

Womens basketball takes down No.1 seed to survive and advance

UPSET ALERT!



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

Pictured above is the Women's basketball team at Sawyer Center in Bethany, OK. Joey Batt and Destinee Bursch are holding the NCAA Central Regional Championship trophy after their 80-48 win against No. 1 seed Southern Nazarene Crimson Storm. The Mavs now advance to the Elite Eight for the first time since the 2008-09 season. They will hit the court Monday in St. Joseph, Missouri at the Civic Arena.

UPSET on page 8▶

Four years later choir still recovering from COVID

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way people live. In 2020, people had to stay home and only go out if they had to. School went from in-person to virtual. Traveling to another country was out of the question.

But in 2024, people can leave their houses whenever they want to go to work or school, school is back in person and the travel ban lifted in 2021 for international visitors to the U.S.

The pandemic tested professors' and teachers' teaching skills, and with teaching classes online, they had to adapt to this new schooling method quickly. And for choir students, teachers and classes, it was more difficult.

MSU choir professor Elisabeth Cherland said teaching online was like teaching into a black hole, and it wasn't much better when they came back in person with masks.

"You have no real sense if any-

body was actually listening or engaging out there. You didn't know if you're making an impact at all. It sucked the energy," said Cherland. "With the masks, it was pretty disconnected because people had a hard time hearing other people until they sang even softer. We were making music together but not hearing each other and not standing close to each other."

Coral Cousins was in her high school history class when she learned about COVID-19, but it was before it spread to the United States. She said she thought it was just an extension of spring break.

"At first, I didn't think it was gonna be that big of a deal and that people were just overreacting," said Cousins. "But then I heard about all the people dying, so I was like, oh, 'maybe it's not.'"

Cousins said learning online during the pandemic "wasn't up to par with what I would have learned in person. It made transitioning into college a little more difficult."

COVID on page 3▶



DAVIS JENSEN • The Reporter

Four years ago, students and faculty were restricted from campus. Now, things have changed and are back to a new "normal."

Who is Robert F. Kennedy and why is he running for President



MATT ROURKE • The Associated Press

Presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. speaks during a campaign event, Oct. 9, 2023, in Philadelphia.

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
The Associated Press

The lack of excitement many Americans feel about a presidential rematch has heightened interest in alternatives to the major-party candidates, none more so than Robert F. Kennedy Jr., whose famous name has helped him build buzz for his independent bid.

Kennedy is a huge longshot to win Electoral College votes, much less the presidency.

But his campaign events have drawn large crowds of supporters and people interested in his message.

He plans to announce his vice presidential nominee later this month in Oakland, California, and is stoking expectations that he might pick New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers or former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura.

His campaign manager said Saturday that Kennedy has made his choice but didn't say whom he's picked. She said he had also interviewed Nicole Shanahan, a California philanthropist who bankrolled a Super Bowl ad for Kennedy, and Mike Rowe, star of the television show "Dirty Jobs."

Here is a look at his campaign and what he's stood for:

Who is RFK Jr.?

Kennedy, 70, is a member of perhaps the nation's most famous political dynasty. His uncle was President John F. Kennedy.

His father served as attorney general and a U.S. senator before seeking the Democratic nomination for president. Both were assassinated.

RFK Jr. built a reputation of his own as an activist, author and lawyer who fought for environmental causes such as clean water.

Along the way, his activism has veered into conspiracies and contradicted scientific consensus, most infamously on vaccines. Some members of his family have

publicly criticized his views. Dozens of his family members posed with President Joe Biden at a St. Patrick's Day reception at the White House in a photo his sister Kerry Kennedy posted to social media.

Kennedy founded Waterkeeper Alliance, which works to secure clean water, and built a small anti-vaccine organization into Children's Health Defense, a juggernaut in the movement that saw its reach grow rapidly during the pandemic.

Children's Health Defense has a lawsuit pending against a number of news organizations, among them The Associated Press, accusing them of violating antitrust laws by taking action to identify misinformation, including about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.

Kennedy took leave from the group when he announced his run for president but is listed as one of its attorneys in the lawsuit.

He's married to actress Cheryl Hines.

What does Kennedy's campaign look like?

Kennedy's need to collect thousands of signatures to get on the ballot has taken him to places that rarely see presidential candidates, including Hawaii, Wyoming and West Virginia.

At events in Phoenix and Las Vegas, hundreds of supporters queued up outside hours before he was scheduled to arrive.

He attracts a legion of fans, many of whom have listened extensively to Kennedy's interviews on podcasts or YouTube videos.

In Nevada, massive graphics and photos were projected on three walls as upbeat music played. Drinks and merchandise were for sale.

Kennedy speaks in a quiet, strained voice, sometimes haltingly, the result of a neurological condition called spasmodic dysphonia.

What does he talk about?

Kennedy frames himself as a truth teller with a track record of fighting for the middle class against powerful interests.

He points to lawsuits he's won against corporate behemoths such as Monsanto and DuPont.

"I can fix this country," he said in Las Vegas in February. "All these agencies that intimidate normal politicians, I've sued every one of them. ... When you sue these agencies, you get a Ph.D. in corporate capture and how to unravel it." Corporate capture refers to private interests using their influence to control government decision-making, as when they help draft legislation.

Kennedy has been critical of U.S. support for Ukraine and supportive of Israel's war against Hamas.

He wants to reduce military and health care spending because of the impact on budget deficits, and combat rising housing costs so young people can afford to buy homes.

Kennedy has found a loyal following among people distrustful of institutions and those who believe the government has been captured by corporations, especially pharmaceutical companies.

He hasn't shied away from his controversial views on health care and vaccines. He wants to dismantle the public health bureaucracy, saying he'd immediately tell the National Institutes of Health to refocus research away from infectious diseases and vaccines and toward chronic diseases.

Kennedy insists he is not anti-vaccine and claims he has never told the public to avoid vaccination. But he has repeatedly made his opposition to vaccines clear. He said on a podcast "there's no vaccine that is safe and effective" and has urged people to resist CDC guidelines on when kids should get vaccinated.

Supreme Court extends block over Texas police



ERIC GAY • The Associated Press

Migrants are taken into custody by officials at the Texas-Mexico border, Jan. 3, 2024, in Eagle Pass, Texas.

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
The Associated Press

The Supreme Court on Monday continued to block, for now, a Texas law that would give police broad powers to arrest migrants suspected of illegally entering the U.S. while the legal battle it sparked over immigration authority plays out.

A one-page order signed by Justice Samuel Alito indefinitely prevents Texas from enforcing a sweeping state immigration enforcement law that had been set to take effect this month.

The language of the order strongly suggests the court will take additional action, but it is unclear when.

It marks the second time Alito has extended a pause on the law, known as Senate Bill 4, which the

Justice Department has argued would step on the federal government's immigration powers. Monday's order extending the stay came a few minutes after a 5 p.m. deadline the court had set for itself, creating momentary confusion about the measure's status.

Opponents have called the law the most dramatic attempt by a state to police immigration since an Arizona law more than a decade ago, portions of which were struck down by the Supreme Court.

The office of Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has said the state's law mirrored federal law and "was adopted to address the ongoing crisis at the southern border, which hurts Texans more than anyone else."

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From punk rock career to pursuing teaching english



DAVIS JENSEN • The Reporter

Austin Willette toured for two years on the road with his punk rock band and now is pursuing a career in teaching English at Minnesota State University. w

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

After touring with a punk band for two years, Austin Willette decided to settle down and enter college in order to one day become an English teacher. Once he has his bachelors, he plans on going on to get a master's degree and Ph.D.

"I'm going to try to go all the way," Willette said "I'm going to go to school, do it all. No reason not to."

The 21-year-old punk rocker turned non-traditional college student came to Minnesota State to pursue higher education after realizing he could not spend the rest of his life as a musician making little to no money. The turning point came when Willette agreed to help his sister move in on campus her freshman year.

"The second I got to campus it looked exciting, people looked happy, they had smiles on their faces, it looked like they really wanted to be here," said Willette.

Willette originally got into writing music in high school as a means of addressing his emotional and mental health. Writing, he said, can be a very important tool to help improve oneself as a person.

"Your brain is a very important thing," he said. "If you have problems you should write it down and writing it down lets you look back at it, and see what you've changed. I started writing down my problems and my emotions and I like to look back on it and see how much I've done."

Willette has not given up performing music, even though he is

not a college student.

In addition to being active with Greek life and his fraternity Phi Delta Theta, Willette is trying to form a new band to play with in his spare time. However, he claimed it was difficult finding a bass player in the Mankato area.

Bands and artists that Willette admires include Randy Blythe, NOFX, Fat Mike, Ramones, Rancid, Tim Timebomb, and Blink 182.

"He [Tim Timebomb] is one of my favorite artists of all time. He also has the same birthday with me," said Willette.

Willette described being on tour as involving long hours and lengthy road trips.

"It's living in the back of a van, sitting in there at least 15 hours a day, moving your own gear, playing your own music, trying to make as much money as you can and then going on to the next city," said Willette.

Lack of income as a musician was one reason Willette cited as he came to college.

However, Willette said he has no regrets over the years he spent on the road as a touring musician before college, and he claims to have enjoyed it immensely. In describing the music he played while on tour, Willette said it was both political and personal.

"It was really political but really just being ourselves, being our age and how we enjoy life and how we do things. There was no hate, just positive music. We did not really give a shit, we just wanted to be there to play. We just enjoyed every second of it," said Willette.

Ship delivers 200 tons of aid to Gaza

By WAFAA SHURAFU
The Associated Press

A ship delivered 200 tons of humanitarian supplies, food and water to Gaza on Friday, the Israeli military said, inaugurating a sea route from Cyprus for aid to help ease the humanitarian crisis brought by Israel's 5-month-old offensive in the enclave.

Israel has been under increasing pressure to allow more aid into Gaza, especially in the Palestinian territory's isolated north where hunger is at its worst, with many people reduced to eating animal feed and weeds. The United States has joined other countries in air-dropping supplies into northern Gaza and has announced separate plans to construct a pier to get aid in.

Aid groups said the airdrops and sea shipments are far less efficient than trucks in delivering the massive amounts of aid needed. Instead, the groups have called on Israel to guarantee safe corridors for truck convoys after land deliveries became nearly impossible because of military restrictions, ongoing hostilities and the breakdown of order after the Hamas-run police force largely vanished from the streets.

The ship, operated by the Spanish aid group Open Arms, left Cyprus on Tuesday towing



ADBEL KAREEM HANA • The Associated Press

A ship belonging to the Open Arms aid group approaches the shores of Gaza towing a barge with 200 tons of humanitarian aid on Friday, March 15, 2024.

a barge laden with food, including rice, flour, lentils, beans, tuna and canned meat. The food was sent by World Central Kitchen, the charity founded by celebrity chef José Andrés, which operates kitchens providing free meals in Gaza.

Throughout the day Friday, the ship could be seen off Gaza's coast. In the evening, the military said its cargo had been unloaded onto 12 trucks. Grainy footage released by the military showed a truck on a pier approaching the barge.

The food is to be distributed in the north, the largely devastated target of Israel's initial offensive in Gaza, where up to 300,000 Palestinians are believed to remain, mostly cut off by Israeli forces since October.

The delivery is intended to pave the way for larger shipments. A second vessel will head to Gaza once the supplies on the first ship are distributed, Cyprus' Foreign Minister Constantinos Kombos said. Its timing depends in part on whether the Open Arms delivery goes smoothly, he said.

COVID from page 1

MSU student Tucker McKinney learned about the world-wide shutdown during spring break in Florida. He said it was weird to transition from in-person classes to completely online. He also said it was strange to transition from online to in-person classes when starting college.

"I think just being by yourself for so long makes it harder to get back to being with people," said McKinney.

Cherland said that since the pandemic, she's seen a higher level of anxiety among students and a higher level of disconnection from each other. In the choir space, they rely on interpersonal connections.

"I see more people sort of on their phones at the beginning of rehearsal, and it takes a while to draw people kind of into the space and into the room. Singing together is a really great way to do that," said Cherland. "We do get there, but it takes longer. Part of my job as a teacher has been facilitating some interpersonal interactions that are harder now."

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Diversity prepares for the real world

From the time we enter kindergarten, we are exposed to a variety of different people with different stories. As we get older, we learn more about world cultures and how other societies function in the world. In college, there are several opportunities to interact with students from around the world. We should take advantage of attending as many Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) events as we can as diversity exists beyond our college campus.

A lot can be learned when we think about life outside of our own. The world is full of myriad traditions, languages, and celebrations. Taking the time to learn an aspect of one or two countries can expand our worldview and give us an idea of what it's like to live there. It gives us an opportunity to learn and go outside of our comfort zones. We could find our new favorite food, genre of music or a new best friend if we choose to learn about cultures outside of our own.

Diversity opens us up to new perspectives as well. New points of view, knowledge on certain subjects and coming from different backgrounds lets us see the world in a bigger picture. According to betterup.com, diverse perspectives “enable a more comprehensive analysis,” which leads to more informed decisions. This can make tackling problems easier and shared experiences plentiful.

Many school districts around the country are trying to silence diverse voices. Banned books and curriculums regarding race, sexuality and sexism are being taken out of classrooms. This will not help children in the long run. As they get older and experience the world around them, they'll realize the world is a beautiful place full of countless cultures to discover.

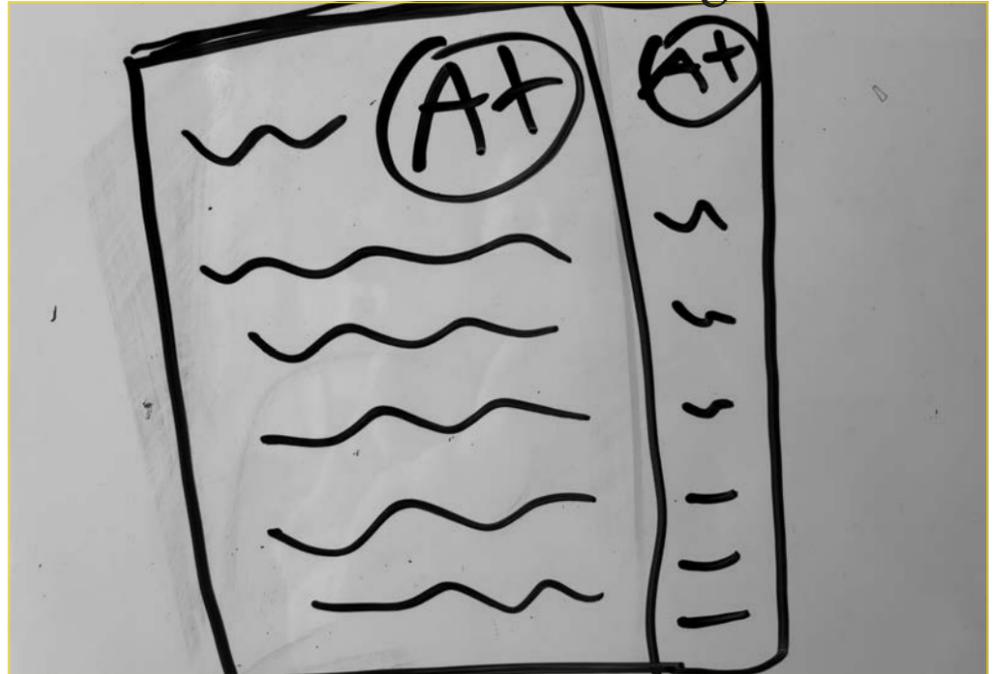
If we neuter their education by providing them only with materials pre-approved by a fear-driven agenda, they'll be unprepared for having difficult conversations about hardships people have faced, and the importance of diversity in the workplace. Having exposure to DEI events at a young age establishes the idea that diversity is necessary in the real world, and preventing children from those experiences only prevents them from gaining knowledge.

In our busy lives, we might not have the time to travel the world and witness cultures unfold before us. However, even sitting down and taking the time to talk with someone unlike ourselves can change the way we see the world. Incorporating those discussions and attending DEI events opens our eyes to how others view the world.

We are all human and deserve to be treated with the same amount of respect. Diversity is one of the key factors that comes into play and we can all gain a better understanding of each other if we take the time to learn about what makes us unique.

Perspectives

Mindful Journeys: Perfectionism kills all good



Courtesy Emma Johnson

Ever since I was little, I've equated perfection with success.

From the time we're little, any task or assignment we do well, we're showered with praise. From big things like acing tests to little things like tying our shoes for the first time, we're rewarded for it. Now I don't think this is where my anxiety started (it's genetic), but it can certainly be one of the ways anxiety presents itself in my life.

When tests, papers and projects started to matter — as early as elementary school — anything less than an “A” was unacceptable in my eyes. I even remember having my parents quiz me on spelling “Emancipation Proclamation” for my first grade spelling test's extra credit. I was devastated when I got a “C” on a test in third grade. Thankfully, my retake bumped my grade higher.



Emma Johnson
Editor In Chief

It only progressed from there. In middle and high school, I studied as hard as I could for all of my tests. I'd go in early to ask teachers questions and review the material until we were told to put our materials away. If a project or paper wasn't coming together as I envisioned it, I'd get frustrated. When my GPA dropped from 4.0 to 3.8 after sophomore year (thanks Physics and Algebra One), I tried everything in my power to raise it back up. I accepted my diploma with a 3.9 and told myself college would be

a fresh start.

I fully believe the reason I'm so hard on myself when it comes to school is that it's one of the things I can control; one of the annoying parts of anxiety is struggling with the fact that there are things I can't, such as sickness, how others react to situations, the future and the past. When our minds spiral with overthinking and negative thoughts, one of the reasons can be from what's unfolding not going as we envisioned it. We also try to think about what will happen in the future so we can prepare for any possible outcomes and different scenarios. Getting good grades is in my hands; I can change how my academic future is impacted due to my scores.

I'm still struggling a bit with this in college. Those who know me know I typically will say I can hang out

COLUMN on page 5▶

Pulse

“What would you refresh at MSU?”

Compiled by Davis Jensen



BILLY KRAGER,
JUNIOR



BRENNA HATTON,
JUNIOR



ISAIAH FLOLO,
JUNIOR



JOAQUIN WARREN,
SENIOR



LIZA ROTTY,
SENIOR



RUBY WILLMES,
JUNIOR

“More green space in the middle of campus.”

“More activites and stuff outside.”

“More windows, there is too much brick.”

“Add more communal spaces.”

“Change the parking situation.”

“Plant more flowers around campus.”

TikTok creator warns of economic impact if the app sees ban



ERIK VERDUZCO • The Associated Press

Content creator Jensen Savannah, left, and her fiance and brand manager Jorge Millares, produce a client video at El Puro Cuban Restaurant, Thursday, March 14, 2024, in Charlotte, N.C.

By LEAH WILLINGHAM
The Associated Press

Alex Pearlman shut the door on dreams of a standup comedy career almost a decade ago, pivoting from the stage to an office cubicle where he worked a customer service job.

Then he started posting random jokes and commentary about pop culture and politics on TikTok.

Just over 2.5 million followers later, he quit his nine-to-five and recently booked his first nationwide tour.

Pearlman is among the many TikTok creators across the U.S. outraged over a bipartisan bill passed by the House of Representatives on Wednesday that would lead to a nationwide ban of the popular video app if its China-based owner, ByteDance, doesn't sell its stake.

The bill still needs to go through the Senate, where its prospects are unclear.

Content creators say a ban would hurt countless people and businesses that rely on TikTok for a significant portion of their income, while also arguing TikTok has become an unrivaled platform for dialogue and community.

Pearlman, who lives outside Philadelphia, said TikTok has transformed his life, allowing him to live a dream, provide for his family and spend the first three months of his newborn son's life at home.

His customer service job only

offered paternity leave equivalent to three weeks off, with two weeks paid. "I don't take a day for granted on this app, because it's been so shocking," said Pearlman, 39. "In reality, TikTok has been the driver of American social media for the last four years. Something will step into that place if TikTok vanishes tomorrow. Whether or not that will be better or worse, Congress has no way of knowing."

TikTok, which launched in 2016, has skyrocketed in popularity, growing faster than Instagram, YouTube or Facebook.

The push to remove the app from Chinese authority follows concerns from lawmakers, law enforcement and intelligence officials about the insecurity of user data, potential suppression of content unfavorable to the Chinese government and the possibility that the platform could boost pro-Beijing propaganda, all of which TikTok denies.

To date, the U.S. government hasn't provided any evidence showing TikTok shared U.S. user data with Chinese authorities.

The move comes as the pandemic saw huge growth in digital marketing as people were stuck at home consuming — and creating — content at levels not seen before.

Jensen Savannah, a 29-year-old from Charlotte, began making TikToks of her travels around the Carolinas during the pandemic. Now a full-time influencer, she has tripled her income since leaving her telecommunications sales

job. "Social media Influencer' is almost to be looked at as the new print and the new form of radio and TV advertising," she said.

"It's going to bring your dollar much farther than it is in traditional marketing."

Some creators describe it as a digital equalizer of sorts, providing a platform for people of color and other marginalized groups to get opportunities and exposure.

"I've always had Twitter, I've had Facebook, I've had Instagram. But TikTok was the first one where, if you want to find somebody who looks like yourself and represents you in any type of way, you can find it," said Joshua Dairen, a Black, 30-year-old content creator in Auburn, Alabama. Dairen makes videos about his state's ghost stories, urban legends and history.

Growing up, he loved researching everything paranormal, but he didn't see a lot of Black representation in the field.

Exposure on TikTok has led to jobs writing freelance pieces and contributing to documentaries about paranormal occurrences and unsolved mysteries.

The app also gave Dairen the flexibility and confidence to open his own coffee shop, where he gets visits at least once a day from fans of his work.

He thinks banning TikTok sets "a dangerous precedent about how much power our highest levels of government can wield."

The spring equinox is here. What does that mean?



MARCO UGARTE • AP FILE

Visitors hold their hands out to receive the sun's energy as they celebrate the Spring equinox atop the Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan, Mexico, Thursday, March 21, 2019.

The Associated Press

Spring is almost here — officially, at least.

The vernal equinox arrives on Tuesday, marking the start of the spring season for the Northern Hemisphere.

But what does that actually mean?

Here's what to know about how we split up the year using the Earth's orbit.

What is the equinox?

As the Earth travels around the sun, it does so at an angle.

For most of the year, the Earth's axis is tilted either toward or away from the sun.

That means the sun's warmth and light fall unequally on the northern and southern halves of the planet.

During the equinox, the Earth's axis and its orbit line up

so that both hemispheres get an equal amount of sunlight.

The word equinox comes from two Latin words meaning equal and night. That's because on the equinox, day and night last almost the same amount of time — though one may get a few extra minutes, depending on where you are on the planet.

The Northern Hemisphere's spring — or vernal — equinox can land between March 19 and 21, depending on the year. Its fall — or autumnal — equinox can land between Sept. 21 and 24.

What is the solstice?

The solstices mark the times during the year when the Earth is at its most extreme tilt toward or away from the sun.

This means the hemispheres are getting very different amounts of sunlight — and days and nights are at their most unequal.

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◀COLUMN from page 4
after I study or get all of my work done. I've woken up early to get a jump start on an assignment and stayed up late to finish others to get them out of the way. I want to do the best I can and I try not to stress about any hindrance that may stop me from getting an "A." I don't die

inside (as much) when a couple of points are knocked from the overall score, but I still think about what I could've done better.

With a little over one year left for me at MSU, I'm still going to be striving for those A's. However, college is more than just studying. My homework will

not burst into flames if I don't touch it for a few hours getting coffee with friends. Besides, I don't even remember what assignments I was stressed out about at this time last year or even at the end of last semester. Perfectionism can be a mood killer, but don't let it destroy all the obstacles you've overcome.

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SPORTS

Mavericks blowout Southern Nazarene, 80-48

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Sports Editor

With a convincing 80-48 win against Southern Nazarene University Monday night, the Minnesota State women's basketball team are the new reigning NCAA Central Region Tournament champions.

The seventh-seeded Mavericks took down the No. 1-seeded Crimson Storm in the championship game which took place at Sawyer Center in Bethany, Oklahoma.

From the opening tip-off the Mavs had a chokehold on the game and never looked back.

The Mavs got things going with a layup by Emily Russo from a pass by Joey Batt and a pull up jump shot by Destinee Bursch to an early 4-0 lead.

With 7:36 left in the first quarter, Southern Nazarene got on the scoreboard thanks to a layup by Emily Monaghan.

Over the next four minutes, the Mavs went on a 13-0 run to give



Joey Batt



Destinee Bursch

themselves a 17-2 lead. The majority of the scoring load throughout the run was on the shoulders of Batt as she scored 11 points during that stretch.

Although SNU ended the Mavs' run due to a free throw by Monaghan with 3:23 left in the quarter, MSU held them to only two points for the remainder of the first period.

The Mavs led 24-5 at the end of one.

Emily Herzberg opened the scoring in the second quarter with a three-pointer from a dime by

Batt. Both teams traded baskets over the next few minutes.

At the 5:42 mark of the second quarter, the Mavs' lead was 33-12.

MSU then went on a 13-4 run which included three-pointers by Batt and Taylor Theusch to end the half up 46-16.

SNU's Hannah Giddey got the opening score of the second half after she laid it in from a pass by Lauryn Reither.

Giddey was fouled on the play by Natalie Bremer and she converted the free-throw.

Shortly after, Bremer got the Mavs on the scoreboard in the second half with a floater and got their lead to 48-19. SNU went on to outscore the Mavs 21-16 in the quarter, and the score going into the final period was 62-37.

The first two scores of the fourth quarter were layups traded by Reither and Bursch.

At about the halfway mark of the quarter, Batt hit a three and Bursch shortly followed with a layup to put the score at 71-44 with

4:42 left in the game.

The Mavs outscored SNU 9-4 the rest of the quarter to put the final touches on their wire-to-wire bludgeoning of Southern Nazarene.

The Mavs ended the game shooting 48.3% from the field, 58.8% from three-point range and made 12 of 19 free throws.

MSU forced Southern Nazarene to commit 25 turnovers.

The Mavs capitalized on them and scored 34 points off those turnovers.

Batt led the way for the Mavs in scoring with 28 points.

Bursch got herself 23 points and the two of them combined for 51 of the team's 80 points.

With this victory, the Mavs have now advanced to the Elite Eight for the first time since 2008-09.

The Mavs had some tough moments at the beginning of the year, but they showed resilience.

"We hit some tough patches early in the year and to just see how

resilient that made this team, it's one of those blessings.

You just get closer and closer because of the tough stretches," said head coach Emilee Thiesse in the post game press conference.

Their togetherness is a huge reason why they have been so successful this season.

"The confidence that they play with because they know it's all of us.

When we show that grit, that love and that togetherness, we just really believe that we can't be stopped," Thiesse said.

Batt shot six for nine from the three-point line and she felt the confidence her teammates had in her throughout the game.

"My teammates pour an unbelievable amount of confidence into me, and just knowing I can take those shots.

I mean I airballed one and they looked at me and they were like, you take that shot all day every day," Batt said.

Men's basketball dance to NCAA Central Region Finals

By HAYDEN LEE
Staff Writer

In a (not-so) shocking turn of events, the no. 1 seeded Mavericks have played their way into the NCAA Central Region Finals.

In comparison to the Division I NCAA Tournament, this would be the Sweet 16.

The Mavericks have made it this far by winning their first- and second-round matchups against Arkansas Tech and Minnesota State University Moorhead, respectively.

In the first round matchup against the Wonder Boys, the Mavs put on an offensive show, with four players scoring 15 or more points en route to a 75-68 victory over Arkansas Tech.

The first half got off to a slow start, as the teams only mustered six points each through the first five minutes.

The Wonder Boys held a five point-lead with just over 10 minutes remaining in the first half after an 11-6 run by ATU, but the Mavericks wouldn't go away.

The next eight minutes saw them put together a 20-12 run to take back the lead, 32-29, with just under two to play.

The final minutes of the first half saw the lead change hands four times before the Mavs went up 36-35 heading into the locker room.

The Mavs came out of the locker room firing from beyond the arc, and they were able to secure their first double-digit lead of the night with just over 12 minutes to play in



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

This will be MSU's fifth trip to the NCAA "Sweet 16" under head coach Matt Margenthaler. MSU owns a 20-15 record in NCAA Tournament action, including their first and second round wins over Arkansas Tech and MSU Moorhead.

the second half. But this time, the Wonder Boys would not quit, and they fought until the final buzzer to knock the top dogs off of their throne.

As the time expired, the Mavericks claimed victory and would move on to play a familiar foe, the MSU Moorhead Dragons.

The rematch that all of the NSIC wanted came the very next day, and

the Dragons had hopes of tearing down the team that defeated them twice in the regular season.

Unfortunately, they will have to wait until next year to get revenge on the Mavericks because they looked flat in their 97-77 loss to the conference's best team.

The first half was close, as the teams were knotted at 15 with just under 11 minutes to go in the first

half, but a late first half surge led by D2CCA Central Region Player of the Year Malik Willingham gave the Mavs a 39-28 lead going into the locker room. Malik Willingham led all scorers with 20 points at halftime.

The Mavs kept their momentum coming out of the locker room, going on an 11-4 run in the first five minutes of the second half

and building a lead that would be impossible to blow as they led by 18 points with 15 minutes left in the game.

The Dragons cut it to 13, but a 9-0 run slammed the door on any comeback attempts as the Mavs led by 22 with under seven minutes remaining, 61-39.

The Mavs went into cruise control mode for the rest of the night, leading to a 78-55 semifinal win.

Thirty points from Malik and 22 points and 10 rebounds from Kyrese Willingham led the way for the Mavs, while the Dragons shot 31.9% in the loss.

This win gave the Mavericks their 31st victory of the season, a new program record.

Following their win in Round 2 of the NCAA Central Region Tournament, the Mavericks will play the No. 4 seeded Northwest Missouri State Bearcats in what will likely be their final game in Taylor Center this season.

Tuesday marks the seventh all-time meeting between the two teams, where the Bearcats hold a 4-2 series advantage over the Mavs.

This season, the Bearcats own a 29-4 record, including a 20-2 record in their conference, the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association, and have won 18 straight games.

The Bearcats also have hit major benchmarks as a team this season, shooting above 50% from the field and 40% from three.

They average 73.9 points, 29.9

FINALS on page 9

Michigan Tech takes men's hockey season



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

The Minnesota State men's hockey team season ends after after suffering defeat to Michigan Tech thanks to a goal with 9.1 seconds left by the Huskies.

By AHMED HASSAN
Staff Writer

After starting the season losing seven of its first 13 games along with the arrival of a new head coach, doubt was in the air this year for the Minnesota State Men's hockey team.

Despite the doubt, the Mavericks found themselves in the same position they were in a year ago in the semifinals of the CCHA playoffs where they faced the Michigan Tech Huskies.

The Mavericks went 18-14-4 to get to this stage, but ultimately fell short Saturday, losing 4-3 as the Huskies scored the game winner in the last nine seconds of the game.

"Obviously, they play a good home game there's no question," said head coach Luke Strand in a press conference after the game.

"They get behind you and they skate.

I wasn't really worried because I thought we were in a good spot. We were keeping shots to the outside.

But then, just in the trench of the game, you had to raise the intensity. Credit to the opposition."

The Mavericks got off to a hot start and early within seven minutes of the first period.

Lucas Sowder skated through the neutral zone and lifted the puck past goaltender Blake Pietila

for his 13th of the season.

The Mavericks were unable to convert their 12 shots after the goal, and went into the second period with a one goal lead.

The Huskies didn't take too long to respond as they scored three minutes into the second period.

After a failed clearance from the Mavericks, Jack Works tied it for the Huskies.

The Mavericks quickly responded six minutes later as Pietila saved Mason Wheeler's shot, but the rebound fell to Will Hillman who hit a one time shot for his second goal of the season.

It was a back and forth affair the rest of the period with both teams putting pressure on each other.

The Mavericks headed into the third period with a 2-1 lead, and both teams each had 23 shots on goal up that point.

The Huskies began the third on a power play and took advantage as Kash Rasmussen scored to tie the game.

The Mavericks began to put pressure on the Huskies after their power play which resulted in the Mavs third goal of the night.

Adam Eisele skated through the Husky defenders and then through the neutral zone and shot a screamer from the top of the right circle.

It was a back and forth game between the two teams until there

was 15:27 left on the clock.

A penalty shot was awarded to the Huskies while they were on a power play after a Maverick player closed his hand on the puck.

Husky captain Logan Pietila converted on the penalty shot goal to bring the game level at 3-3.

The Huskies took control quickly and gained momentum putting up four shots in the final minute of play with Alex Tracy saving three of them.

The Mavericks found their season end in an unlikely and unlucky way after the puck sailed back into the crease off the end glass and deflected off Jordan Powers for the huskies game winner with 9.1 seconds left on the clock.

The Mavericks ended their season with an 18-15-4 overall record.

Eight Maverick seniors played their last game on Saturday: Sam Mortom, Lucas Sowder, Jordan Powers, Brandon Koch, Jordan Steinmetz, Tony Malinowski, Tanner Edwards, and Connor Gregga.

"The guys that stayed committed to the family and the program and the logo here," Strand said. "The seniors who did it are exceptional in my opinion.

The guys that came in dug in with both feet.

They are tremendous people and the seniors deserve the most merit."

◀**FINALS from page 8**
rebounds and 13.5 assists per game.

Individually, Wes Dreamer leads the team in points per game with 18.1, while adding 6.4 rebounds. Daniel Abreu (10.4 ppg),

Mitch Mascari (10.2) and Bennett Stiritz (15.3) also average double-digit points.

Another impressive stat from this Bearcat team is their coach, Ben McCollum, who is in his 15th season with the team, has not yet

cracked the triple-digit loss mark, with a 394-90 record as head coach.

Tuesday's game begins at 7 p.m. in Bresnan Arena. Winner take all.

Kyrie Irving's running left-hander at the buzzer lifts Mavs over Nuggets



LM OTERO • The Associated Press

Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving (11) shoots the winning final-second basket against Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic, top center right, defends in an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Sunday, March 17, 2024.

By SCHUYLER DIXON
The Associated Press

A floater, a runner, a hook shot, call it whatever.

Maybe Kyrie Irving would settle for crucial game-winner.

The Dallas star hit a running left-handed shot at the buzzer, capping a wild final 26 seconds and giving the Mavericks a 107-105 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Sunday.

Luka Doncic scored 37 points and Irving had 24 as the up-and-down Mavericks (39-29) beat the defending champs for their fifth win in six games, answering a 1-5 stretch that followed a seven-game winning streak, Dallas' longest of the season.

The Mavs pulled even with Phoenix as part of a virtual three-way tie with Sacramento for the sixth and final guaranteed playoff spot in the Western Conference.

"In Kyrie we trust," said rookie center Dereck Lively II, who had 14 points. "Whenever we see him get the ball, sit back and watch it happen."

The Nuggets rallied from 13 points down midway through the fourth quarter and went ahead on Jamal Murray's tiebreaking 3-pointer with 26 seconds remaining.

Doncic answered almost immediately on the inbounds pass after a timeout, hitting from several feet behind the arc for a 105-105 tie.

After Murray missed an elbow jumper, Dallas called timeout with 2.8 seconds to go. The right-handed Irving took the inbounds pass, dribbled with his left hand as Nikola Jokic pursued and had to throw up the shot from 21 feet to beat the buzzer.

"Sometimes I spend just an hour straight just working on straight left-hand stuff," the 6-foot-2 Irving said. "Just being a small guard, you've just got to have a multitude of finishes. And that's something I've been working on since I was a kid."

After the shot went in, Irving ran toward his teammates coming off the bench and was mobbed near midcourt as Jokic and company walked by quietly on the way to the Denver locker

room.

"I wasn't going to jump into the pile," Dallas coach Jason Kidd said. "Thought about it. But knowing my luck, I would have missed and hit the floor.

I thought I'd just stand there and celebrate with those guys. A lot of fun. It should be fun."

The Nuggets had a five-game road winning streak stopped.

They had won all five by double digits, a first in franchise history. Denver is the only team this season with two road streaks of at least five victories.

Denver (47-21) dropped a half-game behind Oklahoma City for the West's best record while falling to 11-2 since the All-Star break. The other loss came in overtime after Phoenix's Kevin Durant hit a tying 3 with 26 seconds to go in regulation.

"I saw Kyrie Irving make a running, left-handed hook from the elbow," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said when asked what he saw on the final sequence. "We've been on both sides of it."

Murray scored 23 points, while the Mavs frustrated Jokic into a 6-of-16 shooting day. Jokic had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and he was agitated over no-calls while the Mavs made plenty of contact in the first half.

So was Malone, who eventually called timeout and walked across the court to complain and was given a technical.

He almost got a second just before guard Reggie Jackson was called for one as well.

Irving and Doncic tag-teamed for consecutive 3s to give Dallas a nine-point lead with eight minutes remaining, and the margin reached 13 before the Nuggets started clawing back.

Michael Porter Jr., who had 12 of his 20 points in the first quarter, started the rally with a 3-pointer.

Jokic pulled the Nuggets even at 102-102 with a bucket inside with 1:05 to go.

P.J. Washington Jr. had 11 rebounds, his most for Dallas since coming over in a trade with Charlotte last month. The Mavs outrebounded Denver 59-37.

Dallas had a season-high 21 offensive boards and a 23-6 edge in second-chance points.

Bears trade Justin Fields to Steelers, clear way to take a QB such as Caleb Williams with No. 1 pick



GENE J. PUSKAR • The Associated Press

Chicago Bears quarterback Justin Fields passes against the Pittsburgh Steelers during the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Nov. 8, 2021, in Pittsburgh. The Bears traded Fields to the Steelers on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
The Associated Press

The Chicago Bears traded Justin Fields to the Pittsburgh Steelers on Saturday night, clearing the way for them to draft a quarterback with the No. 1 overall pick — perhaps USC's Caleb Williams.

The Bears received a 2025 sixth-round draft pick that could potentially become a fourth-rounder in return.

"We have engaged in multiple trade conversations in recent weeks and believe trading Justin at this time to Pittsburgh is what is best for both Justin and the Bears," general manager Ryan Poles said in a statement. "Today we spoke to Justin to inform him of the trade and the rationale behind it for us as a club.

"We want to thank him for his tireless dedication, leadership and all he poured into our franchise and community the last three years and wish him the best towards a long and successful NFL career."

Fields thanked Chicago and the organization, as well as his teammates in a post on X.

"Can't say thank you enough to the city of Chicago for taking me in and embracing me," he tweeted. "Thank you to the entire Bears organization and ownership for allowing me the opportunity to be part of such a historic franchise. But most of all thank you to my all my brothers that I played with. You all were the reason I attacked each day the way I did. I can't thank you all enough for what y'all have meant to me over the last 3 years through the ups and downs. I wish each one of you nothing but success.

"Ready for this next chapter!"

Fields figures to back up nine-time Pro Bowler Russell Wilson, who signed a one-year deal with the Steelers on Friday. Pittsburgh also traded Kenny Pickett to the Philadelphia Eagles once it added

Wilson.

Wilson tweeted a picture of him and Fields shaking hands with the message: "Let's get it @ justnfields! QB room bout to be (fire)."

Fields, drafted 11th overall in 2021 by the Bears and former general manager Ryan Pace, struggled as a rookie under former coach Matt Nagy. Though he produced big plays with his legs and arms, he did not develop as a passer the way the team hoped the past two years under Poles and coach Matt Eberflus.

Fields completed 578 of 958 passes for 6,674 yards with 40 touchdowns and 30 interceptions in three seasons. He has just one 300-yard passing game in his career.

Chicago could have gotten a big haul by trading the No. 1 pick. But it's not often the historically quarterback-challenged Bears have a chance to draft a prospect such as Williams. The 2022 Heisman Trophy winner is largely expected to be picked first overall after he threw 72 touchdown passes with only 10 interceptions the past two seasons at USC after a year at Oklahoma.

The trade of Fields comes two days after the Bears acquired Keenan Allen from the Los Angeles Chargers in their second deal for a star receiver in as many years.

They dealt the No. 1 pick in 2023 to Carolina for DJ Moore last March. The Bears also got the Panthers' first-rounder this year. And with Carolina finishing a league-worst 2-15 record, Chicago wound up with the No. 1 pick this year.

Fields, meanwhile, gets a chance at a fresh start in Pittsburgh.

The Steelers totally revamped their quarterback room over the last month, with Pickett, Mitch Trubisky (cut) and Mason Rudolph (signed with Tennessee) gone.

President Art Rooney II made it very clear in January that it was "time to get some wins" in the postseason. While the team publicly backed Pickett in the aftermath of a year that ended with the former first-round pick serving as Rudolph's backup, in a way the Steelers had no choice at the time with Trubisky all but assured of being a salary cap casualty and Rudolph set to become a free agent.

Things have changed rapidly, an uncharacteristic development for a team that prides itself on stability in a league built on the opposite in most places.

There is little doubt Wilson will be the starter in Week 1, allowing Fields time to get familiar with first-year offensive coordinator Arthur Smith's system and hit the reset button on a career that hasn't gone to plan.

While Fields has had accuracy issues, he also offers the kind of mobility that Steelers coach Mike Tomlin has craved for years. Tomlin hoped Pickett would be able to offer a portion of it. Instead, Pickett struggled to make significant strides during his first full season as a starter in 2023. He threw for just six touchdowns and four interceptions in 12 games, the kind of production that sent Pittsburgh into the offseason with more questions than answers about the most important position on the field.

Four days into the new league year, those questions are very different.

Can Wilson regain the winning touch he had during his highly successful run in Seattle? And can Fields develop into the kind of player Chicago envisioned when it took him with the 11th overall pick in 2021?

AP Pro Football Writer Rob Maaddi in Tampa, Fla., and AP Sports Writer Will Graves in Pittsburgh contributed to this report.

Wembanyama, Spurs confirm that they're headed to France next season



DAVID J. PHILLIP • The Associated Press

San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, left, talks with Victor Wembanyama on the bench during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Houston Rockets Tuesday, March 5, 2024, in Houston.

The Associated Press

Victor Wembanyama sounds like he expects to be playing an NBA game — or two, perhaps — in his native France next season.

San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich confirmed Sunday night that the Spurs are heading to Paris next season, something that former Spurs guard Tony Parker revealed to French reporters several weeks ago.

"We're going there," Popovich said. The comment about Paris came after San Antonio topped Brooklyn in Austin, Texas, in what was a home game for the Spurs.

Added Wembanyama, the French star and overwhelming favorite to win the NBA's rookie of the year honor this season: "I'm

looking forward to it very much."

The NBA hasn't announced which teams will be playing in Paris next season; it has long been expected that San Antonio and Indiana would be the teams selected. At the All-Star Game last month, Commissioner Adam Silver said Wembanyama "would very much like to see" the Spurs playing in France next season.

"I can say that we will be back playing a regular-season game again in Paris," Silver said last month. "There's some discussions ongoing about which arena we will play in. Stay tuned in terms of the Spurs playing in Paris."

Also unclear: if it'll be a one- or two-game trip for the Spurs.

Parker said at this year's NBA Paris Game between Brooklyn and Cleveland that he expects the league to play two games in France next season.

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VARIETY

Ngozi Ukazu pencils new perspectives

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

Some writers may begin a story with an intended message for their characters to find; DC Comics artist and graphic novelist Ngozi Ukazu, however, uncovers the message alongside her characters.

“I work with a character and I want to see them through a full journey, and it surprises me sometimes what the characters do and where they end up,” Ukazu said.

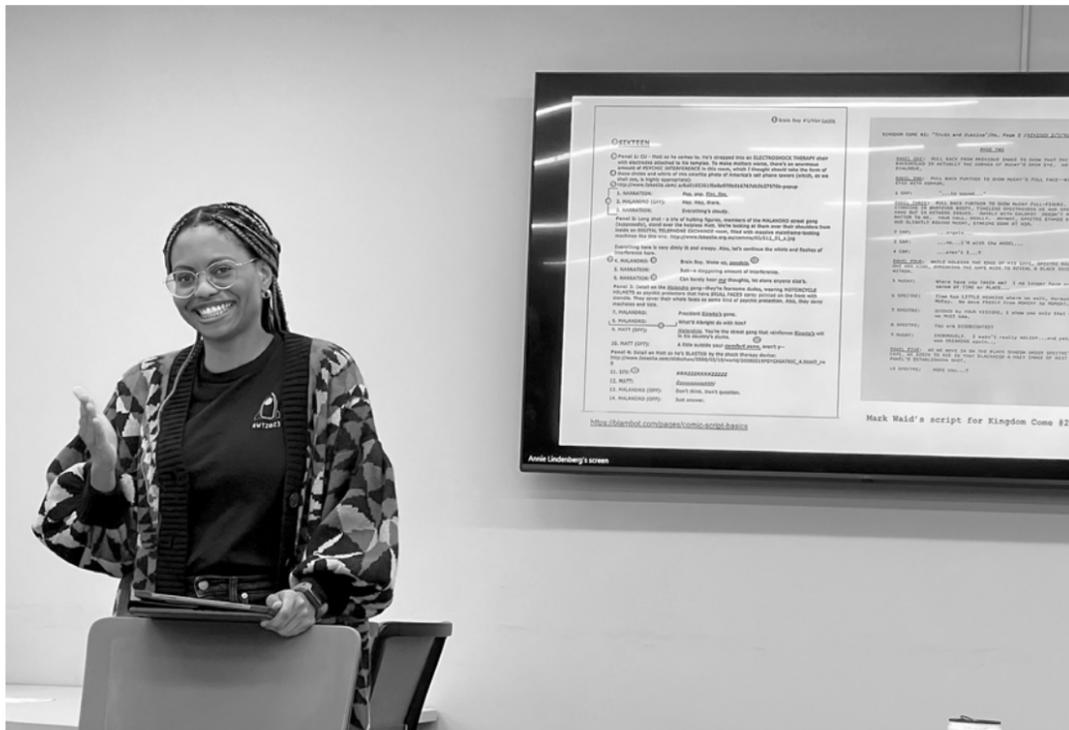
Ukazu visited Minnesota State as part of the Good Thunder Reading Series Thursday to connect words and images through comics.

Known for her New York Times bestseller, “Check, Please!” and the collaborative comic, “BUNT!” the Houston native ties together an expressive art style with a coming-of-age narrative, portraying diverse, LGBTQ+ characters and real-world issues.

While writing a cast representing these communities, Ukazu says, “It’s really about specificity.”

“People are all so different, different races, different socioeconomic status, different sexualities, and when you’re making a character convincing, it’s usually when they are very specific,” Ukazu said. “Being specific about what they like to eat, their favorite things, even just quirks and how they speak; so many people can relate to that, and then those characters can start to jump off the page.”

While piecing together her script, Ukazu also paints the picture as the illustrator of most of her graphic novels. Prior to her artistic career and graduation from Yale University, Ukazu reminisces on her time spent doodling in grade



Cartoonist and graphic novelist Ngozi Ukazu spent the day at Minnesota State Thursday for the Good Thunder Reading Series. She is known for her New York Times bestselling graphic novel, “Check, Please!” and collaborative comic, “BUNT!”

school.

“It was just so exciting to be that kid in elementary school and I would draw something and people would lean over and look at my work like, ‘What is that?’” Ukazu said. “There’s this immediacy that comes with visual storytelling.”

Ukazu describes her artistic style as, “cartoony, open and fun.” She invites characters into her comics with emotional interactions and seals it together with a corresponding environment.

“I like that environments can tell you a lot about a character, so even if it’s something like the room that we’re in right now, just find-

ing, picking out the details that tell the story of the people inside of it,” Ukazu said.

To design a character from scratch, Ukazu draws inspiration from reality. From there, she interviews, researches and journals as the character to execute the source.

“It can be a little crazy, but it’s anything to get in their heads,” Ukazu said.

As well as getting into her own character’s heads, Ukazu delves into the minds of her audience. She shared a memorable experience at the Anime Expo in Los Angeles in 2018, when a young man nervously praised her about her comic,

“Check, Please!” and ran away.

“The next day, he came back and he was like, ‘I was scared to say it then, but ‘Check, Please!’ helped me come out (as LGBTQ+), and thank you so much,” Ukazu said. “I still remember, it was such a moment where I just kept saying thank you over and over again.”

While she now receives support from readers, Ukazu initially faced rejection when applying for animation studios during and after university; however, she chose a different path than discouragement.

“I want to encourage people that there’s not just one way to

UKAZU on page 12

Casey Christenson draws in attention

By JACK HARDING
Staff Writer

The Student Events Team hosted a free caricature event on Monday. The event took place on Zoom, where students could join and have artist Casey Christenson draw caricatures for them.

Student Events Team Vice President Atlas James said they’ve had caricatures at many past events and keep bringing them back because students really enjoy them.

“I think part of it is hoping that they feel a part of the community when doing it with other students and getting to chat in the Zoom,” James said. “But it also is just a fun thing that we like to do kind of close to the end of the semester.”

Christenson is a Minnesota State alumni who’s been in the art industry for over 15 years. After graduating he worked as a graphic designer and art director at Lime Valley Advertising in Mankato. Eventually he got asked by his boss to draw caricatures at a trade show. It snowballed from there as people started asking him to do events.

It eventually got to the point where he was doing so many events and gigs that he had to pick one path or the other. He chose the drawing path and focused on caricatures.

Six years later, thousands of people drawn and having done many events around the midwest (including working at the Mall of America and Valley Fair for a bit), Christenson has become one talented artist.

During the winter he doesn’t travel to many gigs, so his time is mostly spent doing commission work, where people send photos they want him to draw. For him, the summer is the busiest time.

“During the summer I’ll put on a good 15,000 miles on a car and I’ll be driving all over the Midwest and drawing probably 5-10,000 people,” Christenson said.

Christenson’s done a lot of work for Minnesota State, including the giant mural illustration in the Career Development Center.

“I loved my time there,” Christenson said. “I really like the art department and all the people there. Any chance I can I try to get back and be involved with where it came from, where I learned a lot of my art skills.”

Christenson also talked about how he hopes to inspire students to go into an art career. He said if you do get a job in art, it’s important to hold onto what makes it fun and continue to feed that ambition to avoid it feeling like a job.

DRAW on page 12

MSU screens film to amplify Indigenous voices

By ELLIE MESCHKE
Staff Writer

The American Indian Affairs organization hosted a screening of the film “Home from School: The Children of Carlisle,” directed by Geoffrey O’Gara.

The film discusses the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, the harm done to the children there and the relocation of the bodies of three Northern Arapaho boys from the school’s cemetery.

AIA Director Megan Heutmaker said “There were a lot of Indigenous voices in this film and I think that was really important too. That’s part of our passion; helping our campus community learn things that they may not have known before. I think the film talked about it as well. A lot of people think of Native people, American Indian people, as historical figures, and that’s a lot to do with media and books and films and we’re often seen in this historical nature. And this is connected to a historical piece of the boarding schools, but



NATE TILAHUN • The Reporter

American Indian Affairs screened, “Home from School: The Children of Carlisle,” Monday to address the harm caused by Carlisle Indian Industrial School.

also it showed what’s happening in the present for Native communities to reconcile that history, and how to move forward in today’s world and community to remember and honor what’s happened to those children.”

If you were unaware, American Indian Boarding Schools were used

to teach American Indian children about European culture and education. These schools were brutal and cruel and forced students to leave their families. Students were severely punished if they used their native language or practiced their own customs, and were given European names (these names were

displayed on the tombstones of the children who died at the school).

Thankfully, these schools were closed and their practices stopped altogether in the early 20th century, but the damage is still quite severe.

Heutmaker said she hopes the film prompts students to think more and ask questions about the history of indigenous people.

“Think critically about other things that have happened for the Indigenous community, historically,” she said. “My main goal is that we think critically and we ask questions of how things got to where we are, and that’s always my biggest hope for students, what they walk away with is to start thinking critically at what they’ve learned, what they’re going to learn, make sure they’re asking questions.”

The AIA has a film showing once every semester, as well as a Spring Round Dance 12-4 p.m. April 13 at the Kato Ballroom, 200 Chestnut St. Mankato. To learn more about American Indian Affairs, you can stop by CSU 269, or check it out on the school’s website.

Exploring countries in International Bingo

By ANAHI ZUNIGA
Staff Writer

Play Bingo or travel the world? How about both? On Thursday night, the Student Events Team hosted Bingo Around the World in the Ostrander Auditorium where students played a classic game of Bingo but with a twist: they got to travel and learn about different countries across the globe.

Student Events Team's vice president and junior Atlas James said this Bingo was about involving unique countries around the world.

"We wanted to do a Bingo involving the countries as different rounds so this is a Bingo around the world event, just showcasing 10 different countries for each round. We wanted to pick up different countries that spanned a lot of global measurements," James said.

James shared the process of putting an international Bingo together with his fellow members in the

Student Events Team.

"It was a lot of fun. I worked with my advisor, Jack Wheeler, on this event pretty closely because we got to look up the prizes and learn about the individual countries together. We actually go through and find facts to showcase during the bingo so that people can learn with us as they play as well. It goes into just learning about the countries and we really had a lot of fun," he said.

The countries involved were Ireland, Sri Lanka, Denmark, Italy, Germany, Nigeria, Japan, Argentina, Canada and New Zealand, and James shared what countries were his and the team's favorites.

"We had a lot of fun with Japan," he said. "But my personal enjoyment was New Zealand. I actually spoke with someone who lives in New Zealand currently about it and what was popular music-wise. So it was very fun to have those conversations."

James shared how the Student Events Team partnered up with



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter
The Student Events Team hosted Bingo Around the World in Ostrander Auditorium Thursday. Students played bingo while learning about countries.

Global Education to "learn about different students that have experience in these countries and went maybe on an abroad program to certain countries featured in our program here on Bingo."

"It ties into the kind of the diversity of what our students get

to do, where they get to go, where they're from," he said. "We got to talk to different students who actually are currently attending school here about the countries that we're highlighting to learn more about them through someone that's actually from that country and it really just showcases just the broad

amount of people that we have here at MNSU."

Students competed for various prizes; from popular Legos to an argentinian snack box to a sample perfume from Gucci.

"I enjoyed the event. I thought it was really fun and I really liked the theme. It would be cool for it to be a yearly thing but they should switch where the prizes are from so it's not the same every year," first-year student Julia Dai said.

The concept of "Around the World" has been a popular theme around campus for but has not been used in a format of a Bingo and James shared how "it would be a great program to see continue."

"Doing a theme even similar to it or partnering with the international organization in the future as well; bringing them into the project as well would be really interesting to see for the future vice president," he said.

For more information on upcoming events, visit mnsu.edu/StudentEventsTeam

UKAZU from page 11
make art. There's not just one way to do whatever it is you want to do," Ukazu said.

MSU sophomore Grayson Morris attended Ukazu's morning workshop and created his own

comic. As the group practiced under Ukazu's guidance, Morris enjoyed illustrating his piece.

"It's just not just words on a page, there's a lot more to it," Morris said.

Another member in the audi-

ence joined in on Ukazu's teachings as a first-timer in the world of comic creation.

"I thought it was really interesting," sophomore Richard Thurston said. "I didn't know we were gonna do comic stuff, but doing comics

was kind of fun. I liked it."

To further her artistic impact, Ukazu continues to push out publications with her forthcoming dystopian romance comic, "Barda," set to be released June 4.

"Anybody can tell a story. Any-

body can share their stories, but if someone just happens to have your story affect them and they share that with you, that means, OK, this wasn't for nothing; I impacted someone's life in some way," Ukazu said.

DRAW from page 11
Another thing that drives him

to keep drawing people's reactions. "I get a lot of laughs and com-

pliments. People really love it," he said. "That's what keeps me going, all the smiles you get every time

you're working on these things and people watching you. It's not just the entertainment factor, but the

interest in it. It makes it a lot of fun to share."

Summer Jobs

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

Apply for these positions on Handshake March 14-20.
A work permit is required for employment (for international students).

| Position | # Hiring | Hrs/Week | Employment Dates | Pay Rate |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Air Conditioner Service Worker | 7-8 | 40/week | 5/6 - until project is complete | \$12.75 |
| Materials Management | 6-10 | 14-40/week | 5/6 - 8/19 | \$12.75 |
| Cleaning Staff | 2-6 | 25-40/week | 5/6 - 8/21 | \$12.00 |
| Painter | 22 | 40/week | 5/6 - 8/16 | \$12.25 |

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RESIDENTIAL LIFE