

## Mavathon helps miracles happen

By AMALIA SHARAF  
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, Greek Life hosted a Dance Marathon (Mavathon) at Minnesota State. Mavathon is a student-led event that raises funds for sick and injured kids in local hospitals.

"Mavathon is Mankato's Dance Marathon, and it's a year-round fundraising event that we do," said the president of Greek Life, Alyssa Makalah. "All of our proceeds go to Gillette Children's Hospital."

The cost of tickets for the Mavathon was \$20.

"All the money goes towards them to help them pay for their hospital stays and any visits they have with doctors, clinicians and the surgeries they'll have," said fundraising chair Emma Gilbert.

During the event, attendees participated in a raffle for prizes, received free caricatures and had dinner. Makalah said there was a lot of dancing and no sitting.

"It was very exciting to work with the families but also feel it in your heart that we were doing something for the greater good," said Gilbert. "A lot of like hard work was put into this event, and it took us many months to get it together just for this one day and get



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Greek Life hosted a Dance Marathon at Minnesota State in the Centennial Student Union. Mavathon is a student-led event injured kids in local hospitals.

all the money to the families, but it was really fun and it was worth it."

The family relations coordina-

tor, Kayla Polanco, said she found families at Gillette's who told their stories for the Mavathon. She said

it was interesting to work directly with families for the fundraising event.

"They have to get cleared with a team first before they can decide if they want to participate," said Polanco. "And the two families that we got were really interested right away, and so I had been emailing them back and forth, and we ended up doing a Zoom call with them. We interviewed them and got to hear their stories and both of them have incredibly touching stories and got to share that with everybody."

This year, Mavathon was held for the first time in three years, during which COVID limitations were in power. Makalah said the turnout was better than they expected. Mavathon sold over 100 tickets this year. The Mavathon team announced they had raised \$8,407, which was larger than they originally estimated.

According to Polanco, this event is very important.

"Gillette's makes miracles happen," said Polanco. "We had a family come and they were explaining that their daughter had three months to live. They were keeping her comfortable until she was gonna pass away. And someone mentioned Gillette's, so they went and they curated a team for her and that was when she was two and now I think she's turning nine."

## Gender and equity dinner showcases women in STEM

By LAUREN VISKA  
Staff Writer

Over the last 44 years, the number of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) has increased. In biological scientists, the number has gone from 33% to 57%, but in architecture and engineering, the number has only gone from 5% to 16.1%.

There is still a long way for women to go in STEM industries, and MSU is trying to help the numbers go up. A gender and equity dinner, with keynote speaker Mona Elabbady from SRF Consulting Group, was held Monday night. Elabbady spoke about her experiences growing up learning STEM and what it's like to be in such a male-dominated field. She said diversity experience is important in everything people in STEM do, which was why she spoke at the event.

"When you think about all of the different things that STEM professionals do, from developing medical devices to computer technologies, I think it's really important that women have an influence on how those things get developed," said Elabbady. "Women represent half of our population, and

they need to make sure that things are also being thought of from a woman's perspective."

Elabbady was interested in STEM from a young age. She said during her presentation that her parents pushed her into STEM and she never thought twice about being a woman in STEM. Elabbady said having a STEM background has given her many different work opportunities.

"Even if you decide that you don't necessarily want to get a job in the specific field that you graduated in, having a STEM background still gives you a lot of abilities to find jobs in a variety of fields," said Elabbady.

Natacha Ineza, the Society of Women Engineers vice president, helped organize the event. She said she hoped students got a lot out of the event and they took something away from it.

"We hope that they get connected to industry professionals and feel like they're surrounded by a community that cares and sees their dreams of succeeding in STEM," said Ineza. "And find that they are surrounded by people who are together working towards the same goal and can all thrive and succeed."



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

Mona Elabbady from SRF Consulting Group was a keynote speaker at gender and equity dinner Monday, Feb. 19, 2024.

Salena Smit, an electric engineering major, was among the many students at the event. She said she chose her major based on

which engineering major was the hardest. She said that she wanted a challenge when picking a major.

"I like how complex it is and

how like there's so many different subfields of it that I can go into anything. I could go into power, I

# Maverick Firsts hosts storytelling event

By ANNISA ECHOLS  
Staff Writer

Students at MSU raised their voices in Ostrander Auditorium with Maverick Firsts and TRIO student support services hosted “Storytelling about College” in hopes of hearing and sharing voices.

The event showcased narratives containing stories about getting into college, what one has to do to stay in college and the challenges students must overcome to be successful as scholars.

According to the MSU website, approximately 40% of Minnesota State students are first generation college students.

“First generation college students, those who are the first in their immediate family to attend college are breaking, not continuing family tradition for these students,” Communications Professor David Engen said.

Being the first at anything can be difficult.

Maverick Firsts and TRIO Student Support services are here to assist.

The panel featured many members of the MSU faculty. It was stated during the presentation that “Going to college isn’t easy, especially for first generation students.”

According to Anthropology



Students at MSU raised their voices in Ostrander Auditorium with Maverick Firsts and TRIO student support services hosted “Storytelling about College.”

Professor Susan Schalge, the event was held to help increase awareness

of resources for first generation students.

“There are those resources available, people sometimes think

that college is going to be easy or that it that comes naturally to people and it doesn’t, there’s a learning curve,” Schalge said.

Being away from home can leave students reeling with more questions than answers such as how to apply for financial aid, choosing the needed class schedule, and picking the right major. Language barriers, social inexperience or being away from family and friends can significantly make this transition more challenging.

The event addressed how students feel about new enrollment and may help students who are facing difficulty by providing much-needed resources and support.

According to the MNSU’s Website, “The Mav’s First Program has resources available to help first-generation students return to school?”

The MSU website also says, “Helping students achieve their goals, grow as individuals, and prepare them for the next steps are priorities for any faculty and staff member at Minnesota State University, Mankato.”

Maverick First was established seven years ago here on campus. Please contact the MSU website, Maverick Firsts or TRIO Student support services for more information.

NATE TILAHUN • The Reporter

# Waseca police officer honored in documentary

By JEREMY REDLIEN  
Staff Writer

“They understand that dad’s different but they know that what dad sacrificed saved people’s lives,” said Arik Matson in the documentary “The Weight of the Crown,” which was shown on campus in Ostrander Theater this past Sunday.

“The Weight of the Crown” tells the story of how Matson, a former member of the Waseca police department was shot in the head and left disabled while responding to a call in January of 2020 as well as how Matson managed to recover from his injuries.

The documentary also tells about the hunting trip of a lifetime to shoot the elusive King Eider duck Matson was able to make thanks to Hometown Heroes Outdoors.

“It’s a prize duck, it’s beautiful, it’s extreme conditions and I knew that’s where I wanted to go right away,” said Matson, speaking as to why he wanted to hunt the King Eider specifically.

The audience at the showing in Ostrander was primarily made up of law enforcement officers, many in uniform, professors in the criminal justice department and members of the community.

Prior to the start of the documentary, Matson, an MSU Mankato alumni, greeted people in the hallway outside of Ostrander.



The Weight of the Crown was shown in the Ostrander Theater in the Centennial Student Union Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024.

“He [Matson] was pleasant, easygoing and most of the time had a smile on his face. He’s a good man,” said Tamara Wilkins, a professor in the criminal justice program who taught Matson.

Wilkins also shared her re-

sponse when she heard that Matson had been shot.

“Tears, pain, fear, worry. Still that, we still have so many out there in the field. The fear and hatred that people have for so many who have done so much to only be the best,

most kindest, most compassionate people they can be,” said Wilkins.

“The Weight of the Crown” was shown by campus security following a request by the Mankato Department of Public Safety.

Director of campus security

Sandi Schorenberg and commander Justin Neumann of the Mankato Department of public safety served popcorn.

“The Weight of the Crown” went quite a bit in-depth on Arik Matson’s recovery following his injury.

“I’d say the hardest part of my recovery was how I’d have to change being a father cause I can’t roughhouse with them like I used to when they was younger, I can’t run and chase after them or play sports,” said Matson in the documentary.

Before the start of the documentary Megan Matson, Arik Matson’s wife, introduced the documentary and announced that they would be collecting money to donate to the families of three first responders who had been killed in Burnsville on the morning of the screening.

“We are accepting donations and originally they were supposed to go back to HHO [Hometown Heroes Outdoors] but we felt it was in our hearts, that we wanted to give it to the families that were involved in the shooting,” said Megan Matson.

Hope was one message Arik Matson wanted audiences to take away from the documentary.

“To give the people the mindset, if you feel it’s not going to ever happen [recovery], to keep putting the effort in, because it can happen,” said Matson.

JEREMY REDLIEN • The Reporter

## The keeper of the Vatican's secrets is retiring



DOMENICO STINELLIS • The Associated Press

**Prefect of the Archivio Apostolico Vaticano, Bishop Sergio Pagano speaks in his office at The Vatican, Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, during an interview with The Associated Press.**

By NICOLE WINFIELD  
The Associated Press

The Vatican has been trying for years to debunk the idea that its vaunted secret archives are all that secret: It has opened up the files of controversial World War II-era Pope Pius XII to scholars and changed the official name to remove the word “Secret” from its title.

But a certain aura of myth and mystery has persisted — until now. The longtime prefect of what is now named the Vatican Apostolic Archive, Archbishop Sergio Pagano, is spilling the beans for the first time, revealing some of the secrets he has uncovered in the 45 years he has worked in one of the world’s most important, and unusual, repositories of documents.

In a new book-length interview titled “Secretum” to be published Tuesday, Pagano divulges some of the unknown, lesser-known and behind-the-scenes details of well-known sagas of the Holy See and its relations with the outside world over the past 12 centuries.

In conversations over the course of a year with Italian journalist Massimo Franco, Pagano delves into everything from Napoleon’s sacking of the archive in 1810 to the Galileo affair and the peculiar conclave — the assembly of cardinals to elect a pope — of 1922 that was financed by last-minute donations from U.S. Catholics.

“It’s the first time and it will also be the last because I’m about to leave,” Pagano, 75, said in an interview with The Associated Press in his archive office, ahead of his expected retirement later this year. Pope Leo XIII first opened the archive to scholars in 1881, after it had been used exclusively to serve the pope and preserve documentation of the papacies, ecumenical councils and Vatican offices dating from the 8th century.

With 85 kilometers (53 miles) of shelving, much of it underground in a two-story, fireproof, reinforced concrete bunker, the archive also houses documentation from Vatican embassies around the globe as well as specific collections from aristocratic

families and religious orders.

While often the source of Dan Brown -esque conspiracies, it functions much as any national or private archive: Researchers request permission to visit and then request specific documents to review in dedicated reading rooms.

Pagano keeps a close eye on them from a giant television screen perched to the side of his desk, which provides a live, closed-circuit feed to the reading rooms downstairs.

Most recently, scholars have been flocking to the archive to read through the documents of the pontificate of Pope Pius XII, the wartime pope who has been criticized for not having spoken out enough about the Holocaust.

Pope Francis ordered the documents of his pontificate opened ahead of schedule, in 2020, so scholars could finally have the full picture of the papacy.

The Vatican has long defended Pius, saying he used quiet diplomacy to save lives and didn’t speak out publicly about Nazi crimes because he feared retaliation, including against the Vatican itself.

Pagano is no apologist for Pius and stands out among Vatican hierarchs for his willingness to call out Pius’ silence. Specifically, Pagano says he cannot square Pius’ continued reluctance to publicly condemn Nazi atrocities even after the war ended.

“During the war we know that the pope made a choice: He could not and would not speak. He was convinced that an even worse massacre would have happened,” Pagano said. “After the war, I would have expected a word more, for all these people who went to the gas chambers.”

Pagano attributes Pius’ continued, post-war silence to his concerns about the creation of a Jewish state. The Vatican had a long tradition of supporting the Palestinian people and was concerned about the fate of Christian religious sites in the Holy Land if the territories were turned over to the newly created state of Israel.

Any word from Pius about the Holocaust even after the war “could have been read in political terms as a support for the foundation of a new state,” Pagano said.

## GOP’s shift away from Russia

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI  
Staff Writer

At about 2 a.m. last Tuesday, Republican Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin stood on the Senate floor and explained why he opposed sending more aid to help Ukraine fend off the invasion launched in 2022 by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

“I don’t like this reality,” Johnson said. “Vladimir Putin is an evil war criminal.” But he quickly added: “Vladimir Putin will not lose this war.”

That argument — that the Russian president cannot be stopped so there’s no point in using American taxpayer dollars against him — marks a new stage in the Republican Party’s growing acceptance of Russian expansionism in the age of Donald Trump.

The GOP has been softening its stance on Russia ever since Trump won the 2016 election following Russian hacking of his Democratic opponents.

There are several reasons for the shift. Among them, Putin is holding himself out as an international champion of conservative Christian values and the GOP is growing increasingly skeptical of overseas entanglements. Then there’s Trump’s personal embrace of the Russian leader.

Now the GOP’s ambivalence on Russia has stalled additional



AP FILE

**Smoke rises from a building in Bakhmut, site of the heaviest battles with the Russian troops in the Donetsk region, Ukraine, April 26, 2023.**

aid to Ukraine at a pivotal time in the war.

The Senate last week passed a foreign aid package that included \$61 billion for Ukraine on a 70-29 vote, but Johnson was one of a majority of the Republicans to vote against the bill after their late-night stand to block it. In the Republican-controlled House, Speaker Mike Johnson said his chamber will not be “rushed” to pass the measure, even as Ukraine’s military warns of dire shortages of ammunition and artillery.

Many Republicans are openly frustrated that their colleagues don’t see the benefits of helping

Ukraine.

Putin and his allies have banked on democracies wearying of aiding Kyiv, and Putin’s GOP critics warn that NATO countries in eastern Europe could become targets of an emboldened Russia that believes the U.S. won’t counter it.

“Putin is losing,” Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina said on the floor before Johnson’s speech.

“This is not a stalemate,” Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky was one of 22 Republican senators to back the package, while 26 opposed it.

◀**GENDER from page 1**  
could go into radio frequencies, I can go into control system signals, everything,” said Smit.

Smit said being a woman in STEM is a sense of accomplishment.

“I do notice when I walk into a new classroom for the new semester, and I’m like, ‘Oh, I’m one of two girls here.’ And I always feel

proud of like, ‘Oh, I made it here. I’m one of the two,’” said Smit.

Elabbady said she hopes students took two things away from her presentation: to use their voice and have a network of people in their job.

She said finding someone to go to for career advice is important.

“To make changes, we all have

to collectively work towards that. Having that network of people and mentors to help you throughout your career is super important, and that goes for any industry,” said Elabbady. “Make sure you find somebody you can kind of go to for career advice that can help you think about things and challenge you and push you.”

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# Editorial

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## Why students should volunteer

Changing lives is driven by people with a passion to help. By choosing to volunteer, we are choosing to dedicate some of our time toward those who need it.

We have a busy schedule as college students. It can become difficult to juggle work, classes, homework and a social life. On the other hand, fitting a portion of the week to lending a hand in the community has a number of benefits for both the volunteer and people on the receiving end.

According to Mayo Clinic, research has shown volunteering to offer significant health benefits such as physical and mental health. It reduces stress by releasing dopamine, leading to relaxation.

For students consumed by their area of study, volunteering can be a healthy outlet to get the mind off the textbook. Focusing on a subject different from what's in the usual routine is refreshing, and taking breaks is good for the brain.

Many times students can feel burnt out from university; volunteering is a great way to bring back a spark and provide a sense of purpose. When someone uses their time to make positive actions toward another person, it can also build them up.

Volunteering opportunities like creating blankets, sewing clothing or knitting mittens and hats is perfect for students who use creative expertise as a side hobby outside of class. Someone who is struggling to stay warm during winter will likely appreciate the talent and dedication toward a thoughtful act.

Relationships made in college can waver from person to person, but relationships can be built further through volunteering. It increases social interaction which helps us become more comfortable in everyday interactions. It also can be a way to meet a new crowd of people with common interests and a shared desire to help.

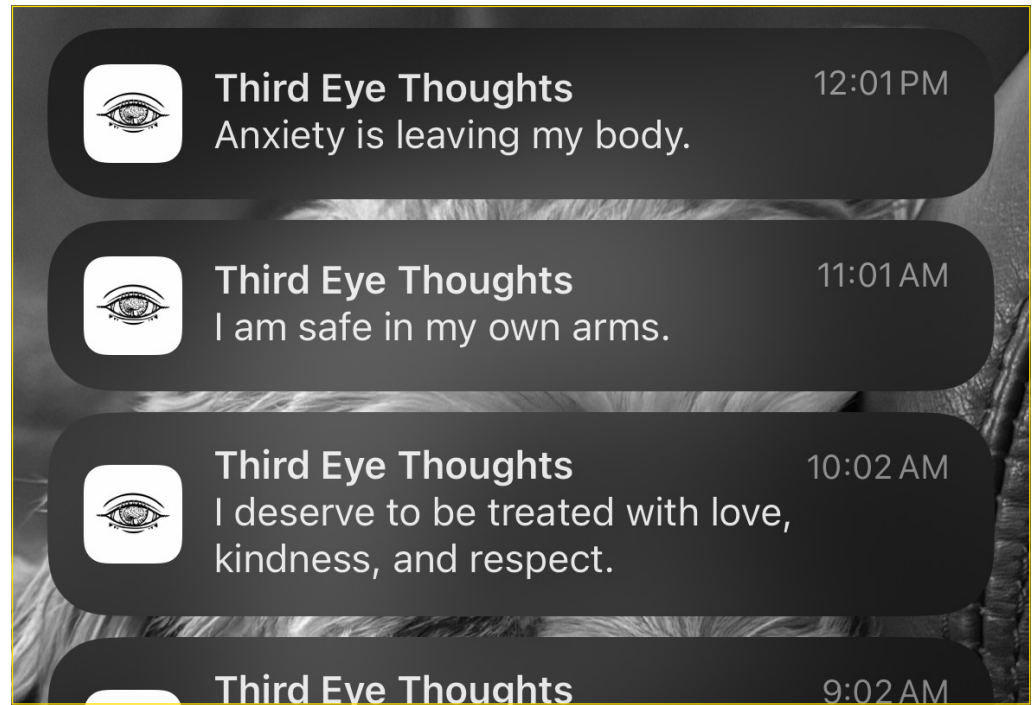
Not only is volunteering helpful for students who choose to do it, but the impact it makes on the greater community is a deciding factor in itself. The world is full of negativity, and it is oftentimes we walk past opportunities to spread something good to the world around us. Volunteering is an easy thing to do that has such a positive outcome for every party involved.

One of the most troubling areas of volunteering is the initial jump to get started, yet it is not nearly as complicated as it seems. Through youth programs, hospitals, nursing homes, environmental organizations, a local church or the general community, there are likely a number of opportunities eager to accept any help offered.

At the university alone, Mavericks in Action is a group of volunteers who meet each week to plan events and perform acts of service on and off campus. Joining the team can be a first step toward better mental health while in college.

# Perspectives

## Mindful Journeys: Have mental health conversations



Courtesy of Emma Johnson

“Today we’re going to be talking about mental health,” I remember hearing my middle school health teacher say. At the time, my perception of mental health was just a sidebar from what I knew about health. To me, health was just the physical aspect of taking care of yourself such as diet and exercise. I took my notes, aced my test and pushed the information of mental health into the back of my mind.



Emma Johnson  
Editor In Chief

Growing up, a few of my friends told me about going on medication and seeing a therapist for their mental health. I was always supportive of them and wanted to make sure they were living their best lives. I couldn't even tell they were struggling with their mental health. Lending a hand to them and letting them know if they ever needed something they could reach out was all I could do and I could tell

they appreciated it. What I didn't know at the time was how hard it could be to talk to someone about what you're going through.

When I first started going through my mental health struggles, I didn't want to talk to anyone about it. Besides the fear of being judged for what I was going through, I also didn't know how to explain it to other people. The brain fog that was blurring my physical feelings was also confusing my thoughts. I remember yelling at my mom at one point this summer when

she asked me what I was feeling and all I could say was “I don't know!” Unless people have been through it themselves, you honestly can't put it in a way that others could understand.

Once I figured out what I was going through, there was a part of me that didn't want to talk to other people about it. I'd never had anxiety this bad my entire life and I had mentally chalked myself up to the friend who was “put together.” When my friends started reaching out to me about how I was doing, I couldn't lie to them and say that I was doing okay when I wasn't. Hesitantly, I told them my anxiety had paired with depression and if I wasn't myself, it was because of that.

Instead of a million questions being thrown my way, my friends and family members, those whom I'd never known had gone through

COLUMN on page 5▶

# Pulse

“What’s your favorite song at the moment?”

Compiled by Dylan Long



AHMED HASSAN,  
SOPHOMORE

“Enof of Beginning - Dio.”



JACK RAVERTY,  
SOPHOMORE

“Trance - Metro Boomin Travis Scott.”



WALLACE MICHEALS,  
FRESHMAN

“Last Resort-Papa Roach.”



NIANA GALMESSA,  
SENIOR

“Mogbe by Aske.”



ALULA ASFAW,  
SSOPHOMORE

“South to West - Gunna.”



CLAIRE HAGSTROM,  
GRAD STUDENT

“Sould've Been a Cowboy- Toby Keith.”

# Judge orders Trump to pay \$355 million for lying about health



REBECCA BLACKWELL • The Associated Press

Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at his Mar-a-Lago estate, Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, in Palm Beach, Fla.

By MICHAEL R. SISK, JAKE OFFENHARTZ and JENNIFER PELTZ  
The Associated Press

A New York judge ordered Donald Trump on Friday to pay \$355 million in penalties, finding that the former president lied about his wealth for years in a sweeping civil fraud verdict that pierces his billionaire image but stops short of putting his real estate empire out of business.

Judge Arthur Engoron's decision after a trial in New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit punishes Trump, his company and executives, including his two eldest sons, for scheming to dupe banks, insurers and others by inflating his wealth on financial statements. It forces a shakeup at the top of his Trump Organization, putting the company under court supervision and curtailing how it does business.

The decision is a staggering setback for the Republican presidential front-runner, the latest and costliest consequence of his recent legal troubles.

The magnitude of the verdict on top of penalties in other cases could dramatically dent Trump's financial resources and damage his identity as a savvy businessman who parlayed his fame as a real estate developer into reality TV stardom and the presidency. He has vowed to appeal and won't

have to pay immediately.

Trump's true punishment could be far costlier because under state law he is also required to pay interest on the penalties, which James said puts him on the hook for a total of more than \$450 million.

The amount, which would be paid to the state, will grow until he pays.

The judge made clear, however, that the Trump Organization will continue to operate, backing away from an earlier ruling that would have dissolved Trump's companies.

Engoron, a Democrat, concluded that Trump and his company were "likely to continue their fraudulent ways" without the penalties and controls he imposed. Engoron concluded that Trump and his co-defendants "failed to accept responsibility" and that experts who testified on his behalf "simply denied reality."

"This is a venial sin, not a mortal sin," Engoron wrote in a searing 92-page opinion. "They did not rob a bank at gunpoint. Donald Trump is not Bernard Madoff. Yet, defendants are incapable of admitting the error of their ways."

He said their "complete lack of contrition and remorse borders on pathological" and "the frauds found here leap off the page and shock the conscience."

Trump said the decision was "election inference" and "weap-

onization against a political opponent," complaining to reporters at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida that he was being penalized for "having built a perfect company, great cash, great buildings, great everything."

James, a Democrat, told reporters "justice has been served" and called the ruling "a tremendous victory for this state, this nation, and for everyone who believes that we all must play by the same rules — even former presidents."

"Now, Donald Trump is finally facing accountability for his lying, cheating, and staggering fraud. Because no matter how big, rich or powerful you think you are, no one is above the law," James said.

Trump still owns the Trump Organization, but he put his assets into a revocable trust and relinquished a leadership role when he became president in 2017, putting his sons Eric and Donald Trump Jr. in charge of day-to-day operations.

Engoron's ruling imposes a three-year ban on Trump serving as an officer or director of any New York company and bars his sons for two years, effectively requiring the company to find new leadership, at least temporarily.

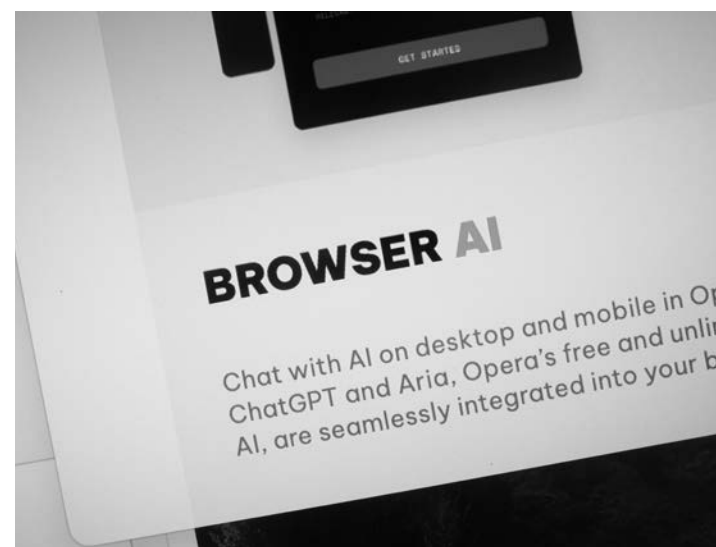
The monetary penalties involve what Engoron said were "ill-gotten gains" that Trump attained by making himself seem richer.

◀COLUMN from page 4  
mental health struggles, opened up to me. They told me about their symptoms, how long they'd been dealing with their mental health and what they did to help combat their symptoms. It felt like the biggest breath of fresh air. Knowing other people around me were dealing with similar emotions and struggles I was going through made me realize I wasn't alone in it all.

Now, I'm extremely open to having conversations about my mental health and I want to continue having conversations with others about it too. If I can't find time to talk with someone about how I'm doing, I have an app that sends me an affirmation every hour to keep me calm and remind me I can do tough things. I'm lucky to live in a generation where more

and more people are talking about their mental health instead of hiding it. We shouldn't be afraid to talk about our mental health. It should just be like how we talk about hitting the gym or trying out a new, healthy meal we make. You never know, but having that one conversation about how someone's doing could completely change their life.

## One Tech Tip: How to use new generative AI search sites



ALASTAIR GRANT • The Associated Press

A portion of a Opera page showing the incorporation of AI technology is shown in London, Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024.

By KELVIN SHAN  
The Associated Press

It's not just you. A lot of people think Google searches are getting worse. And the rise of generative AI chatbots is giving people new and different ways to look up information.

While Google has been the one-stop shop for decades — after all, we commonly call searches "googling" — its longtime dominance has attracted a flood of sponsored or spammy links and junk content fueled by "search engine optimization" techniques. That pushes down genuinely useful results.

A recent study by German researchers suggests the quality of results from Google, Bing and DuckDuckGo is indeed declining. Google says its results are of significantly better quality than its rivals, citing measurements by third parties.

Now, chatbots powered by generative artificial intelligence, including from Google itself, are poised to shake up how search works. But they have their own issues: Because the tech is so new, there are concerns about AI chatbots' accuracy and reliability.

If you want to try the AI way, here's a how-to:

WHERE DO I FIND AI SEARCH TOOLS?

Google users don't have to look far. The company last year launched its own AI chatbot assistant, known as Bard, but recently retired that name and replaced it with a similar service, Gemini.

Bard users are now redirected to the Gemini site, which can be accessed directly on desktop or mobile browsers.

The Gemini app also launched in the U.S. this month and is rolling out in Japanese, Korean and English globally — except in Britain, Switzerland and Europe — according to an update notice, which hints that more countries and languages will be "coming soon."

Google also has been testing out a new search offering, dubbed "Search Generative Experience" that replaces links with an AI-generated snapshot of key info. But it's limited to U.S. users signing up through its experimental Labs site.

Microsoft's Bing search engine has provided generative AI searches powered by OpenAI's ChatGPT technology for about a year, first under the name Bing Chat, now rebranded as Copilot.

On the Bing search home page, click the Chat or Copilot button underneath the search window and you'll get a conversational interface where you type your question.

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# Shaken Minnesota community waits for answers

By STEVE KARNOWSKI  
The Associated Press

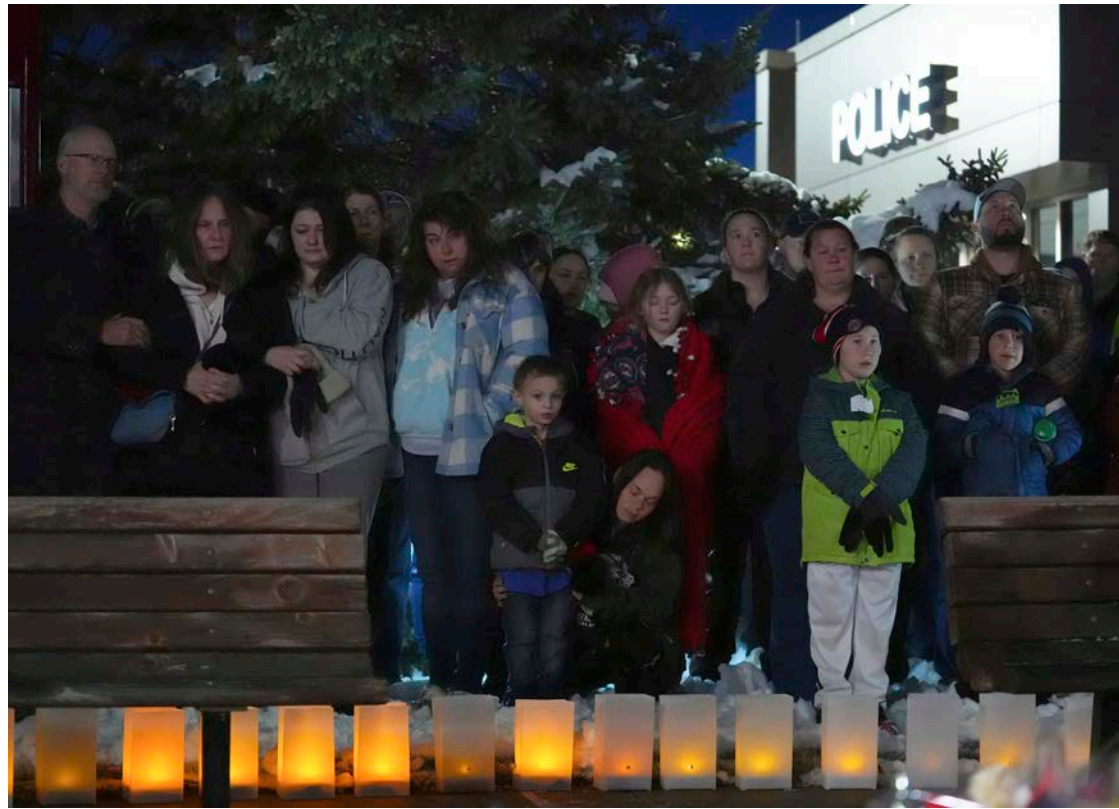
It started out as a 911 call about a domestic incident. It ended with two police officers, a firefighter and the suspect dead, a third officer wounded, and a mostly affluent suburb of Minneapolis badly shaken and waiting for answers.

Agents with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension were still conducting their preliminary investigation and did not plan to release any updates Monday, spokesperson Bonney Bowman said. They planned to share more information once that was complete, she added.

That meant that several key questions remained unanswered a day later.

Authorities have not released the name of the suspect or said what prompted the 911 call early Sunday from a home in a wooded, well-to-do neighborhood of single-family homes on curvy streets in Burnsville, a city of around 64,000 located about 15 miles (24 kilometers) south of downtown Minneapolis.

An order by Gov. Tim Walz took effect at sunrise Monday for flags to fly at half-staff at all state-owned buildings, with individuals, businesses and other organizations encouraged to join in to honor the three who gave their lives in service to their community. Speaking at a news conference Sunday, Walz



ABBIE PARR • The Associated Press

People attend a candlelight vigil after two police officers and a first responder were shot and killed Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, in Burnsville, Minn.

urged Minnesotans who drive by these flags “to maybe pause and think about these first responders, these public safety officials. They’re moms and dads, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters. They’re the world to a lot of people.”

A web page started by the city contained no fresh updates on the

investigation Monday, and city spokespeople said they could not provide additional information.

But members of the Minnesota Senate stood with bowed heads for a moment of silence Monday for the fallen officers and firefighter.

“There is no truer testament to the strength, dignity and compas-

sion of our community than the selfless bravery of our law enforcement and first responders,” said Sen. Jim Carlson, who represents the Burnsville neighborhood where the three were killed.

BCA Superintendent Drew Evans said Sunday that Burnsville police were called to the home around

1:50 a.m. Sunday about a “domestic situation where a man was reported to be armed and barricaded with family members in the home.” That included seven children ages 2 to 15. Evans declined to say which resident called.

Arriving officers “spent quite a bit of time” negotiating with the suspect, he said.

At some point — he declined to specify when — the suspect opened fire, killing Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge, both 27, and Adam Finseth, 40, a firefighter and paramedic who was assigned to the city’s SWAT team. Another officer, Sgt. Adam Medlicott, survived with injuries that were not life-threatening.

He was released from a hospital and was recovering at home Monday, the city said.

Elmstrand’s wife, Cindy Elmstrand-Castruita, told WCCO-TV: “He had to do what he thought was right to protect those little lives even if it meant putting his at risk and it breaks my heart because now he’s gone. But I know that he thought what he did was right.”

Elmstrand joined the police department in 2017, and was a member of its mobile command staff. Ruge, hired in 2020, was on the department’s crisis negotiations team and was a physical evidence officer. Finseth, who had been with the fire department since 2019, was shot while aiding the first officer who was injured, Evans said.

# 29,000 Palestinians have been killed since October

By WAFAA SHURAF and  
SAM Y MAGBY  
The Associated Press

Israel’s assault in Gaza has killed more than 29,000 Palestinians since Oct. 7, the territory’s Health Ministry said Monday, marking another grim milestone in one of the deadliest and most destructive military campaigns in recent history.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to continue the offensive until “total victory” against Hamas after the militants’ Oct. 7 attack on Israeli communities. He and the military have said troops will move soon into the southernmost town of Rafah on the Egyptian border, where over half of Gaza’s 2.3 million people have sought refuge from fighting elsewhere.

The United States, Israel’s top ally, says it is still working with mediators Egypt and Qatar to try to broker another cease-fire and hostage release agreement. But those efforts appear to have stalled in recent days, and Netanyahu angered Qatar by calling on it to pressure Hamas and suggesting it funds the militant group.

The conflict has also brought near daily exchanges of fire between Israel and Lebanon’s Hezbollah militant group that frequently threaten to escalate.

Israeli warplanes on Monday carried out at least two strikes near the southern port city of Sidon in one of the largest attacks near a ma-



MOHAMMED ZAATARI • The Associated Press

Civil defence workers check a burning warehouse, attacked by Israeli strikes, at an industrial district, in the southern coastal town of Ghazieh, Lebanon, Monday, Feb. 19, 2024.

mor city, wounding 14 people, Lebanese state media said. The Israeli military said it attacked Hezbollah arms depots near Sidon in retaliation for a drone that exploded in an open field near the northern Israeli city of Tiberias earlier Monday.

In Gaza, the Health Ministry said the death toll had risen to 29,092 since the start of the war,

around two-thirds of them women and children. More than 69,000 Palestinians have been wounded, overwhelming the territory’s hospitals, less than half of which are even partially functioning. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count.

The war began when Hamas-

led militants stormed into southern Israel from Gaza on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 men, women and children hostage. After a round of exchanges for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel in November, around 130 remain captive, a fourth of them believed to be dead.

The Israeli military released a video Monday showing what is believed to be the youngest hostage, his brother and mother being led through the streets of the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis soon after their kidnapping on Oct. 7.

The video provides evidence that Shiri Bibas and her two young boys, Ariel, 4, and Kfir, who was 9 months old at the time, survived the initial kidnapping. The boys are the only children who remain in captivity, along with their mother.

Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the military’s chief spokesman, said the army is “very concerned” about the family’s wellbeing. He said the army found the videos in security cameras seized during its offensive in Khan Younis.

The video appears to show Bibas, wrapped in a blanket, being led through a dirt street by her captors as she carries Ariel. The military said it believed that Kfir was in a baby sling and could not be seen under the blanket.

The infant with red hair and a toothless smile has become a symbol across Israel for the helplessness and anger over the hostages still held in Gaza. Their father, Yarden Bibas, is also still in captivity.

In a statement, the extended Bibas family said the videos “tear our hearts out.” They made a desperate plea for negotiations to release all of the hostages. In January, the family and hundreds of activists marked Kfir’s first birthday in what his family called “the saddest birthday party in the world.”

# SPORTS

## #5 Mavericks continue to cement themselves as top dogs

By HAYDEN LEE  
Staff Writer

As the 2023-24 season continues to wind down, the games become more meaningful. Especially when you only play one game in a weekend, like the Minnesota State men's basketball team did last weekend.

It came down to the final seconds, but the Mavericks were able to defeat the Northern State Wolves Saturday night on the road.

Malik Willingham stepped up and hit the huge game-winning shot to give the Mavs the 85-83 win.

With the win, the Mavs move now to 24-2 on the year, (18-2 in Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference play) and have now claimed at least a share of the NSIC regular season championship.

This win also helped them claim a first round bye in the upcoming NSIC Tournament.

The game began with several lead changes as the teams fought to take control of the game.

It would be a tie game at 11 with 15 minutes to go in the first half, but from there, NSU would mount a 21-14 run that put them up 32-25 with just over eight minutes remaining in the half.

The resilient Mavs would force the lead to change hands once again as they outscored the Wolves



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

The Mavericks have now claimed at least a share of the NSIC regular season championship. The Mavericks have claimed a first round bye in the upcoming tournament.

26-16 in the final eight minutes to take the lead at halftime, 51-48.

It would be the big plays that fueled this run, as Brady Williams scored eight points in the final eight minutes, while Dylan Peeters added seven of his own.

At the half, it was Malik Willingham who led the team in scoring with 11 points, followed by Elijah Hazekamp, who had 10.

However, the true story of the first half was the dominance of NSU's Josh Dilling, who scored 25

points and recorded six assists. As NSU also shot over 60% in the first half, the Mavs had work to do to slow down the Wolves' offense.

The beginning of the second half was similar to the opening of the game. There were many lead

changes as the Wolves took a three point lead at 66-63 with 13:28 remaining.

Over the next three minutes, the Mavs put together an 11-0 run that put them up 74-66 with ten minutes left to go.

The next eight minutes would see less offense and more defense, as the Mavs entered the final two minutes of play still up eight.

However, the reigning NSIC champions would not make it easy on the Mavs.

They went on an 8-0 run in the next minute and a half, tying the score at 83 with 27 seconds left to play.

On the last full possession of the game, Malik Willingham hit the game-winning shot with 3.5 seconds left, and Kyreese Willingham was able to steal the inbounds pass to seal another win for the Mavericks.

Malik Willingham's night was highlighted by his game-winner, but he also led the Mavs in scoring with 19 points, followed by Hazekamp's 15, Dylan Peeters' 13-point and 13-rebound double-double and Justin Eagins' 11 points.

NSU's Josh Dilling ended the night with a game-high 37 points and added 6 assists in the loss for the Wolves.

"Good victory for our program tonight," head coach Matt Margen-

**CEMENT on page 8**

## Women's basketball suffers first defeat since November

By MOHAMED WARSAME  
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State women's basketball team went on the road to Aberdeen, South Dakota and took on Northern State University where they suffered a 92-87 defeat Saturday.

It is the Mavericks' first loss since Nov. 21, and it brings their 19-game winning streak to an end.

The game was tightly contested throughout.

In the first quarter, after Northern State took an early 5-4 lead, a jumper by Destinee Bursch and two free throws made by Grace Mueller gave the Mavs an 8-5 lead.

With 1:54 left in the quarter, the game was tied up at 17. Northern State's Brylie Schultz then hit a shot to give the Wolves the lead.

Joey Batt got the game tied up again after a reverse layup from a dime by Emily Herzberg.

The Wolves proceeded to knock down four free throws, before Batt drained a three-pointer with 19 seconds left to cut the Wolves' lead to 23-22 at the end of the first quarter.

After taking the lead early in the second quarter, shots made by Madelyn Bragg and Alayna Benike gave the Wolves a four-point lead.



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

The Minnesota State women's basketball team saw their 19-game winning streak come to an end at the hands of Northern State University Saturday.

Batt then made a layup with 7:18 left in the quarter and was fouled on the play. She made her free throw to complete the three-point

play, and cut the Wolves' lead back to one.

Northern State would follow up that sequence of play with a

16-4 run led by Deontee Smith. During the run, Smith scored eight points. As a team, they went five for five from the field, and three for

three from beyond the arc. Smith's three-pointer with 3:56 left in the quarter made the score 44-31 in favor of the Wolves.

The Mavs would cut into that lead before the halftime break.

Batt made a three and a layup to cut the lead to eight points. Taylor Theusch then drained a three of her own to cut the lead to five with 1:36 left in the half.

Batt made a layup in the waning seconds of the quarter, to make the Mavs' deficit 46-42 going into halftime.

In the first half, the Mavs shot 34% from the field, made three of eight three-point attempts and went 15-19 on their free throws.

The Wolves shot 46% from the field, and went 11-12 from the free throw line.

They also outrebounded the Mavs 27-17, and scored 17 second chance points.

The Mavs would regain the lead early on in the third quarter thanks to a jumper from Batt.

The Wolves quickly took control of the game again by going on an 8-0 in a two and a half-minute span to give them a 56-50 lead.

After Batt made two free throws, the Wolves then went on a 7-0 run and extended their lead to 63-52.

**DEFEAT on page 9**

# Mavericks hockey sweep the Beavers



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Minnesota State women's hockey team was able to snap their nine-game losing streak after their weekend sweep of Bemidji State University.

By AHMED HASSAN  
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State women's hockey team snapped their nine-game losing streak this weekend by sweeping the Bemidji State Beavers.

The Mavericks were finally able to get over the hump against the Beavers, and dominated them from the get go and never looking back.

The Mavericks won 4-0 Friday, and continued the dominance by winning 5-2 Saturday.

After their series sweep, the Mavs sit with a 12-21-0 overall record, and a 6-20-0 conference record.

The Beavers and Mavs haven't been on good runs of form recently, as both teams went into last weekend's game with losing records.

The Beavers had lost nine of their last 11 games.

However, the Mavs were the team to ultimately change their fortunes and capitalize on their chances to win.

Sydney Langseth and Taylor Otremba were the stars as both players contributed to four of the Mavs goals in both games.

Otremba went off, accumulating three points, scoring two goals and dishing out an assist.

Langseth also accumulated three points, dished out an assist and scored two goals. It proved to be a great series for her.

Friday's game started off scoreless in the first period as the Mavs

shot 16 times, but were unable to finish their chances.

The Mavs got it going in the second period by scoring within the first three minutes and the last minute of the period courtesy of Mackenzie Bourgerie and Otremba.

The Mavs continued their electric second period going into the third by firing two goals in the last five minutes of the third period to clinch the win and shut out against the Beavers.

Langseth scored her 13th goal of the season and Otremba scored her second of the night on a power play.

The shutout marked the first of freshmen Hailey Hansen's career.

It came as a big surprise considering the fact she had not warmed up pre game due to her skates breaking.

"Having great effort from all areas on the ice separated us from our opponent," stated head coach John Harrington from a press release on the Maverick Athletics website.

The first line of Langseth, Otremba and Whitney Tuttle were impressive on the night just like they have been throughout the season with Harrington calling them "Fun to Watch".

"They like moving the puck. They are not concerned about who scores a goal, but are we making plays to get scoring opportunities.

They delivered with a couple goals tonight," Harrington said in a press conference on the Maver-

icks YouTube channel.

The Mavs continued their dominant performance going into Saturday's game against the Beavers as 14 different Mavericks recorded a point in their win.

"Really happy for our team and the effort we put in throughout this series," stated Harrington.

"A big reason that contributed to our success was the productivity down the lineup.

You're not going to lose very much when you have 14 different players record a point."

The Mavericks opened the scoring in the first 17 seconds with the Beavers responding to make it 1-1.

The Mavericks responded two minutes later, and never looked back.

They scored four goals straight in the second and third period to bring their lead to 5-1. The Beavers scored on the power play to make it 5-2.

The leading scorer for the Mavericks Jamie Nelson brought her goal tally to 16 after scoring on the power play.

Langseth netted her 14th goal of the season to mark her 30th point of the season, which leads all Mavericks.

Saturday's win was made more special with it being Senior Day recognizing senior Mavs Kennedy Bobbyck and Charlotte Akervik.

The Mavs look to continue their winning ways as they close out the last two games of the regular season against St. Thomas at home.

We're looking forward to being home next weekend to finish the deal."

The final two opponents on the Mavs' regular season schedule are Minnesota Crookston and Bemidji State, whom the Mavs will take

on at home this weekend.

Minnesota Crookston will be in the Taylor Center Friday night at 7:30 p.m. and the Beavers will take on the Mavs at 5:30 p.m. Saturday night.

# The future looks much brighter for Mbappé than PSG



AURELIEN MORISSARD • The Associated Press

PSG's Kylian Mbappé celebrates after scoring his side's fourth goal during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Nantes at the Parc des Princes in Paris, Saturday, March 4, 2023.

By JEROME PUGMIRE  
The Associated Press

The future looks much brighter for Kylian Mbappé than it does for Paris Saint-Germain.

With Mbappé leaving PSG at the end of the season, following former star teammates Neymar and Lionel Messi out of the door, the Qatari-owned club's project to dominate European soccer has taken another severe blow.

For while Mbappé will have Europe's biggest clubs chasing him — Real Madrid seems in pole position — PSG faces uncertainty.

The cash-rich club's next steps will be heavily scrutinized.

Who will replace the 25-year-old Mbappé? How will PSG cope without Mbappé given that his goals have helped paper over so many cracks? How does coach Luis Enrique prepare for the rest of this season and the next?

An exasperated Enrique tried his best not to answer at his pre-match news conference on Friday, on the eve of his team's French league game at Nantes. He flatly delivered one-line responses such as "I won't comment until the parties concerned have commented" and "No player is bigger than the club."

When a reporter tried one last time in Spanish, he told her: "I don't have any information to give you on this subject."

Mbappé's exit is also not good news for the French league as it negotiates the next set of TV rights with broadcasters up until 2029.

Mbappé's departure will close the chapter on a local boy who ended up at his hometown club and helped repair its battered image.

Mbappé was 12 years old, playing for his local club AS Bondy in the Paris suburbs, when Qatari owners QSI bought PSG in June 2011. The club was reeling from years of soccer violence, resulting in the death of two PSG fans in the streets around Parc des Princes stadium, and results on the field were poor with no league title won since 1994.

After QSI's arrival, the stadium's hostile atmosphere gave

way to cushioned seats and major celebrities like Jay-Z, Michael Jordan and Beyoncé. Nine more league titles followed, giving PSG a national record of 11.

Mbappé joined in 2017 along with Neymar for a combined 402 million euros (\$433 million). They helped PSG become the biggest club in France.

But QSI really craved a Champions League trophy and a raft of big-name players — including Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Thiago Silva and Angel Di Maria — plus a carousel of coaching changes have not delivered it. The club's motto "Dream Bigger" was splashed on the team bus but PSG reached only one final, losing 1-0 to Bayern Munich in the pandemic-shortened 2020 edition.

So if they couldn't win the competition with all these stars over the years, what can PSG do without any now? Will Qatar's ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, lose patience and pull the plug on the whole project? Will the disgruntled fans, already frustrated at leaving Parc des Princes in the future, have enough of the current leadership and turn on club president Nasser al-Khelaifi?

For the time being, matters remain under control and PSG has a Plan "B" in place.

Perhaps anticipating Mbappé's departure, PSG already started shifting focus somewhat by bringing in more French players like Randal Kolo Muani, Ousmane Dembélé and Bradley Barcola, while fast-tracking academy talents like 17-year-old Warren Zaïre-Emery. Mbappé's younger brother, 17-year-old Ethan, has also broken into the squad.

This represents a considerable shift from chasing star names, and gives local youth players more opportunities than before, but performances may get worse.

Mbappé's goals — 41 last season, 31 already this campaign, a club-record 243 overall — have masked glaring deficiencies in midfield and defense. So many times, he has bailed his teammates out.

A look at the statistics of the other forwards does not suggest the same will happen.

## ◀CEMENT from page 7

thaler said in a press release posted to the Maverick Athletics website.

"We knew to win a conference championship we had to go through last year's conference champs.



# NBA All-Star weekend takeaways: Lots of points, lots of winners in Indy



DARRON CUMMINGS • The Associated Press

The East team, led by captain Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo, right, hoists the trophy after defeating the West 211-186 in the NBA All-Star basketball game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024.

By TIM REYNOLDS  
The Associated Press

NBA All-Star weekend in Indianapolis had plenty of winners.

There was Damian Lillard, a 3-point shootout winner Saturday and the All-Star Game MVP on Sunday — a two-trophy weekend the likes of which only Michael Jordan pulled off previously.

There were Stephen Curry and Sabrina Ionescu, who made their 1-on-1 shooting contest into must-see-TV.

There was Karl-Anthony Towns, the fourth player to score at least 50 in an All-Star Game.

And there are the people tasked with updating the NBA's All-Star record book. They'll be busy for a while after the Eastern Conference's 211-186 victory over the Western Conference on Sunday night in the highest-scoring All-Star Game.

The league goes quiet now, at least in terms of games, until Thursday. Everyone gets a break until then, and for those who were part of the shows in Indianapolis this weekend, it's needed.

Some takeaways from Indianapolis:

## ALL THOSE POINTS

Scoring 186 points is something that only two teams in the history of the All-Star Game had done before Sunday night.

The West scored 186 — and lost by 25. Hard to say anyone would have seen that coming.

Here's just some of the records: Most points by one team (211), most points by both teams (397), most points in a half by one team (the East tied it with 104 in the first half, then broke it with 107 in the second half), most 3-pointers by one team (42), most 3-point attempts by one team (97), most 3-pointers by both teams (67), most 3-point attempts by both teams (168), most field goals by both teams (163), most field goal attempts by both teams (289), and most assists by one team (the West had 60 to tie the record).

"Usually our preparation to get ready to compete, it looks a lot different than it looks when we come here," Lillard said.

"This weekend was a lot better than the past, but I think when the game is any type of loose, if it's not a game where you've got a scouting report and you're locked in and a lot is on the line, then guys who are too talented and are going to make a lot of 3s. That's the kind of game it's going to be."

## STEPH VS. SABRINA

For many, what happened Saturday night — Curry beating Ionescu — will be the highlight of All-Star weekend.

Television ratings for All-Star Saturday were up by a huge margin and that would seem to indicate that adding the Steph vs. Sabrina matchup captivated tons of people who simply didn't care enough to watch last year.

Curry beat the New York Liberty star and reigning WNBA 3-point queen 29-26 in their head-to-head 3-point matchup.

"I think it's going to show a lot of young kids out there, a lot of people who might have not believed or even watched women's sports, that we're able to go out there and put on a show," Ionescu said. "So, it was really exciting to finally be able to do this."

With next season's All-Star Game in San Francisco — where Curry plays and the area where Ionescu is from — they are likely to part of Saturday night again.

They're already talking about a team matchup and adding partners; it might be even more cool if Curry and Ionescu team up to take on another NBA-WNBA pair. Stay tuned.

They also got 17 steals and forced the Wolves to commit 24 turnovers.

Batt got a career-high 33 points in the game.

She also had four steals and five rebounds.

Natalie Bremer was second on the team in scoring, with 19 points.

No other Maverick hit the double-digits in scoring.

Despite the loss, the team has bigger goals they are chasing and will use this as a learning curve.

"The mood of the team isn't too low after losing last night.

We know that wasn't our best performance but we can't get too low about it.

Having a short term memory with these games is very important since we are still chasing so much more in postseason play.

We can take this game as a learning lesson and get a chance to improve ourselves from there," Bremer said.

The Mavs will be back home to finish off the regular season against the University of Minnesota Crookston Friday and Bemidji State University Saturday.

## ◀DEFEAT from page 7

The fourth quarter began with the Wolves up 63-58, but Northern State got their lead up 12 with 7:22 left in the game.

The Mavs tried to claw their way back into the game and went on a 8-2 run.

Their push was halted after the Wolves responded with an 8-0 run of their own, which gave them a 82-68 lead with two and a half minutes left.

The Mavs ended the game shooting 36% from the field, 30% from three-point range and went 25-29 from the free throw line.

## LeBron James still committed to Paris Olympics, but health remains the big key



DARRON CUMMINGS • The Associated Press

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) warms up before the start of the NBA All-Star basketball game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024.

By TIM REYNOLDS  
The Associated Press

LeBron James still wants to participate in the Paris Olympics this summer, sure sounds like extending his NBA career for at least a couple more seasons is an option and said he would like to see his playing days end as a member of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Of course, not even he knows if any or all of that is possible.

James played in his 20th All-Star Game on Sunday, extending his record for appearances in the NBA's midseason showcase, but arrived with a plan to not be on the court in Indianapolis for very long because of an ongoing treatment plan for his problematic left ankle. He had eight points in 14 minutes during the first half and didn't start the second half, giving up his spot to Golden State's Stephen Curry.

"The most important thing for me is definitely my health," James said.

And that will be the deciding factor in just about all of James' basketball decisions for the rest of his career — short-term, long-term, however long he has left on his unprecedented resume.

The first priority right now

is the playoffs, with the Lakers currently 30-26 and ninth in the Western Conference even after winning six of their last seven games.

"We're trending in the right direction," James said.

He is 39, having played more minutes than anyone in NBA history.

If he comes back this fall for a 22nd season — and he intends to — he'll tie Vince Carter for the NBA record in that department.

He insists that he doesn't know how long he wants to play, either.

For now, it's all about the Lakers and their postseason push.

After that, he'll decide whether to play for USA Basketball this summer. At this point, Paris is in his plans.

"I told myself before the season, when I committed to being part of the Olympic team, obviously it was all predicated on my health," James said.

"As it stands right now, I am healthy enough to be on the team and perform at a level that I know I can perform at."

The Olympic question is a bit tricky.

The Lakers' season could end in April, May or June.

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# VARIETY

## Students compete in new song game show

By ANAHI ZUNIGA  
Staff Writer

On Thursday night, the Student Events Team organized Minnesota State's first ever, "Name that Song," in the Ostrander Auditorium where MSU students were invited to watch or compete in rounds of naming songs, guessing famous music artists and finishing the lyrics.

There were two games with three rounds where eight contestants went head-to-head in guessing a song, guessing the artists and finishing the lyrics. Any contestants playing had the chance to win a \$25 or \$50 gift card.

Senior Kaitlyn Smith, who is the Concert Chair Production of the Student Events Team, explained how the idea of a song game show came from and how it would be enjoyable for students to participate in.

"On Tuesdays at 4, we have meetings where anyone can come and join and participate in talking about events that we've done. We do activities on Tuesdays and I did an activity that basically was similar to the game show that I created, where we played a series of songs but it was combined together. And then we would separate them into two big teams and then each round, a person would come up and then we would play a song and they

would try to guess the song," Smith said. "It was really fun, like we were very competitive. It was just a lot of laughs so I was like, 'How can I make that into a game show and add rounds to it?' Because like that, you're just guessing what the song was and then it was over and then the next people went and this I kind of broke it down into certain rounds."

As the Concert Chair Production, Smith explained the planning of the event and how it's a more laid back event for students opposed to the concerts she helps plan and organize with the Student Events Team.

"I do concerts for the university so this was kind of a more chill event to do. But basically, I feel like the challenging part is getting all the music. Trying to find songs that people actually could guess," Smith said. "Making sure I have enough songs in my slides. So in case the two people that are trying to guess, if they can't guess, moving on to another song, having multiple songs and then just getting volunteers to be a part of the game show. But honestly, this is such a small event."

Smith shared how she hopes the event becomes a success among students and overall, becomes a tradition for Minnesota State.

"Seeing people on Tuesdays at 4 go crazy about it, I just hope that I can see that at the event like having



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

The Student Events Team organized a song-guessing game show in Ostrander Auditorium Thursday evening, with different \$25 and \$50 gift cards for prizes.

people bring their friends and be excited to come to the event. And then also during the show, the people that want to come on stage get the chance to come on stage and get to laugh and just have a good time. I'm kind of looking forward to that," Smith said. "Just seeing people have good times with their friends. I hope that maybe this tradition, or the game show continues but honestly with the concert chair, that's the only event. You get one event that you get to create yourself."

First year students Ellie Danberg, Maya Shorter and Livia Frederick shared their thoughts of the event and how they enjoyed participating together whilst also congratulating Shorter as the second winner of the night.

"I thought it was super fun and I liked watching my roommate and my friends compete," Danberg said.

"I like that we got to actively participate. It made the event more fun. I think there would be more people too if it were advertised a bit more," Shorter said.

"I really liked all the lights and smoke machines too," Frederick said.

The Student Events Team holds membership meetings Tuesdays at 4 at CSU 245. For more information, visit [www.mnsu.edu/studenteventsteam](http://www.mnsu.edu/studenteventsteam)

## LatinX Affairs create love at 'AmARTE'

By ELLIE MESCHKE  
Staff Writer

On Thursday, the LatinX Affairs group held an arts and crafts event called, "Amarte," (which translates to "loving you," "love yourself" and "I'm art"). Due to the event being directly after Valentine's Day, attendees focused on self love and spent the time creating cards, bracelets, and painting mugs.

Chiara Carrelutti, the graduate assistant of LatinX, said "LatinX is one of the four departments that the Multicultural Center has, we have African American Affairs, Asian American Affairs, Native American Affairs, and LatinX Affairs. We reach out and engage students with latino background or even students that aren't necessarily latino, so they can come to our events and get to meet people from different cultural backgrounds."

"So, basically it was the day after Valentine's, so we wanted to have a Crafternoon type of thing where we provided mugs for them to paint. We also had bracelet making and card making, so we had around forty people as well, we had cupcakes. It's just music, (we) hang out and meet new people, meet old friends too," she added.



DAVIS JENSEN • The Reporter

LatinX Affairs held an arts and crafts event in celebration of Valentine's day titled, "AmARTE," in the Multicultural Center Thursday. The term, "AmARTE," translates to, "loving you," "love yourself," and "I'm art." Students focused on self love while creating crafts such as cards, bracelets and mug painting.

"AmARTE was a post-Valentine's event to focus about loving themselves, in a way of doing self-care for its own person or enjoying a fun and creative time with others," Fabiola Diaz, the director of LatinX and Multicultural Affairs, said. "Am-ARTE means, 'I'm art,' creating art (painting mugs, making bracelets, creating cards), but also how each self is art in a way that everyone is unique in a beautiful way."

"Love to see the students enjoying, de-stressing, meeting new people, having great conversations while doing a fun activity," Diaz added.

"Anyone that is willing to participate or join in or know more about LatinX Affairs, they can follow us on Instagram. And our biggest event will be the LatinX night on March 22nd, where we'll have Samba, like carnival but Latino carnival it's themed, like to dance, eat, it's gonna be a formal dinner, but everyone is invited, they just have to RSVP their table seat," Carrelutti said.

As mentioned above, the LatinX night will be on March 22nd from 4:30-7 p.m. in the CSU Ballroom.

# My experience at a chicken toss



Courtesy Mercedes Kauphusman

After a long day of chicken-related festivities, John the chicken (pictured) found comfort in my arms at the after party.

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN  
Variety Editor

I never knew that chickens could fly until I saw one hurtling toward me. A sea of Wisconsinites were packed together like sardines, knees bent and arms open. One by one, I watched each chicken soar into the arms of their new owners.

My experience at a chicken toss felt like a strange dream. One moment I was asking a friend what our plan was for the day, the next thing I know I'm in a small town in Wisconsin surrounded by people wearing chicken hats, chicken costumes, muddy overalls and grins from ear-to-ear. And as a girl who's comfortable in a city, this country scene was foreign territory.

Once we approached the scene in the middle, my eyes bulged out of my head. There were dozens of chickens sitting on top of a barn and triple the amount of people waiting for their release. It was also barely 15 degrees outside; we were penguins huddling for warmth. Then, the chickens started flying. Well, sort of a combination of falling while flapping their wings, but some of them really took off.

Before I get into the actual

tossing of the chickens, I feel obligated to add a disclaimer. None of these chickens were harmed during takeoff, but nonetheless this practice is not necessarily ethical. However, as a writer in my bones it only felt right to capture this moment on paper. I respect every chicken that was tossed and hope they are happily enjoying life on their farms, and I am sorry for the ones being turned into a sandwich.

Back to the chicken situation, it was like a group of single ladies swarming to catch a bride's bouquet, multiplied by a thousand. People were stacked on the shoulders of others, yelling and scrambling where the chickens went. I strapped on my big girl shoes and hoped a chicken would head my way, we would form an instant bond and live happily ever after as mother and pet, but I quickly realized I was terrified to be clawed in the face by chicken feet. Instead, I supported the determination of my peers, especially my friend's very tall dad.

We didn't catch a chicken, but my friend decided to buy one from someone else for a low price of five dollars. She rejected my idea of naming him, "Ryan Seacrest," and named him, "Leo." Leo became a

member of our pack.

Once all the chickens landed in the arms of their saviors, we poured into the local bar. There was a live band playing classic oldies songs and we all had a giant chicken party. The lead singer may have been dressed as a chicken, but he sang like a star. Everyone bonded over the excitement of their new chicken pets and we danced our little hearts out.

We took care of Leo, but ultimately decided we couldn't give him the life he deserved. We sold him with a profit of \$15 to a lady with a luxurious farm for Leo to thrive in. It was an emotional goodbye, and we will always remember him.

I also held my first chicken, John. John was a sweet, spotted chicken and it felt more comfortable than I thought. He warmed up to me right away. I am basically a chicken whisperer now.

Reflecting on this experience, it still doesn't feel real. I didn't know an event like this existed, and it felt like a scene from a movie. On the other hand, I now have enough chicken memories to last a lifetime, and I will think of Leo and John the next time I am debating ordering a McChicken.

# Some video game actors are letting AI clone their voices



RICHARD VOGEL • The Associated Press

Voice actor Sarah Elmaleh poses for a photo in Los Angeles on Feb. 1, 2024.

By MATT O'BRIEN  
The Associated Press

If you are battling a video game goblin who speaks with a Cockney accent, or asking a gruff Scottish blacksmith to forge a virtual sword, you might be hearing the voice of actor Andy Magee.

Except it's not quite Magee's voice. It's a synthetic voice clone generated by artificial intelligence.

As video game worlds get more expansive, some game studios are experimenting with AI tools to give voice to a potentially unlimited number of characters and conversations. It also saves time and money on the "vocal scratch" recordings game developers use as placeholders to test scenes and scripts.

The response from professional actors has been mixed. Some fear that AI voices could replace all but the most famous human actors if big studios have their way. Others, like Magee, have been willing to give it a try if they're fairly compensated and their voices aren't misused.

"I hadn't really anticipated AI voices to be my break into the industry, but, alas, I was offered paid voice work, and I was grateful for any experience I could get at the time," said Magee, who grew up in Northern Ireland and has previously worked as a craft brewery manager, delivery driver and farmer.

He now specializes in voicing a diverse range of characters from the British Isles, turning what he used to consider a party trick into a rewarding career.

AI voice clones don't have the best reputation, in part because they've been misused to create convincing deepfakes of real people — from U.S. President Joe Biden to the late Anthony Bourdain — saying things they never said. Some early attempts by independent developers to add them to video games have also been poorly received, both by gamers and actors — not all of whom consented to having their voices used in that way.

Most of the big studios haven't yet employed AI voices in a noticeable way and are still in ongoing negotiations on how to use them with Hollywood's actors union, which also represents game performers. Concerns about how movie studios will use AI helped fuel last year's strikes by

the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists but when it comes to game studios, the union is showing signs that a deal is likely.

Sarah Elmaleh, who has played the Cube Queen in Fortnite and numerous other high-profile roles in blockbuster and indie games, said she has "always been one of the more conservative voices" on AI-generated voices but now considers herself more agnostic.

"We've seen some uses where the (game developer's) interest was a shortcut that was exploitative and was not done in consultation with the actor," said Elmaleh, who chairs SAG-AFTRA's negotiating committee for interactive media.

But in other cases, she said, the role of an AI voice is often invisible and used to clean up a recording in the later stages of production, or to make a character sound older or younger at a different stage of their virtual life.

"There are use cases that I would consider with the right developer, or that I simply feel that the developer should have the right to offer to an actor, and then an actor should have the right to consider that it can be done safely and fairly without exploiting them," Elmaleh said.

SAG-AFTRA has already made a deal with one AI voice company, Replica Studios, announced last month at the CES gadget show in Las Vegas. The agreement — which SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher described as "a great example of AI being done right" — enables major studios to work with unionized actors to create and license a digital replica of their voice. It sets terms that also allow performers to opt out of having their voices used in perpetuity.

"Everyone says they're doing it with ethics in mind," but most are not and some are training their AI systems with voice data pulled off the internet without the speaker's permission, said Replica Studios CEO Shreyas Nivas.

Nivas said his company licenses characters for a period of time. To clone a voice, it will schedule a recording session and ask the actor to voice a script either in their regular voice or the voice of the character they are performing.

"They control whether they wish to go ahead with this," he said.

# How Ziggy Marley helped bring the authenticity to Bob Marley

By LINDSEY BAHR  
The Associated Press

People had been coming to Ziggy Marley and his family for years with ideas about how to turn reggae icon Bob Marley's life into a movie. But it never felt quite right, until a few years ago when they decided to be the instigators.

"It was just a feeling," Ziggy Marley said of getting his father's life on screen in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "We explored it without knowing that we definitely wanted to do it because we needed to make sure that the people we did it with was the right people. People who respected what we wanted to do, the

culture, the authenticity that we wanted."

This time, he said, they found the right partners. But it was a gamble for everyone: For Paramount Pictures and the other producers, wanting to do right by Bob Marley's story, his music and his message and worried what would happen if they didn't; For Kingsley Ben-Adir stepping into the shoes of an icon; For the family and friends who mined their memories for the more intimate story; And for a director, Reinaldo Marcus Green, who had to bring it all together and make it sing.

Early signs suggest that for moviegoing audiences, it worked. "Bob Marley: One Love" has only

been in theaters for a few days, but it is already making waves at the box office. On its first day alone, it made \$14 million in North America, a record for a midweek Valentine's Day debut. As of Sunday it had already made an estimated \$80 million globally. Though critics have been mixed, ticket buyers responded with enthusiasm giving the \$70 million film the highest marks in exit polls.

"It's such a rewarding validation of the thing that we set out to do," said Mike Ireland, the co-president of Paramount Motion Picture Group. "The audience is the ultimate arbiter of every movie and everything you put into the world."

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