tech Huskies handed MSU a 3-1 loss Friday, but the Mavericks responded with a 4-2 win Saturday.

Hobey Baker Award nominee Sam Morton notched his 20th goal of the season — his 40th career goal.

Morton leads the CCHA in goals, and yet again showed that when he's firing on all cylinders the Mavs are a force to be reckoned with.

The Mavericks have won 12 of 17 games that Morton has scored in.

The Mavs yet again showed their consistency and resilience in responding to losses proving why the Mavs have not been swept since November.



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

After a weekend series split with Michigan Tech in the Winter Carnival Series, the Minnesota State men's hockey team sees themselves sit on top of the CCHA.

On Friday the Huskies scored in the first minute. The Mavs found an equalizer, but the Huskies ran away with the win after a goal in the second period and a monster

performance from goaltender Blake Pietila.

The Huskies blocked 20 shots, and Pietila made 31 saves holding the Mavs to one goal on six power

plays.

The Mavs' struggle to finish their chances was shown yet again "losing in winning moments" said Head Coach of the Mavericks Luke

Strand described.

"We lost during winning moments. Races, net fronts, second efforts, power plays. Tech played to their identity and we didn't in the critical spots. We need to finish our opportunities in game two tomorrow night."

The Mavs were determined to not get swept by the Huskies yet again, and were able to do so figuring it out as they've done throughout the season.

When the Mavericks have all played to their ability, it resulted in wins which was the highlight for them on Saturday.

Brian Carrabes opened up the scoring for the Mavs with his seventh of the season marking his great recent run of form. It was his second goal in his last three games.

Rookie-of-the-year nominee Evan Murr dished out his 16th and 17th assists of the year, which is tied for second in the CCHA.

Alex Tracy continued his solid form stopping 26 shots. The Mavs defense blocked 15 shots in the final frame to hold the Huskies scoreless. Kaden Bohlsen added an empty netter for the cherry on top and his 11th goal of the season.

"I am happy for our guys to answer the challenge on the road," said head coach Luke Strand. "Now

**HOCKEY on page 10►**

## Women's basketball beat huskies thanks to 29-0 run

By MOHAMED WARSAME  
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State women's basketball team crushed Wayne State College 101-57 Friday.

The win improved their record to 20-4 and extended their winning-streak to 18 games.

Mavs forward Ava Stier opened the scoring with a layup. An Emily Herzberg three-pointer gave the Mavs a 7-2 lead with 8:13 remaining in the first quarter. With 5:37 left in the quarter, a pair of free throws by Maya Fitzpatrick to cut the Mavs' lead to 13-7 would be the last points the Wildcats would score for ages.

The Mavericks proceeded to go on a 29-0 run during the rest of the first quarter and partly into the second quarter. The Mavs shot 12-21 from the field during that stretch, and went three for five from three-point range.

Natalie Bremer led the Mavs in scoring during their dominant run with eight points. Joey Batt and Mackenzie Schweim each contributed with six points during that stretch, while Destinee Bursch scored five.

Wildcats forward Britney Ho was finally able to get Wayne State back to scoring with a layup to get the score to 42-9.

MSU's Taylor Theusch saw her first minutes of the season in the second quarter after missing 23



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Mavs' 29-0 run that started in the first quarter and went into the second, helped them score 60 points in a half for the first time since Nov. 2022.

games due to injury and scored on her first attempt from the field.

"Seeing Taylor make her debut was honestly something special. She is such an important part of this team, and has such dedication. Seeing her push every day to get back to where she can step onto

the court during a game was so impressive and very special," Bremer said.

Schweim hit a three-pointer with 11 seconds left in the half, and the Mavs went into halftime with a 61-21 lead.

In the first half, the Mavs shot

66% from the field, went six for 10 from three-point range and went five for six from the free throw line.

Their 61-point half against Wayne State is the fourth time they've scored 60 points in a half since 2007. The last time the Mavs scored 60 points in a half was in

Nov. 2022, when they scored 66 points against Bethany Lutheran.

The third quarter started with a quick 6-0 Mav run thanks to Bursch, including two layups off of Wildcat turnovers. Hannah Herzig made two layups to put the Mavs up 73-29 with 3:31 left in the quarter. The quarter ended with the Mavs up 81-34.

MSU's Bailey Conrad hit a three-pointer to give the Mavs a 90-40 lead with just over six minutes left in the game. Schweim hit a three of her own late in the game to add the final touches to a dominant wire-to-wire performance by the Mavs.

Focusing on what they do and not getting complacent was part of the mentality for the team during their massive run.

"During the 29-0 run, we knew that we couldn't get complacent with where we were at. A lot of the games recently, we have focused on us and what we would like to continue to get better at, so during the game our coach was still pushing us to keep our foot on the gas and continue to do what we do," Bremer said.

Bursch led the game in scoring with 22 points. She went nine for 11 from the field and had five assists. Batt and Bremer were the next highest-scorers for the Mavs with 14 points each.

The Mavericks ended the game **Basketball on page 9►**



# #5 Mavs basketball stay undefeated at home



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

The Mavericks secured a first-round bye in the NSIC Tournament after picking up wins against Wayne State and Augustana.

By HAYDEN LEE  
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State University men's basketball team stayed perfect at home on the season this weekend, picking up wins against Wayne State and Augustana. Their wins this weekend have earned them a first-round bye in the NSIC Tournament.

Friday's 79-63 triumph over the Wildcats gave the Mavs their 22nd win on the season, and their 11th home victory. The first half proved to be a tight contest as the Wildcats kept it close and the lead changed hands six times. WSC held an 11-7 lead at one point, but a 13-3 run by the Mavs gave them a 20-14 lead midway through the first quarter.

Neither team gained more than an eight-point lead through the first half. The score was 41-35 at the half, with Brady Williams leading all scorers with 13 points; Malcolm Jones hauled in seven rebounds.

The Mavs held onto a six-point lead for the first five minutes of the second half, but turned it on as they neared the halfway mark

in the half, going on a 10-0 run to make the score 57-41 with just over 10 minutes to play. The Mavs held on, coasting to a 79-63 victory.

Williams led the team with 16 points and seven rebounds in the win, while Malik and Kyrese Willingham combined for 29 points.

"We knew it would be a hard one to grind out and that's exactly what we did. We played hard, we stayed together, and we ended up taking the W," said Williams.

The following day, the Mavs welcomed the Augustana Vikings to their home arena for a much closer game that resulted in an 89-81 win.

The Mavs jumped out to an early lead, but the Vikings responded with a 17-4 run that put them up 19-12 with 11 minutes left in the first half.

The Mavs responded with their own 16-7 run to retake a 28-26 with five minutes left. Then Elijah Hazekamp took over, scoring 11 of the Mavs final 13 points to head into the locker room up 41-32.

Hazekamp's 11 points led the team in the first half, contributing

three three pointers toward the Mavs 6 of 14 performance from downtown in the first half.

In the second half, the Mavs allowed a 9-1 run in the first two minutes to cut the lead to one at 42-41. After that, the Mavs went on a 23-9 run that seized momentum until the final two minutes when the Vikings trimmed the Maverick lead to 83-75.

The Mavericks held the lead while the teams played the free throw game. The final score was 89-81 as the Mavs logged their 23rd win on the season.

Malik Willingham led the team in scoring with 24 points. Hazekamp ended with 19, Dylan Peeters added 16 and Kyrese Willingham finished with 15.

"We started off slow, shots weren't falling in the beginning, but we had great looks," said Malik Willingham. "They came in hot, playing energized and physical, but once the nerves went away we got back to ourselves."

The Mavs now hit the road for a 6 p.m. Saturday game against Northern State in Aberdeen, S.D.

on their free throws.

The Mavs forced the Wildcats to commit 29 turnovers. 18 of those were steals.

Next up for the Mavs is a trip to Aberdeen, South Dakota to take on Northern State University Saturday.

► **BASKETBALL** from page 8  
51% from the field, 40% from beyond the arc and went 12 for 16

# Tiger Woods starts a new year with a new look

By DOUG FERGUSON  
The Associated Press

Tiger Woods and Sunday red is no longer just a shirt. It's a brand.

Woods is starting a new year with a new look, announcing Monday evening an extended partnership with TaylorMade Golf to launch a lifestyle brand that will be called Sun Day Red.

The change came about by Woods and Nike ending a 27-year relationship, which dated to when Woods turned pro in August 1996 with his "Hello, World" campaign.

Nike ended its equipment business (golf clubs and golf balls) in 2016. Woods previously had a deal with TaylorMade for clubs and with Bridgestone for the golf ball. Now he's all in with TaylorMade on an apparel and footwear

line.

The company said the creation of "Sun Day Red" incorporates his 15 major championships into the logo of a tiger stretched across the three words.

"I have learned so much over the years and have a lifetime of experience adjusting my apparel and footwear to help me play better based on the way it was constructed," Woods said.

# Arsenal hammers West Ham 6-0 and Man United win at Villa



IAN WALTON • The Associated Press

Arsenal's Declan Rice, puts his hands up, but does not celebrate after scoring his sides 6th goal against his former club, during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham United and Arsenal at the London Stadium.

By STEVE DOUGLAS  
The Associated Press

A record win for Arsenal. An absolutely critical one for Manchester United.

After Arsenal hammered West Ham 6-0 Sunday for its biggest ever Premier League away victory, United beat Aston Villa 2-1 in a huge result in the race for Champions League qualification.

Arsenal might be in its best form so far this season. Last weekend, Mikel Arteta's team was handing league leader Liverpool only its second loss to tighten up the title race and here it was running amok inside the Olympic Stadium, which rapidly emptied after West Ham fell 4-0 behind just before halftime.

Bukayo Saka scored twice and Declan Rice — a former West Ham favorite — added the sixth goal almost apologetically.

Arsenal joined Manchester City just two points behind Liverpool. All three of the big title contenders won this weekend.

United's aspirations are simply to finish in the top four — or five — to get back into the Champions League and that would have been a long shot had the visitors lost at Villa Park.

Instead, there's only five points — rather than 11 — between United in sixth and Villa in fifth after Scott McTominay headed in an 86th-minute winner to earn his team a third straight league victory. Rasmus Hojlund opened the scoring for United and has now netted in five straight league matches.

RICE'S RETURN

Disgruntled West Ham's fans streamed out of their ground in their hundreds prior to the half-time whistle, well before their former star player condemned the team to its joint-heaviest loss of all time.

It just had to be Rice running onto the ball and curling a long-range strike into the top corner to put the seal on an almost embarrassingly easy win for Arsenal.

Rice used to be West Ham's best player, with his relentless energy, lung-busting runs and covering tackles. Now here he was, playing a big part in a clinic by Arsenal, with the home sup-

porters' booning of his every touch maybe spurring him on.

Rice's set-piece deliveries set up first-half goals for William Saliba and Gabriel Magalhaes, with Saka and Leandro Trossard also scoring before the break. After Saka's second, Rice scored and didn't even celebrate, holding up both of his hands apologetically instead. He was even applauded by some home supporters when he was substituted moments later.

Signed in July for 105 million pounds (then \$138 million), it is looking like money well spent by Arsenal.

"I'm really happy with him," Arteta said of Rice. "I know that it was an emotional day for him because he loves West Ham so much. But he had to focus on the task and what he had to deliver — set-pieces were one of those."

SAKA'S REDEMPTION

Saka enjoyed this trip to the Olympic Stadium a lot more than his last one.

Last season, the England winger missed a penalty when Arsenal was leading 2-1 and his team wound up drawing 2-2 amid a late-campaign implosion that helped fast-finishing Manchester City retain the league title.

Saka was the subject of racist abuse after that spot-kick failure, too.

So it was perhaps fitting that he won — and converted — the penalty that put Arsenal 2-0 up, reaching 50 goals for Arsenal in the process, before weaving his way into the area to make it 5-0. He wore a broad smile as he celebrated.

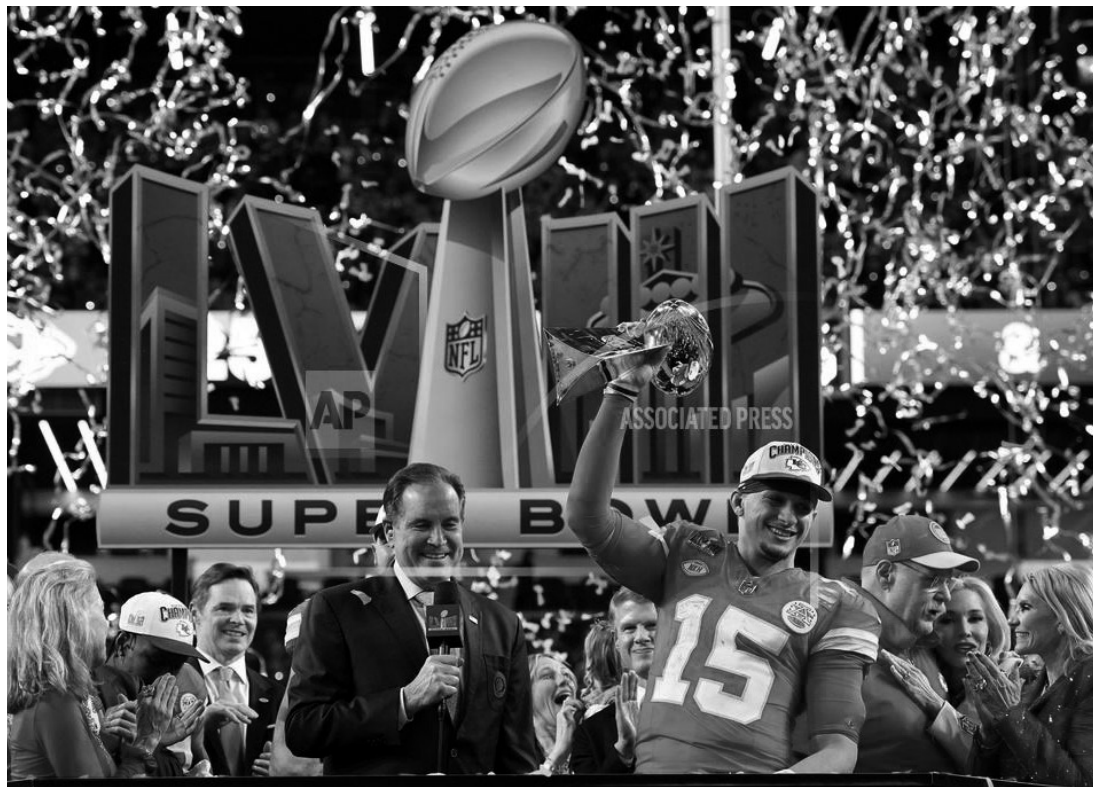
"We were 4-0 up in the first half and we could have scored more," Saka said. "We smelled blood today and went for the kill."

VILLA STRUGGLING

Villa's once-impregnable home record underpinned the team's improbably strong start to the season. It wasn't long ago that Villa was beating City and Arsenal in the space of 72 hours to set a club record of 15 straight home wins in the league and sit just two points behind first-place Liverpool.

Now Villa has lost three home games in a row — to Newcastle, Chelsea and now Man United — and is looking over its shoulder.

## Mahomes leads the Chiefs on a TD drive to remember to win his third ring



JOHN LOCHER • The Associated Press

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) celebrates after the NFL Super Bowl 58 football game against the San Francisco 49ers, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, in Las Vegas.

By DAVID SKRETTA  
The Associated Press

The San Francisco 49ers gave Patrick Mahomes two opportunities to drive for the winning touchdown in the Super Bowl.

They should have known — who doesn't at this point? — that it was one too many.

After leading the Chiefs downfield late in regulation, only to settle for a tying field goal with 3 seconds left to force overtime, Mahomes capitalized on his second chance. The Chiefs' sturdy defense held the 49ers to a field goal of their own, and with the ball back in his hands, Mahomes marched the defending champions right downfield on a touchdown drive to remember.

He scrambled for a pair of first downs, including one on fourth-and-1 with the game on the line, and was 8 for 8 passing on the drive. The last of the throws may have been the easiest, a 3-yard toss to Mecole Hardman to finish off the heart-stopping 25-22 victory, and give one of the best quarterbacks in NFL history his third Super Bowl ring.

"This is awesome," Mahomes said simply. "Legendary."

Fitting way to put it for a 28-year-old quarterback quickly reaching legendary status.

Mahomes is only the sixth quarterback to win three Super Bowls — and was selected MVP for all three — and the youngest to do it. Hall of Famers Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw are within reach with four apiece. And given how quickly Mahomes has been stacking up those shiny Lombardi Trophies in Kansas City, it's hard to believe Brady's record of seven is untouchable.

Mahomes is also closing on Brady's record of five Super Bowl MVPs; Montana is the only other player with three.

"I think Tom said it best: Once you win that championship, you have those parades and you get those dreams, you're not the champion anymore. You have to come back to that with the same mentality," Mahomes said. "And I learned from guys like that that have been the greatest of all time."

The Chiefs are the first repeat Super Bowl champions since Brady and the Patriots in 2003 and '04, and their third title in four trips over the past five years puts them in rarified air. Only four teams have won three championships in a five-year span.

Asked whether the Chiefs have achieved dynasty status, Mahomes replied: "It's the start of one."

"He comes to work every day humble. He comes to work every day wanting to be great," said the Chiefs' Andy Reid, who became the fifth coach with at least three Super Bowl wins. "An absolute pleasure to coach."

In truth, Mahomes struggled for much of the game Sunday, especially because the 49ers refused to bring the blitz, which the two-time league MVP tears apart with ease. But he started to heat up in the fourth quarter, when he drove Kansas City for a field goal to tie it at 16 with 5:46 left, then when he drove for another field goal that sent the game to overtime.

Impressive stuff from a quarterback who had surprisingly struggled in the clutch this season. Mahomes was just 18 of 47 for 167 yards with no touchdowns and an interception with a chance to tie or take the lead in the fourth quarter

or overtime.

"I don't think Pat knows how to lose," Chiefs wide receiver Rashee Rice said.

Mahomes celebrated winning by sprinting like mad into the end zone. He wheeled around, his helmet held aloft, and headed all the way back to Kansas City's sideline, where he fell onto the yellow-painted turf. With nobody around Mahomes for the briefest of moments, he stared into the sky in what seemed to be an exhausting mixture of elation and disbelief.

As if anyone should have any reason not to believe in Mahomes by now.

"We've got the best quarterback in the league," Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce said.

Mahomes finished the Super Bowl with 333 yards passing and two TDs, and he extended his franchise record for yards rushing in the playoffs with 66 more.

The head-scratching interception he threw into heavy coverage early in the game was forgotten by the time he hit Hardman in the end zone, sending red and yellow confetti raining down inside Allegiant Stadium.

Also forgotten were all the losses and lousy games Kansas City had this season.

The Chiefs were largely juggernauts during their previous Super Bowl runs, romping through the playoffs with ease — even if they had to come from behind in the finale to beat the 49ers in 2000 and the Eagles last year.

But they struggled mightily this season, losing five of eight games during one stretch, and dropped all the way to the No. 3 seed in the playoffs.

the conference.

Next up for the Mavs is a two game home series against Lake Superior State.

## Shai Gilgeous-Alexander's 38 points lead Thunder past Kings



KYLE PHILLIPS • The Associated Press

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, right, drives past Sacramento Kings forward Keegan Murray, left, in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, in Oklahoma City.

By CLIFF BRUNT  
The Associated Press

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 38 points, Jalen Williams scored 32 and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Sacramento Kings 127-113 on Sunday.

Gilgeous-Alexander made 15 of 26 shots and had seven assists and Williams made 13 of 20 shots and had nine assists and eight rebounds for the Thunder. Oklahoma City beat the Kings for the first time in three meetings this season.

"SGA (Gilgeous-Alexander) played like an MVP candidate," Kings coach Mike Brown said. "We threw the kitchen sink at him and he still scored 38. And then Jalen Williams was really, really big. And I say he's big because he had 32 but he was extremely efficient throughout the course of

the night."

Lu Dort had 17 points and nine rebounds and Chet Holmgren added 14 points for the Thunder, who scored 30 points off 18 Kings turnovers.

Oklahoma City bounced back from a 146-111 loss at Dallas on Saturday.

"I thought we were just a lot more edgy today than we were yesterday," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. "And I thought the guys, it's not about responding to one game, but it certainly is about us recognizing where our standards are and getting the car back on the road when we're not up to par. And I thought the guys did a great job of that today."

Domantas Sabonis had 21 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds for the Kings, his second consecutive triple-double and his fourth in six games this month. It was his 17th triple-double of the season.

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### ◀HOCKEY from page 8

is a good time for a break to heal up some bodies. We are excited to regroup and continue to move forward."

With four games left in the regular season, the Mavericks sit at the top of the CCHA with 35 points. The Mavericks are now 15-11-4 overall record and 11-7-2 in

# VARIETY

## MSU theater presents 'Clue'

By LAUREN VISKA  
Staff Writer

It was Professor Plum in the kitchen with the candlestick. Or was it Colonel Mustard in the study with the wrench? Or was it Miss Scarlet in the lounge with the rope?

Minnesota State's theater department this week presents "Clue," the play based on the popular board game that was launched in 1943. The game inspired the 1985 movie of the same name, and the movie inspired the play.

Why is it being performed in Mankato? Director Matthew Caron saw one of his students act out a scene from it.

"For our mainstage season, we usually try to do shows that have some sort of draw, a name recognition. And with 'Clue,' we've got the board game that goes back to World War Two and then the movie in the 80s," said Caron. "It's got that name recognition. It's fun. It's a murder mystery farce. It's got amalgamation there, so we thought it'd be great."

"Clue" begins at a remote mansion, where six mysterious guests gather at Boddy Manor for an unusual dinner party featuring murder and blackmail on the menu. When their host is found dead, they all become suspects. Hunter Conrad plays Wadsworth, the butler and said this role is a lot different than his past roles at MSU. He said it's also one of his most challenging.



NATE TILAHUN • The Reporter  
Mrs. Peacock (Phyllis Horridge), Yvette (Bex Williams) and Wadsworth (Hunter Conrad) play out a scene in the show, "Clue."

"I think I counted about 300 lines to memorize, so I'm always looking over my scripts whenever I have a down moment because there are so many lines, and a lot of them repeat in different orders," said Conrad. "The script was written for jokes to line up. So if I miss a cue or a line, it messes everything else up."

Jacob Haen plays Mr. Green, an anxious man who doesn't know why he's been called to Mr. Boddy's

house. Haen said he grew up playing the board game, so being in this show feels nostalgic.

"It's fun. I didn't know the movie until just this year. I've never seen it. So seeing the board game come to life and being a part of that is exciting," said Haen. "It's funny. It's going to be fun. It does a really good job of bringing the board game and the characters that you know and are familiar with to life."

Conrad said his favorite mo-

ment in the show is being able to be with his friends and getting to act with them. He also said that there's a moment at the end of the play where he gets to improv his lines. The scene is Wadsworth explaining the events in the first half of the play to the guests and the audience in seven minutes. He's running around on stage and said he's having a great time doing it.

"We always try to find new and

**CLUE on page 12**

## Mavericks place their bets at Casino Night

By ELLIE MESCHKE  
Staff Writer

Feeling lucky?

A casino night was held in the CSU ballroom Saturday evening where attendees played poker, bingo, blackjack and roulette with fake money.

A photobooth was provided alongside several props and accessories, as well as snacks and water.

Those who won games either earned raffle tickets or chips they could cash in for tickets.

A raffle occurred at the end of the night, where prizes such as blankets, water bottles, mugs, plushies, a gambling set, a toaster oven, and even a popcorn machine were given away.

With a high turnout of 223 students, the blackjack and roulette tables were packed full. Students Neil Hurner and Jackson Lowe said they enjoyed the event.

"I've only been actually gambling once, so I don't have much of a point of reference, but both were fun," Hurner said.

"I think it's different with the sense of using the fake Monopoly money and the raffle tickets ... though I wouldn't know because I haven't gambled before," Lowe added on.

"[I just wish there were] more dealers," Hurner also said.

"Yeah, more dealers, more tables," Lowe finished.

Other students, however, such as Al Worrall, said he thought the event could possibly encourage students to gamble.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, 10-15% of youth have a gambling problem.

Additionally, many adults between the ages of 18-24 are more likely to make risky behavior when it comes to gambling.

While the event used fake money, the action of gambling troubled Worrall greatly.

This event was held by the student events team, keep an eye out for future events, and if you are interested in joining the student events team, you can come to one of their daily meetings, which is held 4 p.m. Tuesdays in CSU 245.

You can also email Jaycey Horton at [jaycey.horton@mnsu.edu](mailto:jaycey.horton@mnsu.edu).

## Spreading Valentine love with ASL club

By ANAHI ZUNIGA  
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day week is here, fellow Mavericks.

From speed dating to romance trivia to Valentine's sip and paint, there's something for everyone to try out and form connections with other students.

Since MSU is spreading love around campus, others have gotten to work on spreading love around Mankato. On Monday, MSU's American Sign Language Club held an activity where members created Valentine's Day cards for nursing homes as a way to spread love and cheer.

Third year student Anna Symens, president of the ASL Club, explained how the club decided to send Valentine's Day to residents of nursing homes.

"A lot of our members have talked about community outreach in their other clubs and a lot of our board members talk about volunteer hours. But it's also about community outreach and doing things within the community because deaf culture is centered in like their own community engagement overall. A lot of clubs do community engagement," Symens said.



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter  
Minnesota State's American Sign Language Club gathered to create Valentine's Day cards for residents from New Perspective Senior Living Monday evening.

Symens shared that the ASL club partnered with New Perspective Senior Living, Mankato, a senior center that provides a comforting community for senior citizens, to deliver their Valentine's cards to its residents.

"We're partnering with New Perspective Senior Living. But a lot of people who may live in nursing homes may have lost their spouse

or just may feel a little bit secluded; their family may not visit them or maybe they do but it's just nice to see younger students engaging with them. There was a special request for a couple of them to be held aside and go to some specific people but we're just partnering with that one," she said.

Many students are part of several recognized student organiza-

tions on campus that participate in other community engagement events and activities and Symens explained how a few ASL Club members shared activity experiences that helped decide the Valentine's Day card activity.

"It was brought up during one of our planning meetings. And a lot of us who are in other clubs have done it before and it was a group decision. It was brought up to our club and they expressed that they would be engaged and that was something they would like to do because we do include our general members in decision making for our events," Symens said.

Anna Symens is also part of Circle K International, a group that is part of the largest student-led collegiate service organization. MSU's Circle K revolves around and participates in community service, leadership development, and developing connections.

"I know that since I'm also in Circle K International and last week, we made Valentine's Day cards, and I'm taking them to New Perspective as well," Symens said.

For more information on the American Sign Language Club and its events, visit <http://mnsu.edu/mavcentral>

# 'Anyone But You' is anything but a flop



Courtesy What's on Netflix

Sony Pictures, "Anyone But You," released Dec. 22 follows characters Bea (Sydney Sweeney) and Ben (Glen Powell) to a destination wedding in Australia, where they pretend to be a perfect couple in order to keep the peace.

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN  
Variety Editor

In the past few years, romantic comedies have become a dying breed. As a huge rom-com connoisseur, I have been itching to watch a modern love story that makes my stomach tingle with butterflies, and hurt from laughter; the recent film, "Anyone But You," finally scratched my itch.

Starring Sydney Sweeney and Glen Powell, the film centers around a fake relationship between two people who hate each other; it sounds cliché, but the execution was anything but. Admittedly, from the trailers alone I thought it would fail to live up to its social media hype, but I decided to give it a chance before it leaves the cinema.

Sweeney, who plays "Bea" in the romantic comedy, is a headstrong-yet kind-hearted law student who bumps into Powell's character, "Ben." The two hit it off after a great first-date, but miscommunication leads to cut ties. Eventually, Bea is reunited with Ben at an intimate wedding in Australia, where they decide to fake being together in order to

keep the peace, and make alternative love interests envious.

From the beginning, I related to Bea in many ways as a clumsy, sophisticated college student, who truly has no idea what the future holds. She's stubborn, she knows what she deserves and she isn't feeding into anyone else's ego — a rarity for how women are typically represented in romance films.

On the other hand, Powell delivered a meaty-douchebag-turned-softie persona in just the right way to win hearts. Without his presence, this film would have lacked immensely in the comedy department. The two main characters had undeniable chemistry, but the spark would be nothing without the added humor.

The supporting characters carried the plot along, and tied in more of the comedy aspect when things got serious. The couple to wed, Claudia and Halle were not only a wholesome couple to look up to, but they had the best interests of Ben and Bea at heart. Paired with the in-laws and closest friends, their schemes to pair the disastrous duo together were manipulative, but creative. They also tie in two stereotypical Aus-

tralian— one who finds a perfect wave to surf more important than the wedding, but the banter and lingo they add to the film cements it as a comedy.

In terms of the film's videography and soundtrack, both were superb. The scenic backgrounds in Australia were beautiful, and it felt as though we all took a trip on a helicopter (If you know, you know). We were able to see every element within a scene: the eavesdropping, the side conversations, chaotic backgrounds and all. As far as the music, every song was a hit. I felt as though the team stole my Spotify playlist and used it to its potential. Its theme song, "Unwritten," by Natasha Bedingfield shined light on how the song is loved by all, even cocky Ben.

Throughout the film, the theater laughed, cried, gasped and everything in between. I became so invested in the film, and although the ending was predictable (Spoiler alert: they end up together. I know. I'm just as shocked as you), the actual components within the story were situations I had never seen done before in the film industry, and I'm hoping a sequel is on the horizon.

◀CLUE from page 11

interesting ways to make each other break on stage. My favorite part of the actual show is I have this whole scene at the end with a lot of improv bits," said Conrad. "So every night, I can change it if I want to, and I just go off the walls and create crazy, crazy energy."

Haen said his favorite part about the play is where all the characters run around on stage, screaming.

"We each find a different place on the stage, and we scream three times. Each time we scream, we're in our different-colored lights. For example, I play Mr. Green, so I have the green light," said Haen. "We then run to another shot, scream and then run to another one. It's a lot of fun."

Caron said this play was a bit tricky to do as, in the film, they have camera angles and shots of people running into different rooms. But with a small stage, they have to work around that.

"You can't create nine rooms in a mansion easily, and so we've come up with some creative solutions, rotating set pieces and flying set pieces and sometimes even just simply a light shift that shows us these different rooms," said Caron. "The guests scamper from the study to the billiard room to the kitchen, back to the study, and then out to the conservatory, so they're moving all the time."

Caron said he has had fun

working on this show and encourages students to come and see the show. He said that while working on this show, he got swept up in the goofiness of the cast.

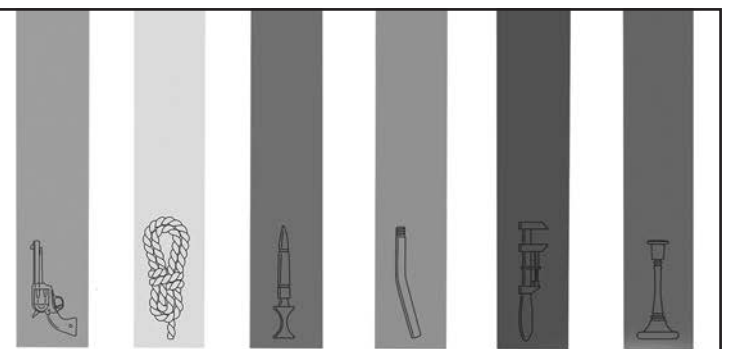
"I think they're going to really love it. It's going to be fun. Even if they've never seen the film from the 80s, I suggest that they go watch the movie because then they'll recognize a lot of the things that are happening in the play, but you don't need to know the movie at all to understand what's going on," said Caron.

The show features BFA candidate and pianist Finnola Coughlin, who helps set the scenes. She adds extra comedic tones to the show by playing notes on the piano that are synchronized with lines from the play.

Conrad said this show wouldn't happen without the stagehands working behind the scenes to ensure everything goes smoothly.

"Everyone is working so hard to get the show on its feet. We wouldn't be able as actors to do what we do without everybody else," said Conrad.

"Clue" runs 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15-16 and 22-24, and 2 p.m. Feb. 17, 24 and 25 in the Ted Paul Theatre at the Earley Center for Performing Arts. Tickets are available at [mnsueventtickets.universitytickets.com](http://mnsueventtickets.universitytickets.com) or the box office from 4-6 p.m. Monday through Friday.



# Clue

Feb. 15-17 & 22-25

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MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO  
THEATRE & DANCE

## Super Bowl ads keep it heavy on celebrities, light on politics

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS  
The Associated Press

The Kansas City Chiefs were crowned victorious over the San Francisco 49ers in this year's Super Bowl — and, off the field, big-name advertisers competed for viewers' attention with celebrity-filled, glitzy messages.

Beyoncé broke the internet yet again in a Verizon ad, which was soon followed by a viral music drop. Lionel Messi's showed off

his apparent loyalty to Michelob Ultra. And T-Mobile, e.l.f. cosmetics, Uber Eats and more offered a slew of mini TV show reunions, bringing together cast members from "Suits" to "Friends."

Despite being an election year in the U.S., there was very little to show for it on Sunday besides an ad by American Values 2024, the super PAC backing Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s presidential run. It ran a 30-second, retro-styled spot that attempted to lean into his family's legacy. Kennedy launched his independent bid for the White

House last year.

Airing a Super Bowl commercial is no easy feat. On top of the reported \$7 million price tag for a 30-second spot during the game, brands enlist the biggest actors, invest in dazzling special effects and try to put together an ad that more than 100 million expected viewers will like — or at least remember.

"Advertisers this year are doing everything they can to try to break through the clutter," Northwestern University marketing professor Tim Calkins said. "They're pulling out all the stops."