

EESA hosts 'Ethiopian Night'

By EPHRATA BEZUAYENE
Staff Writer

The Ethiopian Eritrean Student Association (EESA) hosted its annual Ethiopian Night Saturday.

The theme was "Ethiopian wedding," Rekik Dinku, the EESA secretary, said in years past there was no theme for Ethiopian Night.

"We wanted to do something different so that our members could expect more from us and be excited for our next events," she said.

With over 200 people in attendance, guests included Ethiopian alumni, students from neighboring universities, university students from other states and members of the MSU community.

Among the several non-Ethiopians in attendance were individuals from the Ivory Coast, Nigeria and India. To some, the event hit close to home.

"It felt like home, you know?" said Faisa Yusuf, a student from Somalia. "Even though it's not my culture, seeing my friends be happy, dance and express their culture, again, it's just another taste of home."

The performers took the non-native guests to a new land and displayed their cultural heritage.

"I attended this event because I would like to discover Ethiopian culture," said Mary Emmanuel, a student from Ivory Coast, West Africa. "It is not similar to my



NATE TILAHUN • The Reporter

The Ethiopian Eritrean Student Association (EESA) hosted its annual Ethiopian Night Saturday. The theme for the night was "Ethiopian wedding," which was the first time in years they had a theme for the night.

country, but it has allowed me to discover how weddings happen in East Africa."

As for those of Ethiopian descent, it was a nostalgic trip to the festivities of their motherland. They used what is available in their cultural and individual survival kits to commemorate their heritage.

"We still have to make sure that

we follow those traditions and cultures because that's how our families got us to this position," said Eyob Gezahegne, the community outreach coordinator. "It's important we transfer that from generation to generation."

The EESA board chose the wedding theme of the Ethiopian night, recognizing the beacon-like capac-

ity of a wedding to bring friends and family members together from near and far.

Despite it being a staged wedding, the event was nonetheless exemplary of the time and energy expenditures a traditional Ethiopian wedding entails.

The outreach coordinator ac-

ETHIOPIAN on page 5

Anti-ableism discussion held as part of Equity 2030

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

An anti-ableism discussion was held this week to draw attention to the issue of ableism and the impact of barriers to accommodation on disabled individuals on campus.

The discussion, held over Zoom and led by Jess Schomberg, asked participants a series of questions about disability and ableism.

"How does the concept of intersectionality play a role in understanding the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities, especially considering factors like race, socio-economic status, and gender?" was one question that was asked of participants.

Another question was "Why do students with the same disabilities sometimes need different accommodations?"

The event was part of Equity 2030. According to MSU Mankato's website, "Equity 2030 is the strategic agenda for the system centered around closing the educational attainment gaps for black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), low-income students, and first-generation students by the year 2030."

During the event participants shared examples of ableism they had experienced as well as strategies for combating barriers to accommodation for disabled people. Overall the tone was casual with many participants and attendees eating lunch during the event.

"I try to use language that indicates an accommodation is targeting the barrier [for disabled individuals] not the disability," said Alex J. Lucier.

William Strong, a professor in the speech, hearing, and rehabilitation department, shared his experiences with ableism at MSU Mankato.

"Trying to get accommodations was a several year process," said Strong. "I called it my three cup wine conversation. By the third cup they should have gotten it."

Strong also described being the target of ableism from students.

"I have had students laugh at me, I've had students give me bad reviews," Strong said.

EQUITY on page 3

Women's Center helped students register to vote

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

The Women's Center hosted a voter registration event Friday aimed at, informing and registering voters for presidential elections in November.

"While we're thinking about voter engagement, we are coming up on an election year and we wanted to provide the opportunity for students to learn how to register people to vote," said the director of the Women's Center Liz Steinborn-Gourley. "It's not difficult or complicated, but the more people speak on it, the better."

Minnesota is one of 21 states and District of Columbia where voters can register to vote on Election Day. However, Steinborn-Gourley recommends students register earlier.

"Students should register right away," said Steinborn-Gourley. "Even if you move to another apartment or your polling place changes you can update that. You can update it when you move, you can update it up to the Election



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

The Women's Center hosted a voter registration event Friday. They aimed at informing and helped register voters for the upcoming elections in November.

Day. But I think registering to vote sets an intention that you plan to vote."

The voter registration event was hosted to help students explore options, learn about voting and understand the details of the process.

"Anything we can do to help

people have a plan to vote means you're maybe going to research it a little more, you're going to know who the candidates are on the ballot and be calm, a little more familiar with what's going on politically in your community," said Steinborn-Gourley.

The information about candidates and voting process is also available on the Minnesota Secretary of State's website (sos.state.mn.us). Steinborn-Gourley listed examples of important information for voters.

"If you are from another county, if you're from the Twin Cities and you want to vote at home, you can order an absentee ballot or you can go up and vote on a day you're visiting," said Steinborn-Gourley. "If you're a student here, your residency counts for voting. So if you're from Iowa, you can vote in Minnesota when you're here as a student."

Students from other states will be counted as residents if they have stayed in Minnesota for more than 20 days.

Two speakers came from the League of Women Voters to help students register. They provided additional help for students by connecting them with needed resources.

"They went through all of those specifics, such as having a formal mail, and provided clarity on what students need to help people regis-

VOTE on page 3

What would a new Palestinian government in the West bank mean?



LUDOVIC MARIN • AP File

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh speaks during a meeting with officials from Western and Arab nations, the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations at the Elysee Palace, in Paris, Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023.

By JOESPH KRAUSS
The Associated Press

The Palestinian Authority's prime minister announced his government's resignation on Monday, seen as the first step in a reform process urged by the United States as part of its latest ambitious plans to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But it will do little to address the authority's longstanding lack of legitimacy among its own people or its strained relations with Israel. Both pose major obstacles to U.S. plans calling for the PA, which administers parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, to govern postwar Gaza ahead of eventual statehood.

That's assuming that the war in Gaza ends with the defeat of the Hamas militant group — an Israeli and U.S. goal that seems elusive nearly five months into the grueling war that has killed almost 30,000 Palestinians and pushed the territory to the brink of famine.

Here's a look at the government shakeup and what it means for the Israel-Hamas war.

WHAT IS THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY?

The PA was created in the early 1990s through interim peace agreements signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, then led by Yasser Arafat.

It was granted limited autonomy in parts of the West Bank and Gaza ahead of what the Palestinians hoped would be full statehood in both territories as well as east Jerusalem, lands that Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

But the sides were unable to reach a final agreement through several rounds of peace talks. Mahmoud Abbas was elected president of the PA in 2005, months after Arafat's death. Hamas won a landslide victory in parliamentary elections the following year, triggering an interna-

tional boycott of the PA.

A power struggle between Abbas' secular Fatah party and Hamas boiled over in the summer of 2007, with Hamas seizing power in Gaza after a week of street battles. That effectively confined Abbas' authority to parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Abbas recognizes Israel, is opposed to armed struggle and is committed to a two-state solution. His security forces have cooperated with the Israeli military to crack down on Hamas and other armed groups, and his government has worked with Israel to facilitate work permits, medical travel and other civilian affairs.

WHAT DOES THE RESIGNATION MEAN?

In announcing his resignation, Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said new arrangements were needed to address "the new reality in the Gaza Strip."

Abbas accepted Shtayyeh's resignation and is expected to replace him with Mohammad Mustafa, a U.S.-educated economist who has held senior positions at the World Bank and currently leads the Palestine Investment Fund.

He was deputy prime minister and economy minister from 2013-2015.

As a political independent and not a Fatah loyalist like Shtayyeh, Mustafa's appointment would likely be welcomed by the U.S., Israel and other countries.

Mustafa has no political base of his own, and the 88-year-old Abbas will still have the final say on any major policies. Still, the appointment would convey the image of a reformed, professional PA that can run Gaza, which is important for the U.S.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said it was up to the Palestinians to choose their leaders, but that the U.S. welcomes any steps to "reform and revitalize" the PA.

"We think those steps are pos-

itive. We think that they're an important step to achieving a reunited Gaza and West Bank under the Palestinian Authority."

HOW DO PALESTINIANS VIEW THE AUTHORITY?

Abbas' popularity has plummeted in recent years, with polls consistently finding that a large majority of Palestinians want him to resign. The PA's security coordination with Israel is extremely unpopular, causing many Palestinians to view it as a subcontractor of the occupation.

Both the PA and Hamas have cracked down on dissent in the territories they control, violently suppressing protests and jailing and torturing critics. Abbas' mandate expired in 2009 but he has refused to hold elections, citing Israeli restrictions.

Hamas, whose popularity has soared during this and previous rounds of violence, would likely do well in any free election.

But the most popular Palestinian leader by far is Marwan Barghouti, a Fatah leader who is serving five life sentences in an Israeli prison after a 2004 terrorism conviction.

Hamas is demanding his release in exchange for some of the hostages it captured in the Oct. 7 attack that ignited the war, but Israel has refused.

Hamas has called for all the Palestinian factions to establish an interim government to prepare the way for elections. But Israel, the U.S. and other Western countries are likely to boycott any Palestinian body that includes the militant group, which they view as a terrorist organization.

DOES ISRAEL SUPPORT THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY?

Israel prefers the PA to Hamas. But even though they cooperate on security matters, Israel accuses the PA of inciting terrorism, and the PA accuses Israel of apartheid and genocide.

Professional forecasters raise expectations for US economy



NAM Y. HUH • The Associated Press

A "Help Wanted" sign is displayed in Deerfield, Ill., Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022. The year looks to be a much better one for the U.S. economy than business economists were forecasting just a few months earlier, according to a survey.

The Associated Press

This year looks to be a much better one for the U.S. economy than business economists were forecasting just a few months ago, according to a survey released Monday.

The economy looks set to grow 2.2% this year after adjusting for inflation, according to the National Association for Business Economics.

That's up from the 1.3% that economists from universities, businesses and investment firms predicted in the association's prior survey, which was conducted in November.

It's the latest signal of strength for an economy that's blasted through predictions of a recession. High interest rates meant to get inflation under control were supposed to drag down the economy, the thinking went.

High rates put the brakes on the economy, such as by making mortgages and credit card bills more expensive, in hopes of starving inflation of its fuel.

But even with rates very high, the job market and U.S. household spending have remained remarkably resilient.

That in turn has raised expectations going forward. Ellen Zentner, chief U.S. economist at Morgan Stanley and president of the

NABE, said a wide range of factors are behind the 2024 upgrade, including spending by both the government and households.

Economists also more than doubled their estimates for the number of jobs gained across the economy this year, though it would still likely be down from the previous one.

Offering another boost is the fact that inflation has been cooling since its peak two summers ago.

While prices are higher than consumers would like, inflation has slowed enough that most of the surveyed forecasters expect interest rate cuts to begin by mid-June.

Public frustration with inflation has become a central issue in President Joe Biden's re-election bid. Though measures of inflation have plummeted from their heights and are nearing the Federal Reserve's target level, many Americans remain unhappy that average prices are still about 19% higher than they were when Biden took office.

The Fed, which is in charge of setting short-term rates, has said it will likely cut them several times this year. That would relax the pressure on the economy, while goosing prices for stocks and other investments.

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What would happen without a Leap year? More than most think



CHARLIE RIEDEL • The Associated Press

February, 29, otherwise known as leap year day, is shown on a calendar Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, in Overland Park, Kan.

By LEANNE ITALIE
The Associated Press

Leap year. It's a delight for the calendar and math nerds among us. So how did it all begin and why?

Have a look at some of the numbers, history and lore behind the (not quite) every four year phenom that adds a 29th day to February.

BY THE NUMBERS

The math is mind-boggling in a layperson sort of way and down to fractions of days and minutes. There's even a leap second occasionally, but there's no hullabaloo when that happens.

The thing to know is that leap year exists, in large part, to keep the months in sync with annual events, including equinoxes and solstices, according to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology.

It's a correction to counter the fact that Earth's orbit isn't precisely 365 days a year.

The trip takes about six hours longer than that, NASA says.

Contrary to what some might believe, however, not every four years is a leaper.

Adding a leap day every four years would make the calendar longer by more than 44 minutes, according to the National Air & Space Museum.

Later, on a calendar yet to come (we'll get to it), it was decreed that years divisible by 100

not follow the four-year leap day rule unless they are also divisible by 400, the JPL notes. In the past 500 years, there was no leap day in 1700, 1800 and 1900, but 2000 had one. In the next 500 years, if the practice is followed, there will be no leap day in 2100, 2200, 2300 and 2500.

Still with us?

The next leap years are 2028, 2032 and 2036.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WITHOUT A LEAP DAY?

Eventually, nothing good in terms of when major events fall, when farmers plant and how seasons align with the sun and the moon.

"Without the leap years, after a few hundred years we will have summer in November," said Younas Khan, a physics instructor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. "Christmas will be in summer. There will be no snow. There will be no feeling of Christmas."

WHO CAME UP WITH LEAP YEAR?

The short answer: It evolved.

Ancient civilizations used the cosmos to plan their lives, and there are calendars dating back to the Bronze Age.

They were based on either the phases of the moon or the sun, as various calendars are today. Usually they were "lunisolar," using both.

Now hop on over to the Roman Empire and Julius Caesar.

◀EQUITY from page 1

Strong also described his experiences working with students with disabilities.

"For the students who don't want to admit they have a disability, who can see struggling on tests or in class, I create a third space, where I talk about my disabilities and how they impact me," Strong said.

Strong also elaborated on what he meant by a third space.

"I'm inviting them into a conversation as someone with a disability. I have a stutter and the pauses and breaks are accommodations for my own body," said Strong, who frequently paused while speaking during the event. One plan under discussion was

adding a button to the school website that would ease the reporting of ableism and help ensure that ableist incidents or barriers were properly addressed. This plan was brought up and discussed by Lucier.

The overall importance of eliminating barriers, improving access to education materials and eradicating ableism was frequently brought up.

At least one person made the point that making course materials more accessible could help everyone, whether or not they were disabled.

"People aren't disabled or not disabled. Anyone could become disabled at any time," said Sara Hausladen.

Swedens bumpy road to NATO

The Associated Press

Sweden's bid to join NATO — held up for almost two years — cleared its last hurdle when Hungary gave its go-ahead Monday to let the Nordic country into the alliance.

It brought an end to more than 18 months of delays by the nationalist government in Budapest that have frustrated Hungary's allies. All existing NATO countries must give their approval before a new member can join the alliance. Hungary was the only hold-out.

Here is a look at Sweden's complicated path toward NATO membership.

WHY DOES SWEDEN WANT TO JOIN NATO?

Sweden has stayed out of military alliances for more than 200 years and long ruled out seeking NATO membership. But after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, it ditched its longstanding policy of nonalignment almost overnight and decided to apply to join the alliance together with neighboring Finland. Both Sweden and Finland, which joined the military alliance last year, had already developed strong ties with NATO after the end of the Cold War, but public opinion remained firmly against full membership until the war in Ukraine. Nonalignment was seen as the best way to avoid tensions with Russia, their powerful neighbor in the Baltic Sea region. But the Russian aggression caused a dramatic shift in both countries, with polls showing a



DENES ERDOS • The Associated Press

Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, left, shakes hands with his Hungarian counterpart Viktor Orban at the Carmelite Monastery in Budapest, Hungary, Friday, Feb 23, 2024.

surge in support for NATO membership. Political parties in both Finland and Sweden decided they needed the security guarantees that only come with full membership in the U.S.-led alliance.

WHY IS IT TAKING SO LONG?

While Finland became NATO's 31st member in April, Sweden's application has been held up. All alliance members but Turkey and Hungary gave their thumbs up.

On Jan. 23, Turkish legislators voted in favor of Sweden's membership in NATO.

To let Sweden join, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan put forth a series of conditions including a tougher stance toward groups that Turkey regards

as threats to its security, such as Kurdish militants and members of a network it blames for a failed coup in 2016. Although the Swedish government tried to appease Erdogan by lifting an arms embargo on Turkey and promising to cooperate on fighting terrorism, public demonstrations in Sweden by supporters of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and by anti-Muslim activists who burned the Quran complicated the situation.

Pressure from the U.S. and other NATO allies on Turkey to remove its objections to Swedish membership appeared to have little effect until Erdogan said at a NATO summit last year that he would send the documents to Parliament for approval.

◀VOTE from page 1
ter," said Steinborn-Gourley.

The Director of the Women's Center encourages students to

stay informed.

"The school board is impacting teacher opportunities. It's impacting the kids who live in the com-

munity," said Steinborn-Gourley. "And getting to know the folks that are elected in our communities is a hugely important thing for being an engaged citizen."

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Lets work on staying connected

We live in a world where it is becoming harder to connect with people in a lot of ways. Whether it is due to people being divided on things such as political differences, people nowadays seem to find issues with each other over things that should not be that big of a deal.

With the nature of how various social media platforms are used today, they can be a pretty vile place to spend your time. A lot of these sites now are filled with people wanting to spread hate and their misery onto others.

Apart from just the people that are looking to bring their negative energy to others on social media, a lot of us use it for leisure as well. Without the intent of hurting others, but to have a laugh and see what people are up to.

While using it for those reasons is totally fine, we need to make sure that we are still making time to have genuine human interactions so that we can connect more as a society.

There are ways that we can do this as students that take very minimal effort and can lead to us feeling like we are getting that connection that we all need.

For example, the typical student has their headphones in or looking at their phone when wandering around campus to get to class or any other endeavor.

How about we take our eyes away from our screens, and pay attention to what's going on around us. Of course there will be times where we are in a rush and we just need to get from point A to B. Totally understandable.

However, the times we aren't in a massive rush, let's give each other a smile, a wave or a head nod. It shouldn't be something we shy away from.

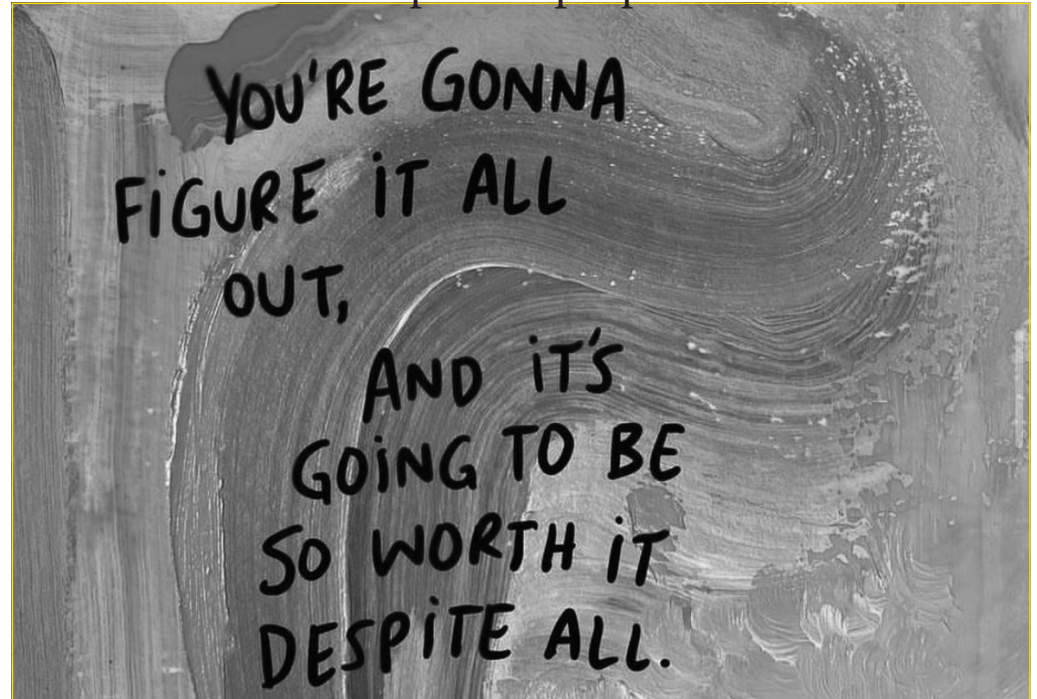
We're all students that are just trying to do the best we can and get our education. That is the common ground that we can find at a minimum.

When we are hanging out with our friends and family, are we really living in the moment and appreciating each other's company? As good of a time as scrolling through Instagram can be, it doesn't beat the feeling of talking to somebody you care about and sharing stories and ideas with one another.

Especially with the stage of our lives that we are at, once we are out of here, we go into the real world. Take advantage of that time we have before real life stress takes over and not the stress of a deadline for an assignment.

Perspectives

Mindful Journeys: Things you shouldn't say to anxious/depressed people



Courtesy @stayclosetoyourself on Instagram

Even though I have been dealing with my mental health struggles for almost a year now, I have heard almost everything that can be said about mental health. Words do have an impact on everyone, especially those who are struggling with a disorder.



Emma Johnson
Editor in Chief

I've compiled a list of phrases you shouldn't say to someone who's having a tough time with their mental health:

"It's all in your head": It's not always in our head. Sure, that's where the mental health resides, but it's more than that. Anxiety can contribute to several physical symptoms that affect our health and how we go about functioning in our everyday lives. It impacts us in every way, shape and form.

"It's not such a big deal": Downplaying a person's mental health can aggravate it and make them feel ashamed

for worrying in the first place. It can invalidate their feelings and make them less likely to share how they're feeling with you in the future. Don't talk down to them as though their issues aren't a big deal. To them, it feels very real in the moment.

"Stop worrying and calm down": If relaxing on command was possible or realistic, anxiety would cease to exist in the world. In a way, it's telling the person their symptoms are a choice. If we could calm down, we wouldn't be feeling this way.

It may seem like a positive thing to say, but can actually make the person feel worse.

"Why are you acting this way?": To anyone who doesn't have anxiety, it can seem unrealistic to worry so much. One of the scariest parts of anxiety is sometimes we don't know why we're worried and it could be buried in our subconscious. Even if we do know why we're worried, we might have a hard time putting it into words. We don't want to be feeling this way either, so please don't make it feel like we're doing it only for attention.

Here are some alternative phrases you can say instead to offer your support:

"How can I help?": One of the best things you can do is offer your support to someone having a hard time dealing with their mental health. Ask them how you can best support them, whether it's

COLUMN on page 6▶

Pulse

"How do you think you did on your midterms?"

Compiled by Davis Jensen



ALEX VIGIL,
SOPHOMORE

"I needed to stop procrastinating, but I think I did pretty good."



AEDAN BERTRAND,
SOPHOMORE

"I think I did pretty solid."



WES GRANGER,
FRESHMAN

"Across the board, pretty solid."



JORDAN ENGBRETSON,
JUNIOR

"I didn't have any midterms."



CASSADY CALLAHAN,
SENIOR

"My midterm was my choir concert which we rocked."



NAT HERMERECK,
STUDENT

"I think I did okay on my midterms."

Biden and Trump are making dueling trips to Mexico border



GREGORY BULL • The Associated Press

Migrants stand in groups as they arrive at a bus stop after leaving a processing facility, Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, in San Diego

By SEUNG MIN KIM, COLLEEN LONG, ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN
The Associated Press

President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump will make dueling trips to the Mexican border in Texas on Thursday after congressional talks on a deal to rein in illegal migration collapsed.

The visits underscore immigration's central importance in the 2024 presidential race and how much both Biden and Trump are seeking to use the nation's broken system to their political advantage.

Biden will travel to Brownsville, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley, an area that often sees large numbers of border crossings, White House press secretary Kar-

ine Jean-Pierre said Monday.

He will meet border agents and discuss the need for bipartisan legislation.

It would be his second visit to the border as president. He traveled to El Paso in January last year.

"He wants to make sure he puts his message out there to the American people," Jean-Pierre said.

Trump, for his part, will head to Eagle Pass, Texas, about 325 miles or 520 kilometers away from Brownsville, another hotspot in the state-federal clash over border security, according to three people who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the plans.

The number of people who are illegally crossing the U.S. border

has been rising for complicated reasons that include climate change, war and unrest in other nations, the economy, and cartels that see migration as a cash cow.

The administration has been pairing crackdowns at the border with increasing legal pathways for migrants designed to steer people into arriving by plane with sponsors, not illegally on foot to the border.

But U.S. policy right now allows for migrants to claim asylum regardless of how they arrive. And the numbers of migrants flowing to the U.S.-Mexico border have far outpaced the capacity of an immigration system that has not been substantially updated in decades.

Arrests for illegal crossings fell by half in January, but there were record highs in December.

◀ETHIOPIAN from page 1

knowledge that the success of the event was credited to the devoted student volunteers and the collective effort of the board members

The event kicked off with an informative presentation on the demographic and cultural make-up of Ethiopia. The presenter, Gezahegne, went over the languages and ethnicities. He mentioned that Ethiopia is "the cradle of mankind" and touched on the rich history of the land, including its resistance to colonialism.

He also discussed some of the country's major religious practices, musical instruments, dances, traditional cuisine and the Buna (coffee) ceremony, that takes place in tandem with their meals.

A part of the typical Ethiopian wedding ceremony, the Shimgilina, was acted out and directed by student volunteers and displayed on large screens that run across the CSU ballroom. The ceremony, which usually takes place before the wedding day, involves the future groom sending senior members of his family to the bride's house to ask for her hand in marriage. The elders expound on the groom's background, familial up-

bringing and virtues, seeking to convince the bride's parents that he can take care of their daughter.

Following the on-screen film was a live theatrical performance of another ritual in an Ethiopian wedding ceremony, which was conveniently titled 'Sergegna anagebam,' which translates to "we won't let the groom in."

The title accurately captures the friendly altercation between the groom and his soon-to-be in-laws. It involves the bride's family forming a human barrier in front of her and resisting the groom's entry into their home. It resembles a scene in American football where linebackers and defensive backs use the zone coverage scheme to protect against a pass.

However, the next theatrical scene cut to the reception, where the grand entrance of the bride and groom seemed to have been a crowd favorite. Adeal Getachew, one of the performers who had posed as a bridesmaid, said watching the bride and groom walk down the aisle was the best part of the whole wedding.

As is customary in most weddings, the groomsmen and brides-

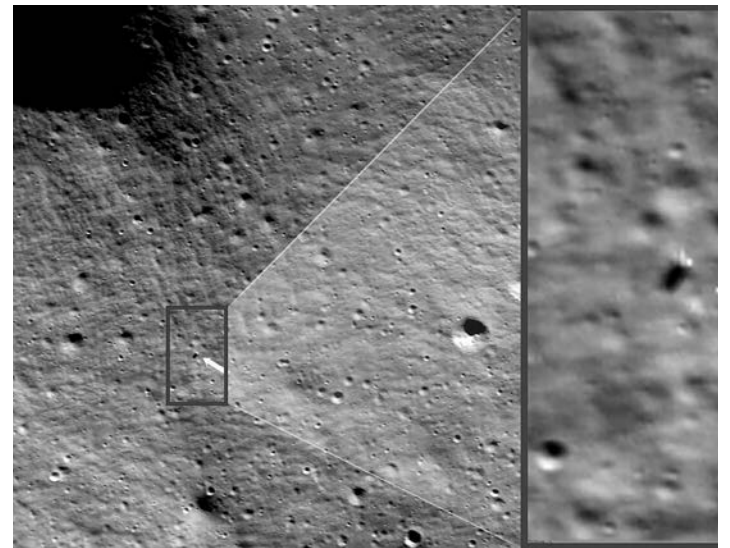
maids danced their way down the aisle, ushering in the bride and groom. Then the wedded pair, draped in capes adorned with elaborately woven silver embroidery, made their descent.

The audience was also taken on a tour of Ethiopian folk-dances around all corners of the country. Performed in various forms were the virtuoso "shoulder-dances," or eskista as they are locally called.

The different dances, possibly appearing at first glance as indistinguishable, follow instinctive rules in direction, rhythm, and style. The performers took the audience on a journey to witness these folk dances, making stops at Amhara, Tigray, Harar, Somalia, Afar and Oromo regional zones. Dancers showcased wild hip movements, head whirls, and mesmerizing circular twirls as attributed to the different zones.

After the entertainment portion, guests were invited to enjoy a traditional feast, consisting of Ethiopia's staple sourdough flatbread, Injera, and complimentary stews and vegetables. The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony.

Sideways moon landing cuts mission short



NASA via AP

These photos provided by NASA show images from NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera team which confirmed Odysseus completed its landing.

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

A private U.S. lunar lander is expected to stop working Tuesday, its mission cut short after landing sideways near the south pole of the moon.

Intuitive Machines, the Houston company that built and flew the spacecraft, said Monday it will continue to collect data until sunlight no longer shines on the solar panels. Based on the position of Earth and the moon, officials expect that to happen Tuesday morning. That's two to three days short of the week or so that NASA and other customers had been counting on.

The lander, named Odysseus, is the first U.S. spacecraft to land on the moon in more than 50 years, carrying experiments for NASA, the main sponsor.

But it came in too fast last Thursday and the foot of one of its six legs caught on the surface, causing it to tumble over, according to company officials.

Based on photos from NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter flying overhead, Odysseus landed within a mile or so (1.5 kilometers) of its intended target near the Malapert A crater, just 185 miles or so (300 kilometers) from the moon's south pole.

The LRO photos from 56 miles (90 kilometers) up are the only ones showing the lander on the surface, but as little more than a spot in the grainy images. A camera-ejecting experiment by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, to capture images of the lander as they both descended, was called off shortly before touchdown because of a last-minute navigation issue.

According to NASA, the lander ended up in a small, degraded crater with a 12-degree slope. That's the closest a spacecraft has ever come to the south pole, an area of interest because of suspected frozen water in the permanently shadowed craters there.

NASA, which plans to land astronauts in this region in the next few years, paid Intuitive Machines \$118 million to deliver six experiments to the surface. Other customers also had items on board.

Instead of landing upright, the 14-foot (4.3-meter) Odysseus came down on its side, hampering communication with Earth. Some antennas were covered up by the toppled lander, and the ones still exposed ended up near the ground, resulting in spotty communications. The solar panels also ended up much closer to the surface than anticipated, less than ideal in the hilly terrain.

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Warm weather brings a taste of spring

By MARGERY A. BECK
The Associated Press

A warm front swept springlike weather across a large swath of the country Sunday in what is usually one of the coldest months of the year, sending people out of their homes to enjoy the rare winter respite but also bringing increased wildfire danger.

In Omaha, Nebraska, the temperature Sunday broke 65 degrees (18.3 degrees Celsius) on a day when the average high temperature is around the freezing mark, according to the National Weather Service.

“Omaha is having its second warmest February on record in its 154-year history of tracking weather,” National Weather Service meteorologist Michaela Wood said Sunday. “And there’s a chance of beating the record yet tomorrow, when we’re looking at a high temperature of around 80.”

The sunny warmth brought Stacy Lawson, and her husband, Hugh Lawson, of Omaha, outside for a game of pickleball with friends. But they weren’t the only ones.

“Outdoor courts are prime real estate when it’s warm,” Stacy Lawson said. “The first one we tried was already filled.”

The Lawsons and their competitors, Tim and Andrea Driscoll, had a hard time remembering the



CHARLIE REIDEL • The Associated Press

A woman takes advantage of unseasonably warm weather, Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, to kayak on Smithville Lake near Paradise, Mo. With highs in the mid 70s, parts of the midwest are experiencing temperatures nearly 30 degrees hotter than average.

last year they were able to play outside in February.

“In Nebraska, February is both the shortest and longest month of the year,” Tim Driscoll deadpanned.

While the warmer-than-usual

temperatures may have provided a break from harsh winter conditions, it didn’t come without some concerns. The National Weather Service cited the warmth, along with low humidity, winds gusting more than 35 mph (56 kph) in

places, and dry winter vegetation in issuing fire danger alerts in an area stretching across parts of 11 states.

Red flag warnings and fire weather watches were issued in parts of New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, up to Kansas,

Nebraska, South Dakota, and east to Iowa, Illinois and Missouri. Nearby states, including parts of Arkansas, Minnesota and Wisconsin, were issued hazardous weather outlooks because of an increased fire danger, according to weather service maps.

Grass fires were reported in the Colorado Springs, Colorado, area on Sunday as a red flag warning was in effect for much of the eastern part of the state.

A fire has burned approximately 3 square miles (2.6 square kilometers) of land at the Fort Carson Army post south of Colorado Springs. The fire started in an area where artillery can land or hand grenades and guns are used in training exercises, said spokesperson John Switzer. The cause of the fire is under investigation, and no buildings were immediately threatened.

A much smaller brush fire was burning on the grounds of the U.S. Air Force Academy north of Colorado Springs, spokesperson Katherine Spessa said. No buildings are threatened, but some pre-evacuation instructions were being given, she said.

A grassfire whipped up by high winds closed Interstate 25 near the Colorado-Wyoming border for about an hour Saturday before it was extinguished, according to the Wyoming Highway Patrol.

Western leaders rally around Kyiv against Russia

By SUSIE BLANN
The Associated Press

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed Western leaders to Kyiv Saturday to mark the second anniversary of Russia’s full-scale invasion, as Ukrainian forces run low on ammunition and foreign aid hangs in the balance.

Allies from the EU and the Group of Seven wealthy democracies rallied around Kyiv to express solidarity, with Zelenskyy joining a virtual G7 meeting Saturday and four world leaders traveling to Ukraine’s war-weary capital.

“Two years ago, here, we met enemy landing forces with fire; two years later, we meet our friends and our partners here,” Zelenskyy said as he met the dignitaries at Hostomel airfield just outside of Kyiv, which Russian paratroopers unsuccessfully tried to seize in the first days of the war.

A somber mood hangs over Ukraine as the war against Russia enters its third year and Kyiv’s troops face mounting challenges on the frontline amid dwindling supplies and personnel challenges.

Its troops recently withdrew



Ukrainian Presidential Press Office via AP

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has welcomed Western leaders to Kyiv to mark the second anniversary of Russia’s full-scale invasion, as Ukrainian forces run low on ammunition and foreign aid hangs in the balance.

from the strategic eastern city of Avdiivka, handing Moscow one of its biggest victories. And Russia still controls roughly a quarter of

the country after Ukraine failed to make any major breakthroughs with its summertime counteroffensive.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and European

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen arrived in Kyiv shortly after a Russian drone attack struck a residential building in the southern city of Odesa, killing at least one person. Three women also sustained severe burns in the attack Friday evening, regional Gov. Oleh Kiper wrote on his social media account. Rescue services combed through the rubble looking for survivors.

Hours later, Zelenskyy’s office announced the signing of 10-year bilateral security deals with Canada and Italy, with Ottawa committing to send Kyiv 3.02 billion Canadian dollars (close to 2.2 billion US dollars) in military and economic aid this year while Rome promised much-needed long-range weapons.

In a joint press conference, Meloni hailed the agreement with Kyiv and said, “We will continue to support Ukraine in what I have always deemed the just right of its people to defend itself.”

“Confusing the much-banded about word ‘peace’ with ‘surrender,’ as some people do, is a hypocritical approach that we will never share,” she added.

◀COLUMN from page 4

checking up on them, offering to help with any tasks that might be contributing to their anxieties or just letting them vent to you and giving them your full attention. Extending a hand to them is the greatest thing you can do.

“This will eventually pass”:

Reassure them their anxiety is only temporary and will eventually pass. Validate their feelings and let them know while it seems scary right now, anxiety can’t hurt them. Soothe them with the thoughts of a calmer future just around the corner. Nothing lasts forever, and if it’s a particularly

rough time for them, let them know they will get back to feeling better soon.

“I’m here for you”: It can be very comforting for someone to hear they aren’t alone and they don’t have to struggle by themselves. Even just being in the same room can calm them

down. If they know they have some people in their corner who can lift them up when they’re feeling low and can provide them with some sense of safety, it can make them feel calm and get them through tough times.

“You got this”: Letting anxious and depressed people know

you believe in them and are rooting for them to get better can make all the difference. Giving them optimism, love and acceptance can keep them going when it seems like it would be easier to give up. Three simple words can change not only their day but also their life.

SPORTS

Mavs break school's single-game scoring record against Golden Eagles

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State women's basketball team got a bounce back 123-61 win against the University of Minnesota Crookston Friday.

The Mavericks' 123 points is a new program record. The previous record of 122 points was achieved by the 2007-08 team in a game against Ohio Valley.

After the 92-87 loss to Northern State University that ended their 19-game winning streak, the Mavs were chomping at the bit to get back to winning ways. They played like it from the opening tip-off.

The Mavs started the game with a 6-0 run, and Destinee Bursch assisted on all three of those early buckets. Minnesota Crookston's Emma Miller got the Golden Eagles on the board with a three-pointer. The Mavs responded to their lead being cut in half after Miller's shot with a 8-1 run to give them a 14-4 lead. MSU got four steals during the run. The Mavs would then add to their lead later on in the quarter with a 9-0 run, before both teams traded buckets towards the end of the quarter, to give the Mavs a 31-14 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The start of the second quarter was a lot like the first quarter. With the Mavs pouncing on their opponent early by going on a 16-0 run in the first three minutes of the quarter. They made seven of nine



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

The Minnesota State women's basketball team awaits to find out who they will be playing in the quarterfinals of the NSIC Tournament. They will know after Minnesota State University Moorhead and Winona State University face off Wednesday.

shots during that stretch, including seven points from Bursch and five from Joey Batt. They also forced the Golden Eagles to commit five turnovers, four of which were steals. Minnesota Crookston did manage to score eight unanswered points later on in the quarter, but at that point the damage had been

done and the Mavs went into half-time with a 56-23 lead.

In the first half, the Mavericks shot 46% from the field, made two three-pointers and knocked down seven of their nine free throw attempts. They also forced Minnesota Crookston to commit 19 turnovers in the opening 20 minutes of

play. Despite a dominant first half, MSU didn't take their foot off the gas at the start of the second half. If anything, they turned it up a notch. The Mavs started off the third quarter by scoring 22 unanswered points. They made nine of 10 shots during this stretch and also forced

seven turnovers out of the Golden Eagles. Bursch and Batt were crucial to this run as well. Bursch scored 10 points and got herself five on their way to having a 78-23 lead after a little over three minutes had gone by in the quarter.

Not letting themselves get satisfied whenever they have big leads is part of the reason that the team was able to go on a couple of significant runs during the game.

"We definitely make that a point. Do not get complacent. We have goals that we're supposed to throughout each game. So having those I feel like really makes us stick to that. Not letting up ever, and just our drive. We're all so competitive and hungry to get a good win and play for each other, play as a family," Batt said.

The Mavs went into the fourth quarter up 98-43. Emily Herzberg's shot at the start of the quarter got them to 100 points. Later on in the quarter, Taylor Theusch hit a three that put the Mavs up 52 points and started a 17-0 run.

The record-breaking shot for the Mavs occurred with 20 seconds left in the game when forward Delaynie Luneckas made a turn-around jumper.

Batt believes that breaking this record shows the work that the team puts in.

"It's huge. It proves how much work we put in. This game was like our bounce back. How are we

RECORD on page 8►

Men's hockey comeback sparks title battle at Bemidji State

By AHMED HASSAN
Staff Writer

Brian Carrabes' last-minute goal Saturday made sure the Mavericks' hopes of getting a seventh straight MacNaughton Cup were not dashed.

The game was all level with under a minute left in play when Brian Carrabes weaved his way around the front of the goal and defenders in the low slot and put in his own rebound, lifting it over the left pad to clinch the game for the Mavericks with 46.5 seconds left in the game.

"Obviously we saw how electric it was in the building, in the stands and on the ice," said Sam Morton after the game. "That's the most electric I've seen our bench, with our coaches bumping fists and what not."

The Minnesota State men's hockey team split its series with Lake Superior State Lakers, losing 4-3 Friday and flipping the script Saturday.

After their series split, The Mavs sit with a 16-12-4 overall record, and a 12-8-2 conference record.

The Mavs needed a win against the Lakers in order to still have a shot at claiming the conference, and put themselves in a prime



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Brian Carrabes' late goal in the third period to give the Minnesota State men's hockey team the victory over the Bemidji State Beavers is his eighth of the season.

position to get the MacNaughton Cup.

The Conference is tight as the

Mavs sit four points behind Bemidji State (42), and two behind St. Thomas (36) and Michigan Tech (36) with 48 points.

The Mavericks moved up to second place in the CCHA after Saturday's win, setting up a pivotal series against Bemidji State next

weekend to clinch the conference and close the regular season.

Hobey Baker Nominee Sam Morton didn't disappoint Saturday scoring two goals for his CCHA leading 22nd of the season.

Friday's game began with a first period to forget as the Lakers scored three goals, two coming within the first seven minutes.

The Mavs' bad start didn't impress head coach Luke Strand who wanted his players to start better.

"We didn't do enough work in the first 15-20 minutes of the game to expect something different. I loved our push. I loved all the things later, but we can't get pinned to the floor early," said Strand in a press conference posted to the athletics page.

The Mavericks fought back scoring two goals on power plays courtesy of Lucas Sowder and Luc Wilson.

The Mavs outshot the Lakers 17-3 in the third, but this wasn't enough as the Lakers scored in the last two minutes of play, and the Mavs scored too late with under a minute remaining.

On Saturday the Mavs needed a win to have a shot at taking the top spot in the conference. And 4,935 Maverick fans were on hand to see **BATTLE on page 9►**

Conference Champions: Men's basketball wraps up the regular season in storybook fashion



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

#4 Minnesota State secured the NSIC regular season championship Friday evening in Taylor Center as the Mavericks bested Minnesota Crookston 82-62.

By HAYDEN LEE
Staff Writer

This weekend, the regular season wrapped up for all Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference basketball teams, but none had more success than the Minnesota State men's basketball team.

This was further amplified by their conference-clinching win Friday night over Minnesota Crookston. MSU has been crowned winners of the NSIC four times in their history, with their last title coming back in the 2013-14 season. Now with their fifth title in school history, the Mavericks will turn their attention to the playoffs.

The final weekend in February was a good one for the Mavericks, as they got two wins, secured the conference and honored their six seniors. Sam Nissen, Dylan Peeters, Elijah Hazekamp, Mason Muller, Brady Williams and Malik Willingham have all now played their last regular season games in the Taylor Center, and were honored in Saturday's game against the Bemidji State Beavers. All six players have played vital roles to the Mavericks' success in one way or another in their time at the University, and they will have one final shot to bring home a title for their soon to be alma maters.

Their first win of the weekend came in an 82-62 contest against the Minnesota Crookston Golden Eagles.

However, the game was not always separated by double-digits.

In fact, neither of the two teams were able to hold on to a lead greater than six points in the first half. Led by 10 points from Kyrese Willingham and nine points and three assists by Malik Willingham, the Mavericks were able to head into the locker room with a four point lead, 35-31.

As they usually do, the Mavericks opened the second half on fire, outscoring the Golden Eagles 24-9 in the span of eight minutes to increase their lead to 59-40. From there, there was no looking back for the conference champs, as they held off the Golden Eagles to officially crown themselves kings of the NSIC.

Following the win, Malik Willingham reflected on achieving some of the goals he and the team had for the season.

"We worked hard all summer for this moment, we talked about it, we wanted to achieve it, but the only thing that could prove it is the action. We came in and wanted to prove every day why we were one of the top teams in the nation," Willingham said. "But the job's not finished, we still have more work to get done. We're going to enjoy this tonight, but we will get right back to work tomorrow."

Malik Willingham has been a tone-setter for the Mavericks all season, and his words Friday night certainly set the tone for their matchup with Bemidji State the following day.

In their regular season finale, he and Justin Eagins were the offensive catalysts as they picked up

one final win to give them a final record of 26-2 for the 2023-24 season.

The Mavericks jumped out to an early 10-2 lead, but the Beavers matched that with a 12-2 run of their own to give them the lead with just over 12 minutes remaining in the first half. Each team would then score 25 more points in the first half to give the Beavers the halftime advantage, 39-37.

The game remained in the balance when the second half began, as the Beavers still held the 46-45 advantage with 13:22 to go. At that point, the Mavs locked in and went on a 17-1 run in the next six minutes, which would end up being the difference in the game. The Beavers were able to cut the Maverick lead to single-digits with just over a minute to go in the game, but it was too little too late as the Mavericks held off the Beavers to secure the 76-66 win.

"We're not done. This is just the first part of what we wanted. The second part is the conference tournament championship," Eagins said. "So it's a new season. We've got to lock in. It doesn't matter about beating these teams now, we have to do it again in Sioux Falls."

Minnesota State continues its season on March 2 in the second round of the NSIC Tournament at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, S.D. The Mavericks will face the winner of the game between Sioux Falls and Bemidji State at 11:00 a.m.

The Mavs will now shift their focus to the NSIC Tournament Quarterfinals.

They will know who they are playing after the matchup between Minnesota State University Moorhead and Winona State University Wednesday.

ing their first game in nearly three months was "outstanding."
"You can go one of two ways, and this team really rallied together. They leaned on each other. It allowed us an opportunity to get back to the basics of what's really important about our program, and just lock in and focus in a little bit more," Thiesse said.

Head coach Emilee Thiesse thought her team's response to los-

Track and Field runs through records to win NSIC



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Minnesota State men's track and field team have now hold the title of second-longest championship streak in NSIC history for any sport.

By LUKE JACKSON
News Editor

The men's track and field team won its 13th consecutive NSIC indoor title, while the women won their fourth straight Saturday.

The men and women teams combined for 45 podium finishes. The men finished with a program record of 237 points, six first-place finishes, eight second-place finishes and 10 third-place finishes. The women had 228.5 points, eight first-place finishes, six second-place finishes and seven third-place finishes.

The Mavericks have surpassed the second-longest championship streak in NSIC history in any sport, trailing only Minnesota State's run of 19 consecutive titles in men's outdoor track & field (1948-1966) and passing Minnesota Duluth's dozen straight titles in women's cross country (1992-2003).

Both teams will move onto the NCAA tournament in Pittsburg.

"Outstanding weekend for the Mavericks, we are excited about the national championships coming forward," said head coach Mike Turgeon. "The highlight of the weekend was the world-class effort put on by Denisha Cartwright — who crushed the NCAA Division II record in the 60-meter hurdles."

Cartwright left the competition breaking the facility record along with the NSIC and Division II record with her 7.93s

60m hurdle performance. This was the third-fastest time across all divisions this season. Following behind her were three more Mavericks compiling the top four finishes. Adeyah Brewster was second and Roxan Foster placed third.

Cartwright also cruised to victory in the 200m dash. Her 23.68s time broke the facilities, NSIC and her own season record. Rose Cramer finished third in the event with a season best time of 24.56.

"It has been a tremendous privilege watching Denisha progress into one of the best sprinters of all-time in Division II history," said Turgeon. "She has an outstanding work ethic, is an inspirational leader and is an all around good human being. Coach Parno has done an amazing job recruiting a talented runner like Denisha and developing her into the powerhouse athlete she has become."

Other firstplace finishes came from Eilika Lane in the 400m dash, Flore Garcia in triple jump and Madeline Fretag in weight throw.

The men finished first and second in long jump. James Gilbert landed at 7.81m for first place and a new Division II best this season. Jalen McGee was second at 7.64m.

Jabez Reeves, D'Eric Smith and Shemar Miller swept the podium in the 60m dash. Reeves won the event with a time of 6.74s. Reeves

TRACK on page 9

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Nikola Jokic has third straight triple-double to help Nuggets beat Warriors, 119-103



GODOFREDO A. VASQUEZ • The Associated Press

Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray, right, moves the ball while defended by Golden State Warriors guard Brandin Podziemski during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, in San Francisco.

By JANIE McMAULEY
The Associated Press

Nikola Jokic insists he's not changing anything during his latest run of triple-double dominance, just finding the flow of the game as it comes.

Doing it all for Denver on both ends yet again, Jokic has the defending champions off to a 3-0 start after the All-Star break following a three-game skid right before it.

Jokic had 32 points, 16 rebounds and 16 assists for his third straight triple-double and 18th of the season after his long buzzer-beater against Golden State

sealed the last meeting, leading the Nuggets past the Warriors again in a 119-103 victory Sunday night.

"We had three losses before All-Star break now we have three wins. It's how the game is, a game of runs.

In season you have a good period, bad period, you want to have a longer good period than bad and a short bad period," Jokic said.

"I think we are just going in the right direction. That is the most important thing."

Jokic hit a Stephen Curry-like 40-footer as Denver rallied for a 130-127 win at Chase Center on Jan. 4, then topped Curry and Co.

to sweep the four-game season series.

On Sunday, Jokic shot 13 for 24 on the way to his 122nd career regular-season triple-double.

Nuggets coach Michael Malone is thrilled with his team's focus as the regular season winds down — and sweeping the Warriors in four games this season certainly makes a statement.

This marked the 10th time a Golden State opponent won after trailing by double digits.

"I felt for the first quarter and a half they were the aggressor, they had us on our heels and we were reacting to everything they did," Malone said.

◀**BATTLE** from page 7
if they could make it happen.

Junior goaltender Keenan Rancier, who's only played in nine games all year, got the nod to start over Alex Tracy. He did not disappoint, saving 27 shots on the night.

The Mavs dominated the beginning of the first period pressuring the Lakers. Morton found the breakthrough, but the Mavs soon found themselves down 2-1 with 10:46 remaining in the second after the Lakers converted on a power play.

The Mavs responded 10 seconds later as Brett Moravec worked around Easton Hesse to bring the Mavs level.

The Mavs had built up the pressure, and found themselves on a power play, but soon found

themselves down as a blind pass toward the slot was intercepted leaving the Mavericks once again down 3-2 going into the third.

"The Mavs kept their swagger and confidence going into the third period," Morton said, and they came back to win the third period.

"I just liked the fact that when the score was not in our favor, we didn't try to change," Strand said. "We didn't try to be someone we're not, and we stayed on the same page. Ultimately that's probably what helped us out at the end."

The Mavs went on to equalize seven minutes into the third period with the duo of Morton and Sowder connecting for Morton's second of the night.

The Mavs kept the pressure on

Hesse who had 37 saves on the night, and eventually found the breakthrough.

Brian Carrabes scored his eighth of the season and game winning goal completing the comeback for the Mavs, and celebrated raising his hand to his ear while skating past the Laker bench.

The Mavericks look to take this momentum heading into their last two regular season games of the season facing Bemidji State away.

"I just want to keep winning games. If we stay hot right now, we're in good shape," Morton said. "The more we keep coming together, the more we keep growing as a family and winning games, the more fun we're going to have."

◀**TRACK** from page 8

took first in the 200m as well.

"Winning both the 60 meter and the 200 meter was my goal from the moment I came to this campus," said Reeves.

"Part of me would love to enjoy all the credit but the other part

knows that without the amazing group of guys that are there for me day in and day out have helped me get to where I need to be."

In the field, Carter Aguilera threw a distance of 20.05m for first in weight throw. Justin Fretag took third.

"All around it was a great team effort.

Our jumpers are ready to show what we've known all this year, how great they are and we're ready to showcase that in Pittsburg," said Turgeon.

Klopp's last dance has one trophy and the Liverpool manager is targeting more



ALASTAIR GRANT • The Associated Press

Liverpool's manager Jurgen Klopp lifts the trophy next to Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk as the team celebrates winning the English League Cup final soccer match between Chelsea and Liverpool at Wembley Stadium in London.

By JAMES ROBSON
The Associated Press

Jurgen Klopp's last dance at Liverpool is off to the perfect start.

Klopp steps down as manager at the end of the season but he and Liverpool have locked up the first trophy of a possible four.

After a heavily depleted team defied the odds to win the English League Cup final by beating Chelsea 1-0 in extra time, Klopp is determined to win more silverware and the players are determined to help him.

"We just want to give our all for him. We always did," defender Joe Gomez said. "But now when the finishing line is in sight it adds that extra emphasis. It's special and hopefully it's the first (trophy) of a few we can get."

References to Klopp's last dance have started to trend on social media, likening his Liverpool farewell to Michael Jordan's final season with the Chicago Bulls in 1998, when they won the NBA championship. The season was documented in the Netflix series, "The Last Dance."

Since Klopp was hired in 2015, he has transformed a sleeping giant into a force again. The League Cup was his eighth trophy, among them a full set of major trophies including the Premier League and Champions League.

And Liverpool might not be finished. It leads the Premier League, and is still in the FA Cup and Europa League.

"I couldn't care less about my legacy. I'm not here to create one," Klopp said on Sunday.

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VARIETY

Celebrating Setsubun with sushi

By ANAHI ZUNIGA
Staff Writer

The Japanese Intercultural Association held its Setsubun Festival Friday night in Hosanna Highland near Minnesota State campus, where MSU students were invited to attend and celebrate Setsubun by making sushi rolls called Ehomaki and conversing and interacting with other students.

Yudai Komiyama, president of the JIA, said they spent the last month preparing for the event.

"We actually had the same event last year, as well, so the process is kind of easy, Komiyama said. "For this event, we'd say what we're going to do and make. We think about what we need for that and then we make our shopping list and we give a role to each of our board members."

Setsubun is a traditional Japanese event that is celebrated on the day before the beginning of spring. As a unique custom traditionally enjoyed during the holiday, Ehomaki is prepared and eaten while facing the direction that is said to be lucky for the year.

"Setsubun is when we celebrate the change of our season from winter to spring. And so it depends, like we usually do not eat in our house. It's us throwing beans. We throw beans to remember the bad things and welcome good luck. So it's good timing for the seasonal change," Komiyama said.

As Komiyama said, another



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

The Japanese Intercultural Association at Minnesota State celebrated Setsubun Friday with a sushi-making, bean tossing and fun. Setsubun is a traditional Japanese event celebrating the transition of seasons from winter to spring.

custom commonly performed in Setsubun in Japan is mamemaki, which is the throwing of roasted beans out the front doors and homes or at temples and shrines.

Students participated in this ritual where they shouted the phrase "Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!"

which translates to "Devils out, fortune in" while several JIA members dressed up as oni, also known as demons in Japanese, as the students threw beans for good fortune.

Komiyama shared how it's important to celebrate Setsubun on campus for both domestic and in-

ternational students and how the JIA strives to share the culture and traditions of both historical and current Japan to all MSU students on campus.

"When I got here, I saw a lot of students interested in Japanese culture, but so what they know and **SETSUBUN on page 11**

A week of compliments

By MERCEDES
KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

On days when I'm unhappy with who I see in the mirror, hearing a meaningful compliment from someone can completely change my interaction with my reflection.

For a week, I challenged myself to compliment familiar and unfamiliar faces out in the world, and see how one small action can make a big impact.

According to Psychology Magazine, neuroscientists have shown that verbal affirmations light up the same areas of the brain as a monetary reward does.

Giving out a compliment takes little effort, yet people tend to shy away from handing them out due to anxiety of confrontation or underestimating the power of an uplifting comment.

Sometimes I, myself have failed to blurt out a positive remark about someone else for these reasons, but I decided to release any oppositions for the week's entirety.

Rather than allowing overthinking to take over, I decided to compliment someone whenever the thought crossed my head.

Throughout the week, I complimented a fellow student passing my way, my barista's nails, the hairstyles and outfits of strangers in the girl's bathroom and the makeup of my favorite Ulta employee. All were surface-level phrases, but the reactions made it worthwhile.

Even if it was a simple, "Aww, thank you!" my heart still leaped with excitement. I also had others send a compliment my way in return, or start off a friendly conversation. I ended up having lengthy, feel-good banter with a few people I would never normally talk to; it was humans lifting up humans, which is something we don't always see lately.

I also complimented acquaintances I haven't had a connection or meaningful interaction with yet, like my classmate or a co-worker. Complimenting on the work they completed rather than a piece of their outside appearance felt good to appreciate.

There was one classmate in particular that gave off the same energy in response to my positive remark to her project. They sweetly showered compliments back in my direction, and I noticed us connecting more in class as the week continued. I think it helped them see me as a genuine person rather than a side character in their academic life, and could even continue to build into a potential friendship.

Finally, I made an extra effort to shower my loved ones with compliments. Although I spend nearly everyday either seeing or talking to close friends and family, sometimes I forget to consis-

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Mavs in Action hosts hygiene pack event

By JACK HARDING
Staff Writer

Mavs in Action hosted another volunteer event in the Centennial Student Union last Thursday where students helped put together hygiene care packs, to be distributed to local organizations.

Like the name suggests, the packs contained various hygiene products like soap, tooth brushes, toothpaste etc.

This event is the most recent of the weekly volunteer events hosted by Mavs in Action, a team of students dedicated to building community partnerships across the Greater Mankato Area.

In order to collect as many supplies as possible, the team's leaders reached out to local hotels and dental offices for donations on top of purchasing some supplies from stores. After students helped put together the packs, the packs were then donated to the Connections Shelter and the Mankato Salvation Army.

Interim assistant director for community engagement Crystal Watts talked about the reasons so many students volunteer at these kinds of events.



DAVIS JENSEN • The Reporter

Minnesota State's Mavs in Action hosted a volunteer event Thursday to create hygiene care packs with soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and more.

"A lot of our students come from places where volunteerism is just part of their fabric, part of how they grew up. Some of our students are coming to us because they might have a requirement for class. And then a good majority of our students are international and they are required to get up to 30 hours of volunteer service for their International Maverick scholarship," Watts said.

Many students go for more fer-

vent reasons. Some talked about the good feeling that comes with helping people in need. Others, like Nuhaid Taiseer and Ivan Molchanov, talked about the communal aspect.

"I feel like this was a really nice opportunity for me to get more involved in the community. Also, since I'm living in the U.S., so that I can get more familiar with people here and work with my peers like today I met people from a lot

of countries including Nepal, than sometimes from Africa. So I think it's a good opportunity to make connections," Taiseer said.

"It's a community, so you can share your passion with other people. It's not just about volunteering," Molchanov said.

Regardless of the reason students attend, Watts said she and the other team members make sure to tell them that it's valid and they appreciate their attendance.

Mavs In Action meets at 4 p.m. Thursdays. Over the months, their events have grown drastically, so much so that one meeting reached up to a whopping 113 people registered. Watts talked about how they've had to make changes because of this influx of students.

"It's fantastic and it's a good problem to have, but we have to manage our resources wisely. So we moved here to the Heritage room on Thursdays and we cap our meeting attendance at around 45 to 50 depending on what it is we're working on," Watts said.

The Mavs in Action student volunteer leaders include Olivia Hall, Elise Sommer, Sai Lakku, Meghana Lakku, Jake Hauser and Leyla Farah.

Inside the enduring movie homes of production designer Jack Fisk



CHRIS PIZZELLO • The Associated Press

This image released by Apple TV+ shows, from left, JaNae Collins, Lily Gladstone, and Cara Jade Myers in a scene from "Killers of the Flower Moon."

By JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

Jack Fisk, the legendary production designer, has been down a lot of roads in his life. He goes looking down back roads for movie locations and hillsides on which to plop down mock houses. He's been to the Solomon Islands for "The Thin Red Line" and the Canadian Rockies for "The Revenant." But America, really, is his territory.

Fisk, 78, has for half a century been building some of the most indelible homes and structures of movies. He crafted the grand Victorian that peers down from above the wheat fields in Terrence Malick's "Days of Heaven" (1978). He erected the oil derrick of Paul Thomas Anderson's "There Will Be Blood" (2007). And he built Mollie Burkhardt's Osage home for Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon."

"Killers of the Flower Moon," which entailed recreating the circa-1919 Oklahoma town of Fairfax, expands the wide swath of American ground, and history, that Fisk has covered. And it's earned Fisk his third Oscar nomination, a capstone to a career crafting rough-hewn on-screen worlds with such fine-grained dimensionality that you feel as

though you walked through them.

That's partly because you — or at least the actors — actually could. Though much set design is done piecemeal, with a few facades just for the camera, Fisk prefers to build entire houses on location to give filmmakers and actors the ability to cross in and out of them. To see out the windows.

"We build everything so it can be shot from 360 degrees," Fisk said in a recent interview from his home, a 210-acre horse farm where he and his wife, Sissy Spacek, live in Albemarle County, Virginia. "And directors take advantage of it. I love not narrowing down their options too early. They can move. And when the actors get involved, it's much more organic."

"It's something I've always liked to do just because I like to build," Fisk added, smiling.

In winter, work around their house in Virginia had slowed, though Fisk had spent that morning tiling a bathroom for his daughter. Work on the house moves at a crawl, he says, compared to on set. On "There Will Be Blood," he had some 50 carpenters nailing away. "When you do it yourself, everything slows down to molasses," he says.

Fisk first set out as a painter and sculptor. He attended

art school and initially came to Hollywood only with an idea of painting billboards. After latching onto filmmaking, he's helped designed all kinds of movies. "Carrie" (1976). "Eraserhead" (1977). "Mulholland Drive" (2001). He's worked on nearly every Malick movie. But what he's best known for are his homes.

"Where are you going to put all these sculptures? You're going to lug 'em around or put 'em in a storage area," Fisk says. "When I got involved in films, it was so exciting because I would build it and then they would film it. So there was a record of it. I was just as happy to never see it again. It always looks better when they filmed it. The lighting is there, the set dressing is there, the actors are performing in it. So you're remembering it in the best possible light. Now, I build my sculptures to look like houses."

Ahead of the Oscars, Fisk recounted the stories behind a few of his most enduring constructions.

"DAYS OF HEAVEN"

For Malick's 1916-set tale of a love triangle on a Texas farm at harvest time, timing brought Fisk to Alberta, Canada. The season was late and more southern farms had already harvested their wheat. In Alberta, Fisk had six weeks until harvest time.

so I could tell a serious compliment went a long way for those who understand my sarcastic nature the most. I ended up getting to spend extra time with the people I love extra, and that truly means the world to me.

A compliment can change the course of someone's day, week or year, and it felt good to be able to become the source of this impact this week. I hope to continue to express the small, uplifting things I think out loud for those who probably need to hear it.

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tently remind them of their lists of amazing qualities.

Out of all of my interactions, these were the most heartfelt; I tend to use my sense of humor as a crutch during serious situations,

◀**SETSUBUN** from page 10
what actually happened today is kind of different. So there's a gap. So I want them to have an opportunity to get in touch with actual Japanese culture and like through experience and fortunately, we

have JIA and I feel like we are the only ones who can do that," He said. "We just make events for each month. We don't do special things on a daily basis. Like what we're thinking is studying about Japanese language learning so we

have a lot of people who are interested in Japanese like in terms of language."

For more information on the Japanese Intercultural Association, visit www.mnsu.edu/mavcentral

Two runaway daughter's family story is an Oscar nominee



KINO LORBER • The Associated Press

This image provided by Kino Lorber shows Tayssir Chikhaoui, Olfa Hamrouni, center; Eya Chikhaoui in the movie Four Daughters, filmed in Tunisia. The film about a Tunisian family and the radicalization of two teenage daughters who joined the Islamic State is up for one of the most prestigious film awards in the world.

By MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

Olfa Hamrouni doesn't know much about her granddaughter; not her favorite toy nor food — is it the pasta the child's mother loves, or something else?

The Tunisian grandmother doesn't even let her mind go there. "I don't want to know. What for but more heartache?" she said.

For now, she just fights for 8-year-old Fatma. The child has spent virtually all her life with her mother and aunt — Hamrouni's eldest daughters — raised in detention in Libya, where the women wound up after leaving home as teenagers and joining Islamic State group extremists.

The real-life story of Hamrouni and her children is the focus of "Four Daughters," an Academy Award nominee for best documentary feature film. On camera, there are many layers to Kaouther Ben Hania's film: It's about the radicalization of two teenage girls; an intimate portrait of a chaotic, and often dysfunctional, family life; and reflections on generational trauma, patriarchy, motherhood and adolescence.

Off camera, it's more than just one family's tale.

The names change, the details vary, but the nightmare is familiar to some others in Tunisia, where at one point many left to join militant groups, including the Islamic State, in conflict zones abroad. Militants have also struck at targets in Tunisia. Today, families like Hamrouni's are living reminders of that complex legacy, the unresolved issues and difficult questions persisting years later.

"It's ... an open wound in my country," said actor Henda Sabri, who appears in the film as Hamrouni in some scenes. "As long as we don't talk about it, then we're not going to heal."

Hamrouni hopes the film's high profile will boost her advocacy for her daughters to be repatriated from Libya, where they had been sentenced to prison, and stand trial in their home country. In Tunisia, as in other countries, some people have been suspicious and fearful of returnees for security reasons.

Hamrouni wants Fatma freed from the confines of her existence. "What fault is it of hers? She hasn't chosen her father or mother."

Ben Hania, who wrote and directed the film, echoed the demands. "We're trying hard to push the Tunisian government," she said. "A country is responsible for its citizens."

The film experiments with format. Hamrouni and her youngest daughters, Eya and Tayssir, appear as themselves. Besides Sabri, actors play Ghofrane and Rahma, the daughters who left, as Ben Hania reconstructs the family's past in search for clues for their radicalization. (The film offers theories but no concrete motives, especially with the real Ghofrane and Rahma imprisoned in Libya.) In some scenes, the actors reenact key moments alongside family members; in others, they question, challenge or reflect. Ben Hania said her role as a filmmaker is to understand and analyze, not judge.

In the film and the family's telling, the daughters grew up with little in a tumultuous home. Dad was largely absent and drank too much; mom was overburdened and harsh.

Hamrouni, in the film, is fixated on preserving her daughters' sexual purity for marriage. She's quick to hurl insults and accusations and to punish perceived or real infringements — a waxed leg, a diary entry about a first kiss — with severe beatings.

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