

## Greek Week celebrates with Rock 'N Roll

By LUKE JACKSON  
News Editor

Every year, Minnesota States fraternity and sorority members host a week full of campus activities to celebrate the chapter's year. This year's Rock 'N Roll theme goes from Monday to Friday with a new event daily.

The week showcases the two sides to Greek life—philanthropy and social activities.

For many in Greek life, Greek Week represents a “mini-homecoming,” a time when fraternities and sororities come together to celebrate their community and engage in friendly competition. The members don't normally all get to spend time together. It is a chance for them to break out from their usual chapters and meet and bond with others. It is also a time to gain new recruits and show off the fun of Greek life.

The consensus between the members of FSL is that students who are considering giving Greek life a shot, should, “just go for it.”

“There is no harm in trying out Greek life,” Greek Week co-chair and Alpha Chi Omega member Avry Henning said. “You never know who you can meet and what connections you can make through this time in your life. It's just so rewarding in so many different ways.”



DAVIS JENSEN • The Reporter

Greek life members hosted a cookout for the first day of Greek Week Monday. Free hotdogs, chips and drinks were given out on campus to celebrate the week ahead.

The week starts off Monday with a free cookout with hotdogs, chips and drink to anyone who joins. Tuesday will feature a canned food drive where all proceeds will go to the Maverick Food Pantry.

“The most anticipated event every year is by far the boat regatta,” former Sigma Nu President Joe Roeser said.

The boat regatta takes place in Highland Center's 25-meter lap

pool. All chapters create their own boat made of cardboard and duct tape. Two members from each chapter must row their boat to the finish line. The event tests the ingenuity of each chapter and the will-

ingness to work together. Anyone can attend the event from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday to see if the boats will sink or swim.

The event's reigning champion is Phi Kappa Psi.

“I can't give away how we won,” Phi Kappa Psi member Jaegar Cossette said. “All I can say is a lot of duct tape was used.”

The biggest event of the week—the lip sync battle—takes place 6-10 p.m. Thursday in Ostrander Auditorium. The Rock 'N Roll theme should be a factor during the lip sync battle as each chapter tries their best to recreate their favorite bands and songs.

Following the lip sync battle, the Greek life members will host an after party at Applebee's where a percentage of sales will go toward Mavathon, the largest student-run philanthropy event on campus.

The last event of the week is Friday's Minute to Win It games.

All chapters created banners that hang in the CSU. They are supposed to represent this year's theme and each banner will be judged.

Throughout the week each chapter will gain points based on their performance at each event. Whichever chapter scores the best throughout the week will earn a winning plaque commemorating their efforts for this year's Greek Week.

## Maverick Diversity Institute holds training on inclusivity

By JEREMY REDLIEN  
Staff Writer

The Maverick Diversity Institute held a community roundtable training led by Zeke Sorenson Monday on the topic of inclusivity.

At the start of the training Sorenson asked participants to define inclusivity and then had a representative from each table write their definition on a whiteboard. Sorenson then asked members of the audience to give examples of what inclusivity involved.

Safety, trust and curiosity were some examples that participants gave as necessary to create an inclusive environment.

The purpose of doing these exercises, according to Sorenson, was to show both the complexity of defining inclusivity as well as the possible difficulties with creating an inclusive environment.

“Inclusion is a culture, not an action; it's not just one or two things,” said Sorenson.

During the training, Sorenson argued for both the overall importance of diversity within an organization as well as the need

for leadership in organizations to reflect the diversity within the organization.

“If you have an organization that has a diverse population, it's important for them to see themselves represented in leadership. That's going to build trust and that's going to build more of a camaraderie versus if they look at leadership and it's all one gender, all one race, that makes it really hard for groups and other populations to trust decision making, especially if those decisions continue to impact others in negative or detrimental ways,” said Sorenson.

One point Sorenson made was that companies that were more diverse, especially if they had more diversity in their leadership, were more likely to excel compared to companies with less diversity.

“Companies, if you have diverse representation, especially in executive or decision making bodies, that company is gonna outperform other organizations that do not have diverse representation,” said Sorenson.

Rachel Maccabee, interim director of the Violence Awareness



JEREMY REDLIEN • The Reporter

The Maverick Diversity Institute held a community roundtable training led by Zeke Sorenson Monday on the topic of inclusivity.

DIVERSITY on page 3»

# Minnesota Legislative tries to end period stigma

By LAUREN VISKA  
Staff Writer

Half of the world's population is women, yet most menstrual products in schools aren't free or don't provide them.

The Minnesota Legislature passed a bill called HF 44, which came into effect at the start of 2024. This bill says public and charter schools need menstrual products in every bathroom from fourth to twelfth grade and that they should be free for every student.

But some schools aren't following the bill.

In a Minnesota State Gender and Women's Studies class, a group project aims to raise awareness about the issue.

The group held an event on Tuesday, during which they wrote letters and emails to middle school administrators in Minnesota to let them know they needed to follow the law regarding providing menstrual products in girls' bathrooms.

During the event, they showed the film "Period. End Of Sentence." This film discussed the stigma around periods in India and how a small community of women came together to make their own pads.

The group project requires students to research a topic related to the class and develop ways to advocate for why it should change. They also have to do some activism to help make a change. This could be



LAUREN VISKA • The Reporter

Pictured above from left to right is Sofia Meeh, Amanda Eng, Liz Flattum and Erica Schleisman. The group held an event raising awareness towards ending period stigma.

tabling in the CSU, writing to the school board or having an event.

"They have menstrual products in the gender-neutral/faculty bathrooms, and there are only two or three of them," said Amanda Eng, one of the five group members. "And the main big stall bathrooms

that all the students go to throughout the day don't have any products in them."

Group members knew they wanted to do something related to menstrual products, but they weren't sure what. When they found out about the bill, they knew

that's what they were going to focus on.

"We started out by making rice socks to help with period cramps. But then we found out about the bigger issue and how students don't have access to these things," said Sofia Meeh.

"We finished by playing some menstrual hygiene Jeopardy, and it seemed people had fun. We got a lot of good responses. People were really into it," said Erica Schleisman.

After the event, the five of them came up with zines (noncommercial, often homemade, or online publications) to summarize the responses they got from people who attended. They also had a Google Form while they were tabling and had prompts for people at the event.

"Some people had to miss class because of a lack of period products. I added how people were getting their period younger and thinking that their period was dirty and gross," said Amanda Eng. "We shouldn't be treated any less because people do menstruate. They have the right to access those free products."

There is a stigma around the menstrual cycle, menstrual products and overall women's health. Schleisman said she remembers being in health class learning about this, and the guys behind her would be chuckling about it. The teacher wouldn't do anything about it. During the event, the group showed some of these stigmas.

"We had all these myths that we were displaying. All of these myths perpetuate the stigma that you shouldn't talk about it," said Liz Flattum. **PERIOD on page 3▶**

# A Dubai companies land deals in Africa raise fears

By TAIWO ADEBAYO  
The Associated Press

Matthew Walley's eyes sweep over the large forest that has sustained his Indigenous community in Liberia for generations. Even as the morning sun casts a golden hue over the canopy, a sense of unease lingers. Their use of the land is being threatened, and they have organized to resist the possibility of losing their livelihood.

In the past year, the Liberian government has agreed to sell about 10% of the West African country's land — equivalent to 10,931 square kilometers (4,220 square miles) — to Dubai-based company Blue Carbon to preserve forests that might otherwise be logged and used for farming, the primary livelihood for many communities.

Blue Carbon, which did not respond to repeated emails and calls seeking comment, plans to make money from this conservation by selling carbon credits to polluters to offset their emissions as they burn fossil fuels. Some experts argue that the model offers little climate benefit, while activists label it "carbon colonialism."

Activists say the government has no legal right over the land and that Liberian law acknowledges Indigenous land ownership. The government and Blue Carbon reached an agreement in March 2023 — months after the company's launch — without consulting



DERICK SYNDER • The Associated Press

Yarkpa Town stands out in the surrounding rainforest in Rivercess County, Southeast Liberia, Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

local communities, which are concerned about a lack of protections.

"There is no legal framework on carbon credits in Liberia, and so we don't have rules and regulations to fight for ourselves as a community," said Walley, whose community, Neezuin, could see about 573 square kilometers signed away to Blue Carbon.

A raft of agreements between at least five African countries and Blue Carbon could give the company control over large swaths of land on the continent. In Kenya, Indigenous populations already have been evicted to make way for other carbon credits projects, according to rights groups like Amnesty International and Survival

International.

They have criticized the projects as "culturally destructive," lacking transparency and threatening the livelihoods and food security of rural African populations.

"Many such projects are associated with appalling human rights abuses against local communities at the hands of park rangers," said

Simon Counsell, an independent researcher of conservation projects in Kenya, Congo, Cameroon and other countries.

"The majority had involved evictions, most were involved in conflict with local people, and almost none had ever sought or gained the landholders' consent," said Counsell, former director of Rainforest Foundation UK, a non-profit that supports both human rights and environmental protection.

Africa contributes the least to greenhouse gas emissions, but its vast natural resources, such as forests, are crucial in the fight against climate change.

Indigenous populations traditionally rely on forests for their livelihoods, highlighting the tension between climate goals and economic realities.

Cash-strapped governments in Africa are attracted to these kinds of conservation initiatives because they generate badly needed income despite concerns about human rights abuses and transparency.

Blue Carbon has only one project under development in Zimbabwe, which involves approximately 20% of the country's land, according to the company's website.

However, through opaque agreements, the company has potentially secured staggering amounts of land across other countries, including Kenya, Liberia, Tanzania and Zambia, since forming in late 2022.

# Total solar eclipse races across North America



SEAN KILPATRICK • The Associated Press

Didier Timothy-Mondesir watches the solar eclipse from Prince Edward County, Ontario, Monday, April 8, 2024.

The Associated Press

A total solar eclipse crossed North America on Monday, darkening skies along a path through Mexico, the United States and Canada.

Here's the latest:  
TOTAL ECLIPSE RACES ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

A chilly, midday darkness fell across North America as a total solar eclipse raced across the continent.

Monday's spectacle was watched by millions in the U.S., Mexico and Canada. It was North America's biggest eclipse crowd ever, thanks to the densely populated path.

Cloud cover threatened to spoil the view in some places, especially in parts of Texas, but the skies cleared with minutes to spare.

One place that got stuck with clouds: Niagara Falls, New York.

Totality arrived to whoops and cheers from spectators at Niagara Falls State Park.

Justin Pape drove 6 hours from York, Pennsylvania, with his family to be in the path. He says "it's unfortunate it was cloudy" but they still got to see a glimpse of it and it still got dark.

During a total solar eclipse, the moon passes in front of the sun and blocks the sunlight for a few minutes. There won't be another coast-to-coast spectacle on the continent until 2045.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE EXITS NORTH AMERICA

The sun is reappearing from behind the moon as the total solar eclipse leaves North America. There won't be another coast-to-coast spectacle on the continent until 2045.

DALLAS STUDENTS ELATED BY ECLIPSE

DALLAS – Emergency lights clicked on outside D.A. Hulcy Middle School as the last sliver of the sun disappeared. Students cheered and whooped, sitting on towels and picnic blankets in an adjacent parking lot.

"I'm a new person," eighth grader Nia Modkins said.

Students and teachers took off their eclipse glasses and pointed at the sky, taking pictures and videos. Once three minutes elapsed, their teachers told them to put their eclipse glasses back on as the sun prepared for its return act.

Once daylight swept over the parking lot again, eighth grader Sky Johnson swiped through her phone, looking for the video she'd taken during totality.

"Two minutes of me screaming, literally," she said.

◀PERIOD from page 2  
tum. "Having a lack of education, or even incompetence towards what menstruation is, perpetuates that stigma."

One way the group said can help end the stigma around this topic is by teaching people about it. In general, no law says the information must be medically accurate.

"I think it's the only way to take away the stigmas and especially teach men and boys while they're young how important this stuff is and how it is a serious matter," said Meeh. "And it's not just men,

it's women too. My stepmom would be like, 'Oh, let's not talk about that.' Or 'let's keep that quiet.' That's not something people want to hear about. It's not just put on men, it's put on women, and then everyone has these unbiased views."

This issue affects both middle and high schools. The group said if they were to do this project again, they would focus on both.

"We assumed they would probably have those things. And I think we now have come to realize that they also do not like it. I know I talked to my younger siblings,

and they're like, 'No, we still have to pay for them in the bathrooms.' I mean, at least they have them, but they have to have a quarter," said Meeh.

Menstruation products are a human right, and people need them to function.

Without providing them for free, some students skip school because they can't afford them on their own.

Providing them in schools for free allows those students to stay in school and not miss out on their education.

◀DIVERSITY from page 1  
and Response Program, said events like this one help build community.

"I think that there's a lot of us on campus that want to learn about these topics or are passionate about these topics and coming together and sitting at tables

together and sharing information with others around campus is why I come because it helps me find my allies and accomplices and folks on campus," Maccabee said.

The Maverick Diversity Institute offered four such training sessions during spring semester. Previous sessions addressed topics such as defining equity, under-

standing multiculturalism, as well as empathy and anti-racism.

According to the Maverick Diversity Institute, faculty and staff who participate in four of their activities will receive a LinkedIn badge, while students who participate in four activities receive both a LinkedIn badge and a sweatshirt.

## New York City's skyscrapers are built for earthquakes



JULIA NIKHINSON • The Associated Press

A plane flies with the New York City skyline, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2022, in New York.

By PHILIP MARCELO  
The Associated Press

The ground rumbled Friday beneath New York City, home to famous skyscrapers like the Empire State Building and One World Trade Center.

Though buildings that can reach above 100 stories might seem especially vulnerable to earthquakes, engineering experts say skyscrapers are built with enough flexibility to withstand moderate shaking.

The 4.8 magnitude quake on Friday morning was centered about 45 miles (72 kilometers) west of the city in New Jersey. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said Saturday there had since been at least 25 aftershocks, some of which were felt in New York City.

But no major damage had been reported to the city's roads, mass transit system or its 1.1 million buildings.

Operators of the iconic 103-floor Empire State Building posted "I AM FINE" on Friday on the building's X account.

New York's skyscrapers have been generally built to withstand winds and other impacts far great-

er than the earthquakes generally seen on the East Coast, said Elisabeth Malsch, a managing principal at Thornton Tomasetti, a New York engineering firm that's done major work on the Empire State Building, Chrysler Building and the Brooklyn Bridge, among other major city landmarks.

"The earthquake that we design for is one that's unlikely to happen. It's a thousand-year event," she explained.

"So we don't expect it to happen more than once in a thousand years."

Skyscrapers, by design, are less susceptible to the ground-shaking action of earthquakes than shorter structures because they're made to sway ever so slowly and slightly to protect themselves against powerful, hurricane force winds, Malsch said.

"Taller buildings just are more flexible because they're designed for the push and pull from the wind, which has a bigger effect on tall buildings than the push and pull of an earthquake does," she explained.

"So regardless of when it was designed, the wind continually tests them. It's a double check that they're strong enough and flexible enough to handle earthquakes."

**FREE**  
**BIRRIA TACO**  
with purchase  
of \$15.00 or more  
Expires 6/30/24

**\$2.00**  
**OFF**  
with purchase  
of \$15.00 or more  
Expires 6/30/24

**CINCO DE MAYO TAQUERIA**  
MEXICAN TACO SHOP

**302 STADIUM ROAD • 507-779-7220**

# Editorial

Editorials represent the opinions of The Reporter editorial board. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the college, university or student body.

Emma Johnson Editor In Chief	Luke Jackson News Editor
Mercedes Kauphusman Variety Editor	Mohamed Warsame Sports Editor

## Practice sustainability during Earth Month

During the month of April, our eyes may be glued on the finish line; however, as our minds are skewed toward school, it's also important for us to recognize this month as Earth Month.

April highlights awareness toward all things earth: incorporating sustainable practices, addressing current issues and advocating for change.

While most of us are busy preparing for final exams, projects and papers, we should also make conscious efforts to take care of mother earth.

The sun is shining brighter than months prior, and it's a great time to toss the keys and take a walk or a bike to class. There are plenty of bike racks located on campus as well as Bird scooters to try out.

Not only is it preventing more pollution from swirling around our campus, it's also helping us get our daily dose of exercise.

Another small change we can make in our school routines is sustainable school supplies.

Instead of using a regular notebook, there are tons of recycled notebooks in the market.

Instead of bringing a plastic water bottle to class, use a reusable one.

The same goes for lunchboxes or other materials — if there's a reusable or recycled version, use it.

We can also bring recyclables to the classroom — maybe inside an art class to take trash and turn it into treasure.

Eliminating waste as much as possible is another component to caring for the earth.

Eating everything on our plates, using washable dishes over paper and plastic ones or using a cloth towel and setting aside the paper towels.

Something as simple as stopping to pick up litter on the way to class can go a long way.

Although there are a million trash cans on campus, there is just as much waste and scraps rolling around. Picking up garbage when we can helps us get into the habit of doing so in our everyday lives.

We also have the ability to use our voices to support the earth. Whether it's reminding a classmate, an entire class or the whole campus of these practices, the more we talk about taking care of the environment, the more support we obtain in doing so.

Although April is Earth Month, carrying forth these habits during every month of the year is a great way to show appreciation for our one and only home planet.

# Perspectives

## Mindful Journeys: Building Your Anxiety Toolkit



Courtesy Emma Johnson

We all have our comfort items, foods and even songs and movies that can make us feel better after a rough day. However, what if those items didn't work for you? What if you had to figure out and learn all new coping mechanisms to get you through days where you don't even feel like getting out of bed?



Emma Johnson  
Editor In Chief

That's exactly what I had to learn with anxiety. When I didn't even find my favorite activities (reading and writing) or my favorite songs enjoyable anymore, I knew I had hit a low point. My mind was so focused on anxiety, I couldn't find anything good except for trying to figure out how to make it stop.

My therapist told me about how anxiety toolkits are one of the most beneficial ways of tackling anxiety. Like a normal toolkit, it's full of various items that can be used to help you when life gets to be a bit much. What works for one

person may not work for another. There are hundreds of different coping mechanisms to choose from, but here are some that have worked for me:

Writing it out: I love to write creatively and journalistically, but taking time out of my day to put my thoughts to paper has helped me see my thoughts more clearly. I bought a journal that allows me to follow a prompt once a day with a corresponding way to handle anxiety for a year. I've been doing it for almost two months and it's

become a part of my daily ritual where I look forward to seeing what the new prompt is about. Writing this weekly column has also aided in how I handle my anxiety.

Getting exercise: The amount of endorphins released when one exercises is immense and can help lower stress levels. However, I'm not the biggest gym rat in the world. For me, I like to hit my yoga mat, follow a workout video online or go for a long walk outside when the weather is nice. I'll even blast my music in my headphones and dance around my room. When I get my heart rate up and blood flowing, I feel so much better afterward. It's time out of my day when I get to focus on myself, be in touch with my body and not worry about other stressors.

Chilling out: This sounds obvious to a lot of people, but when you actually take a chill

COLUMN on page 5▶

# Pulse

## “How do you stay healthy?”

Compiled by Alexis Darkow



BRYANT CALLENIUS,  
FRESHMAN

“Go to the gym and lift weights. Watch what I'm eating because candy is my weakness.”



KALEE ANDERSON,  
FRESHMAN

“I go to the gym as much as I can and try to spend a lot of time outside.”



LIBERTY HEISE,  
FRESHMAN

“I go to the gym and eat healthy.”



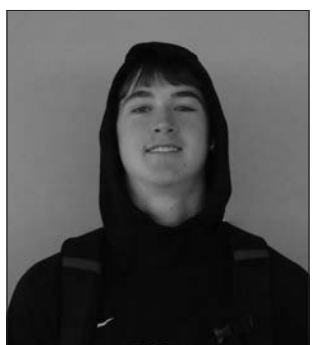
LOGAN SMITH,  
SOPHOMORE

“I play pick up basketball at the Otto Center.”



SOPHIA BRUSSOW,  
FRESHMAN

“I go to the gym 3-5 days a week.”



TYLER ROOT,  
FRESHMAN

“I go to the gym.”

# NAIA all but bans transgender athletes from womens sports



CHARLIE RIEDEL • The Associated Press

Freed-Hardeman guard Quan Lax wears the championship banner after the NAIA men's national championship college basketball game against Langston, Tuesday, March 26, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo. Freed-Hardeman won 71-67.

By ERIC OLSON  
The Associated Press

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics announced a policy Monday that all but bans transgender athletes from competing in women's sports at its 241 mostly small colleges across the country.

The NAIA Council of Presidents approved the policy in a 20-0 vote at its annual convention in Kansas City, Missouri. The NAIA, which oversees some 83,000 athletes competing in more than 25 sports, is believed to be the first college sports organization to take such a step.

According to the transgender participation policy, which goes into effect in August, all athletes may participate in NAIA-sponsored male sports but only athletes whose biological sex assigned at birth is female and have not begun hormone therapy will be allowed participate in women's sports.

A student who has begun hormone therapy may participate in activities such as workouts, practices and team activities, but not in intercollegiate competition.

NAIA programs in competitive cheer and competitive dance are open to all students. The NAIA policy notes every other sport "includes some combination of strength, speed and stamina, pro-

viding competitive advantages for male student-athletes."

NAIA President and CEO Jim Carr said in an interview with The Associated Press he understands the policy will generate controversy but that it was deemed best for member schools for competitive reasons.

"We know there are a lot of opinions, and a lot of people have a very emotional reaction to this, and we want to be respectful of all that," Carr said. "But we feel like our primary responsibility is fairness in competition, so we are following that path. And we've tried as best we could to allow for some participation by all."

The NAIA's 2023-24 policy did not bar transgender and nonbinary athletes from competing in the division of their choice in the regular season. In the postseason, and with some exceptions for those who have had hormone therapy, athletes had to compete in the division of their birth sex.

There is no known number of transgender athletes at the high school and college levels, though it is believed to be small. The topic has become a hot-button issue among conservative groups and others who believe transgender athletes should not be allowed to compete on girls' and women's sports teams.

Shiwali Patel, senior counsel at

the National Women's Law Center, said her organization was outraged by the NAIA policy.

"This is unacceptable and blatant discrimination that not only harms trans, nonbinary and intersex individuals, but limits the potential of all athletes," Patel said in a statement.

"It's important to recognize that these discriminatory policies don't enhance fairness in competition. Instead, they send a message of exclusion and reinforce dangerous stereotypes that harm all women."

Last month, more than a dozen current and former college athletes filed a federal lawsuit against the NCAA, accusing the sports governing body for more than 500,000 athletes of violating their rights by allowing transgender women to compete in women's sports.

Hours after the NAIA announcement, the NCAA released a statement: "College sports are the premier stage for women's sports in America and the NCAA will continue to promote Title IX, make unprecedented investments in women's sports and ensure fair competition for all student-athletes in all NCAA championships."

At least 24 states have laws barring transgender women and girls from competing in certain women's or girls sports competitions.

◀COLUMN from page 4  
pill, are you actively taking a breather or are you just waiting until you can be done resting to jump back into the swing of things? I've had to learn that taking breaks isn't procrastinating work, but necessary for my overall well-being. My version of self-care varies from day to day. It can be doing a beauty mask while enjoying a self-help podcast, a long hot shower or losing myself in a guided meditation. Depending on my

mood, I can choose what can help me unwind.

Anxiety doesn't always hit me at home.

It can happen wherever, whenever. My therapist told me about an app called "What's Up?" Despite sounding like the social media app, it's been one of the best app recommendations I've gotten. It has breathing/grounding exercises, ways to reframe your mindset, affirmations and more, right at your fingertips.

Whether I'm walking to class, out in public or riding in a car, I can turn to my phone for instant tools to help calm me down in an instant.

It takes a lot of trial and error to build your anxiety toolkit. More so, strategies for tackling your anxiety can come and go.

I'm still working on building my toolkit to help me be the best I can be, but having a sort of safety net that can help soothe me has helped me get to where I am today.

## Powerball lottery's \$1.3 billion jackpot drawing delayed



JENNY KANE • The Associated Press

A sign for the Powerball jackpot is displayed at a 7-Eleven, Friday, April 5, 2024, in Portland, Ore.

The Associated Press

The Powerball lottery drawing scheduled for Saturday night has been delayed to complete procedures required before the numbers are announced, the game's organizers said.

The drawing for the game, including an estimated \$1.3 billion jackpot, was delayed to enable one of the organizers to complete required procedures before the scheduled numbers reveal at 10:59 p.m. ET, Powerball said in a statement.

"Powerball game rules require that every single ticket sold nationwide be checked and verified against two different computer systems before the winning numbers are drawn," the statement said.

"This is done to ensure that every ticket sold for the Powerball drawing has been accounted for and has an equal chance to win. Tonight, we have one jurisdiction that needs extra time to complete that pre-draw process."

A spokesperson for the Multi-State Lottery Association told The Associated Press in an email that she did not have an estimate for the length of the delay.

Saturday's jackpot ranks as the eighth largest in U.S. lottery history and the long odds of winning are 1 in 292.2 million.

Grand prize winners almost always choose a cash payout, which for Saturday night's drawing would be an estimated \$608.9 million.

Powerball is played in 45 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



**50% OFF LASER HAIR REMOVAL**



PERMANENT CHOICE

507-345-6966

PERMANENTCHOICE.COM

# Biden promotes student loan relief in Wisconsin

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and  
COLLIN BINKLEY  
The Associated Press

President Joe Biden said Monday that more than 30 million borrowers would see “life-changing” relief from his new plan to ease their student loan debt burdens, a fresh attempt by the Democratic president to follow through on a campaign pledge that could buoy his standing with younger voters.

Biden detailed the initiative, which has been in the works for months, during a trip to Wisconsin, one of a handful of battleground states that could decide the outcome of Biden’s likely November rematch with Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee.

Biden said he wanted to “give everybody a fair shot” and the “freedom to chase their dreams” as he lamented the rising cost of higher education.

“Even when they work hard and pay their student loans, their debt increases and not diminishes,” he said. “Too many people feel the strain and stress, wondering if they can get married, have their first child, start a family, because even if they get by, they still have this crushing, crushing debt.”

Biden’s trip comes a week after primary voting in Wisconsin highlighted political weaknesses for him as he prepares for the general election.



EVAN VUCCI • The Associated Press

President Joe Biden delivers remarks on student loan debt at Madison College, Monday, April 8, 2024, in Madison, Wis.

More than 48,000 Democratic voters chose “uninstructed” instead of Biden, more than double his narrow margin of victory in the state in 2020.

Trump also saw a significant number of defections during the state’s primary, with nearly 119,000

Republicans voting for someone other than him.

But Biden’s results, which echoed similar protest votes in states like Michigan and Minnesota, have rattled Democrats who are eager to solidify the coalition that catapulted him into the White

House in the first place.

A critical fracture has been the Israel-Hamas war. Younger voters are more likely to disapprove of Biden’s enduring support for Israel’s military operation in Gaza, which has caused heavy casualties among Palestinian civilians.

Some have also been impatient with Biden’s attempts to wipe away student loan debt. The U.S. Supreme Court last year foiled his first attempt to forgive hundreds of billions of dollars in loans, a decision that Biden called a “mistake.”

Since then, the White House has pursued debt relief through other targeted initiatives, including those for public service workers and low-income borrowers. Administration officials said they have canceled \$144 billion in student loans for almost 4 million Americans.

At the same time, the Department of Education has been working on a more expansive plan to replace Biden’s original effort. Monday’s announcement was an opportunity to energize young voters whose support Biden will need to defeat Trump in November.

Republicans said Biden’s plan shifts the financial burden of college tuition onto taxpayers who didn’t take out loans to attend school.

“This is an unfair ploy to buy votes before an election and does absolutely nothing to address the high cost of education that puts young people right back into debt,” said Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, who chairs a committee on education and other issues.

# Trump declines to endorse a national abortion ban

By JILL COLVIN and  
MEG KINNARD  
The Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump said Monday he believes abortion limits should be left to the states, outlining his position in a video in which he declined to endorse a national ban after months of mixed messages and speculation.

“Many people have asked me what my position is on abortion and abortion rights,” Trump said in the video posted on his Truth Social site.

“My view is now that we have abortion where everybody wanted it from a legal standpoint, the states will determine by vote or legislation or perhaps both. And whatever they decide must be the law of the land — in this case, the law of the state.”

Trump, in the video, did not say when in pregnancy he believes abortion should be banned — declining to endorse a national cutoff that would have been used as a cudgel by Democrats ahead of the November election. But his endorsement of the patchwork approach leaves him open to being attached to the strictest proposed state legislation, which President Joe Biden and his reelection campaign have already been working to do.

Anti-abortion activists expressed keen disappointment that Trump didn’t go further.



LYNNE SLADKY • The Associated Press

Minneapolis is a nice city, and I thought of moving up there after graduation. Unfortunately, I’m a broke ass bitch and I found out that won’t be possible.

In the video, he again took credit for the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to end *Roe v. Wade*, saying that he was “proudly the person responsible for the ending” of the constitutional right to an abortion and thanking the conservative justices who overturned it by name.

While he again articulated his support for three exceptions — in

cases of rape, incest and when the life of the mother is at risk — he went on to describe the current legal landscape, in which different states have different restrictions following the court’s *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* ruling on June 24, 2022, which upended the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision.

“Many states will be different. Many will have a different number of weeks or some will have more conservative than others and that’s what they will be,” he said. “At the end of the day it’s all about will of the people.”

Trump had long argued that the Supreme Court’s decision gave those who oppose abortion rights

“tremendous power to negotiate,” leverage he said he wanted to use to strike a deal that he hoped would “make both sides happy” and bring the country together — even though the issue is one of the most contentious in American politics, with some opponents viewing abortion as murder and proponents seeing it as a fundamental women’s right.

The announcement drew immediate condemnation from SBA Pro-Life America, one of the country’s most prominent groups opposed to abortion rights.

“We are deeply disappointed in President Trump’s position,” said the group’s president, Marjorie Dannenfelser, in a statement. “Unborn children and their mothers deserve national protections and national advocacy from the brutality of the abortion industry. The *Dobbs* decision clearly allows both states and Congress to act.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of Trump’s congressional backers and supporter of a 15-week national ban, said he “respectfully” disagreed with Trump over abortion being an issue for the states. Mike Pence — a staunch abortion opponent who served as Trump’s vice president, challenged him for this year’s GOP nomination and has said he won’t endorse him — on X called the stance “a slap in the face to the millions of pro-life Americans” who have previously backed Trump.

# SPORTS

## Mavericks continue winning ways after beating Minot State

By AHMED HASSAN  
Staff Writer

After a long awaited wait, the Minnesota State men's returned home last weekend and stood their ground against the Minot State Beavers getting its fourth consecutive series win.

The Mavericks defeated the Beavers in a four-game series playing in double headers on Saturday and Friday.

The Mavericks lost game one Friday 7-3 and won game two 13-3. The Mavericks went undefeated Saturday beating the Beavers 14-12 and 16-5.

Louis Magers said he was pleased with the Mavericks' ability to come back after losing the first game.

"It was good to be able to win the series at home, especially after dropping the series at home," said Magers.

"The big thing for us is having the mindset that we aren't able to take any pitches, innings and games off."

After the series win, the Mavericks sit third in the conference holding a 18-11 overall record and a 14-5 conference record.

The Mavericks entered Friday's game on a good run of form keeping it's win streak alive after sweeping Minnesota Duluth.



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Mavs are back in action at home against Winona State on Wednesday in double headers at 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Bowyer Field.

The Mavericks lost their footing in game one early, giving up seven runs in the first five innings.

The Mavs got one back in the bottom of the fifth and two more runs in the seventh, but it wasn't

enough as the Beavers took game one.

The Mavs turned the tables in game two as the offense erupted for the Mavs leading to eight runs scored in the first three innings.

The Beavers responded getting three runs through the third and fourth innings, but were held scoreless the rest of the game.

The Maverick offense continued its tear scoring on five runs

through the fifth and sixth innings. Mitch Gutknecht finished the Beavers off in the bottom of the seventh.

Matthew Fleischacker and Aidan Byrne dominated for the Mavs, combining for two runs, seven hits and five RBIS.

"It was exciting for everyone to be back playing in front of our fans at Bowyer Field," head coach Matt Magers stated.

"In game one, we were unable to get anything going offensively due to starting pitching keeping us off balance.

In game two, we were able to string together numerous big innings delivering us the win."

Game one on Saturday started similarly to game one on Friday as the Mavs found themselves down 7-2 in the bottom of the third inning.

The Mavericks were able to shift their fortunes, though, after Magers smashed home his seventh homerun of the season sparking the Mavs' comeback.

The Beavers and Mavs traded five-run fourth innings as the Mavs cut the Beavers lead down to two.

Ryan Wickman's sixth homerun of the season in the bottom of the sixth inched the Mavs closer.

The Mavs took control and completed the comeback in the

**WINNING on page 8**

## Women's golf overcomes windy Iowa in win

By MOHAMED WARSAME  
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State women's golf team was back on the green Saturday and Sunday for the Upper Iowa University Invite.

The Mavericks won the invite during a sudden-death playoff hole after initially tying with Winona State University.

The Mavs' total team score was 657.

The Mavs were able to get the victory on the first playoff-hole where the top-five players of each team featured.

Anna Cihak birdied the par-four first hole, and the rest of the team scored a par to bring the win home.

The competition was held in Waterloo, Iowa at the Sunnyside Country Club.

The course is 5,833 yards and is a par-72 track.

This is the Mavs' first time out on the green competing since the SMSU Spring Challenge March 7-8 where they finished in first place with a total team score of 619.

While the Mavs were victorious in this weekend's competition, they had more than just their four other opponents to worry about.

The weather in Waterloo was not ideal for golfing.

It was cold and windy, which



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Minnesota State women's golf team will be making a trip to Wayne, Nebraska to compete in the Wayne State College Wildcat Classic April 15 and 16 their next time out.

meant that the team had to layer up with things such as hand warmers, gloves and stocking caps.

As they were trying to deal with the challenges of swinging a golf club while being that layered, it

started to rain and everyone had to get off the course for over an hour.

Once the rain stopped and play resumed, the sun started to come out and the Mavs' players could take off their layering and get rid of

their rain gear.

Well it stopped raining momentarily at least.

"It wasn't 15-20 minutes later, a front comes in and it's just pouring.

Now our women don't have

their rain gear with them, they don't have their umbrellas," said assistant coach Todd Pfingsten.

Luckily this pouring of rain lasted about 10 minutes, and the team was finally able to get some sense of normality on the course.

"In the meantime your grips wet, and now the club's can slip a little bit.

So it was a real challenge. But you know what, our women never gave up.

They hung in there and at the end when we had to make a few putts, when we had to make a few good scores, they did," Pfingsten said.

Every MSU golfer finished the event in the top 11.

The Mavs were paced by Kelly Winter who shot a 162 on her way to a second-place finish.

Cihak finished in fourth with a 165, and Victoria Woytasek finished in fifth place.

The freshman finished with a score of 166.

Winona State's Carly Moon won the entire event with a score of 152.

Next time out for the Mavs, they will be making a trip to Wayne, Nebraska to compete in the Wayne State College Wildcat Classic April 15 and 16.

## Women's tennis finishes off regular season with two sweeps



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Mavericks (9-6, 7-2) finished the regular season 3-1 on their home courts and will compete next in the NSIC Quarterfinals on April 26 at Heuther Tennis Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

By HAYDEN LEE  
Staff Writer

After losing two straight, the Minnesota State women's tennis team bounced back, picking up two sweeps at home to close out the regular season.

In its first match of the weekend Friday night, the Mavericks won 7-0 over the Minnesota Crookston Golden Eagles, dropping just one game in the doubles matches to secure a dominant win.

This match marked its first time back in the Swanson Tennis Center in 11 matches.

"It's really nice to be back home," said head coach Tristen Bryant-Otake in a press release posted to the Maverick Athletics website.

"We've wanted to come back and defend our home territory for a long time.

I think it helped a lot that our momentum from doubles carried over into singles. The positive energy. We talk about it a lot."

Avery Stilwell and Freia Lawrence dismantled UMC's No. 1 doubles duo 6-0, while Chiara Carnelutti and Daria Podmogilnaia defeated the no. 2's 6-1. Eliz-

abeth Felderman and McKenna DeMarce also defeated UMC's No. 3's 6-0.

The order of finish was 1,3,2 as the Mavs secured the doubles point.

In the singles, MSU took every point. Lawrence won her set 6-1 and 6-1.

Carnelutti defeated her opponent 6-1 and 6-4 in her penultimate regular season match, and her final two home stands could not have gone any better.

"Chiara is our only senior and she's a big part of our team," Bryant-Otake said.

"She brings a lot of energy and the girls look up to her. I'm looking forward to sending her out with a bang tomorrow."

Stilwell won 6-3 and 6-0 while Podmogilnaia won 6-1 and 6-2. Felderman took down her No. 5 singles match up 6-0 and 6-3 while DeMarce won 6-0 in both sets to close out the day.

The next day, the Mavs were back on their home court for Senior Day against Bemidji State, where their lone senior shined bright, dropping just two combined games in singles and doubles.

"It was a very solid weekend for us and no better way to send

out our lone senior," said head coach Tristen Bryant-Otake.

"We took care of business and had fun doing it. Ending the regular season at home is amazing for us and hopefully we can carry this momentum into the conference tournament.

Chiara has been tremendous for our program in the two years she has been with us.

She has been a leader, a great teammate and someone other players could look up to. I cannot thank her enough for all she has given to MSU."

The Mavericks are currently third in the NSIC after their two sweeps, behind only Augustana and UMary and now will wait for their results to learn their placement in the NSIC Tournament.

In Saturday's match, the Mavs won the No. 1 and 2 doubles sets, but dropped the No. 3.

They still received the point, and won every singles matchup to secure the 7-0 win.

The NSIC Tournament will be held April 26-28 in Sioux Falls, S.D.

The NCAA Regional Tournament is on May 6-7 before the NCAA Championships take place May 20-25.

the day.

Matthaidess and Crowley kept a very good Minot State offense in check."

The Mavs are back in action at home against Winona State on Wednesday in double headers at 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Bowyer Field.

### ◀WINNING from page 7

bottom of the sixth after scoring three runs to complete the comeback in dramatic fashion.

In game two, the Beavers got off to a good start scoring two runs.

The Mavs scored five runs in the bottom of the first with a sign of more to come.

The Mavericks proceeded to dominate, scoring 11 more unanswered runs.

"Two big wins today from our club," head coach Matt Magers stated.

"We had an impressive comeback in game one, overcoming adversity, and saw big-time production from our lineup throughout

## Arsenal back in control of EPL title race



DAVE SHOPLAND • The Associated Press

Arsenal players react during the English Premier League soccer match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Arsenal at the American Express Community Stadium in Brighton, England, Saturday, April 6, 2024.

By STEVE DOUGLAS  
The Associated Press

Mikel Arteta had just seen his Arsenal team come up painfully short in its English Premier League title race with Manchester City and he couldn't hide his anguish.

"I know we're not at that level," a crestfallen Arteta said last May, "but we have to find a way."

Well, Arsenal's upgraded class of 2024 are finding a way.

They are there again, leading the league with seven games left — just like last season.

And once again, City is on Arsenal's shoulder, waiting to pounce.

Will this year be different?

The math is simple: Save for an unlikely huge swing in goal difference, Arsenal can capture the league for the first time since 2004 by winning its last seven games.

In a remarkably tight title race, Arsenal is tied for points with Liverpool but has a superior goal difference of nine over Jurgen Klopp's team. City is a point back in third.

All three clubs have seven matches remaining, with each of their run-ins sprinkled with what appears to be home bankers and tough road trips.

Arsenal is in the driving seat, though, and is mounting an increasingly convincing case.

Unlike last season, when Arteta's players stumbled — some say froze — late in the campaign with just two wins in their last nine games as injuries took their toll, they look to be growing in strength this time.

Here's a deeper look at the facts and figures around Arsenal's latest title challenge and what might be the defining features of the next six weeks:

### STATISTICS

The numbers suggest Arsenal is ready to take this final step. Unbeaten in the league in 11 matches in 2024, the team has scored 38 goals and conceded just four in that spell — better than anyone else in both aspects. In the season as a whole, Arsenal has a league-high 75 goals and let in a league-low 24. Arsenal has the most

reliable defense in the league, as shown by shutting out City home and away this season.

### SQUAD STRENGTH

Declan Rice is the obvious upgrade in Arsenal's squad, with the England midfielder's \$138 million fee proving to be value for money. Much of Arsenal's defensive strength is down to the protection the back line gets from Rice in front of it and also from Jorginho, who has established himself as a regular in the second half of the season. Kai Havertz was a more contentious offseason signing but is confounding his critics, having scored in five in Arsenal's last seven league games. Most notable were the late winners home and away against Brentford. Arsenal has also coped fine without its other big summer signing, Jurrien Tumber, who has missed pretty much the whole season because of injury. Jakob Kiwior, an unheralded January 2023 recruit, has filled in well at left back in recent months.

### LESSONS LEARNED

Arteta was accused by many pundits of being too emotional on the sidelines last season and letting that seep into his team in those pressure-filled last few months. He's still active on the touchline, for sure, but he is proving to be a calmer figure as the intensity builds. The same can be said of his team. Arteta appears to have followed the playbook of City manager Pep Guardiola in pacing the campaign much more effectively. Arsenal controls games better, making them less frenetic.

Arteta has not been afraid to rest players, when last season he might have overplayed the likes of Bukayo Saka and Gabriel Martinelli and saw their late-season displays tail off.

By playing Kiwior, Arteta has also started to deploy a back four entirely composed of center backs — like Guardiola did at times last season to great effect.

### EUROPE

The biggest concern for Arsenal might be its continued involvement in the Champions League, with a two-leg quarterfinal with Bayern Munich coming up over the next two weeks.



# South Carolina finishes perfect season with NCAA championship



MORRY GASH • The Associated Press

South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley celebrates after the Final Four college basketball championship game against Iowa in the women's NCAA Tournament, Sunday, April 7, 2024, in Cleveland. South Carolina won 87-75.

By DOUG FEINBERG  
The Associated Press

Kamilla Cardoso delivered once again for Dawn Staley and South Carolina.

A perfect finish. A dynasty. A team too big for Caitlin Clark and Iowa this time around.

Cardoso had 15 points and a career-high 17 rebounds, and South Carolina completed its perfect season with an 87-75 victory over Clark and the Hawkeyes in the NCAA championship game on Sunday.

With Staley directing a relentless attack from the sideline, the Gamecocks (38-0) became the 10th Division I team to go through a season without a loss.

And they accomplished the feat after they lost all five starters from last season's team that lost to Clark's squad in the national semifinals.

"When young people lock in and have a belief, and have a trust, and their parents have that same trust, this is what can happen," Staley said. "They made history. They etched their names in the history books."

Clark did all she could to lead the Hawkeyes to their first championship.

She scored 30 points, including a championship-record 18 in the first quarter. She rewrote the record book at Iowa (34-5), finishing as the career leading scorer in NCAA Division I history with 3,951 points.

She hopes her legacy isn't defined by falling short in two NCAA championship games, but more by the millions of new fans she helped bring into the game and the countless young girls and boys that she inspired.

"I think the biggest thing is it's really hard to win these things, I think I know that better than most people by now, to be so close twice

really hurts," Clark said.

As the final buzzer sounded, a stoic Clark walked off the court, through the confetti, and into the tunnel heading to the locker room.

"I personally want to thank Caitlin Clark for lifting up our sport. She carried a heavy load for our sport," Staley said.

"She's going to lift that league (WNBA) up as well. Caitlin Clark if you're out there you're one of the GOATS of our game. We appreciate you."

South Carolina has won three titles in the last eight years, including two of the past three, to lay claim to being the latest dynasty in women's basketball.

Staley became the fifth coach to win at least three national championships, joining Geno Auriemma, Pat Summitt, Kim Mulkey and Tara VanDerveer.

The Gamecocks, who have won 109 of their last 112 games, became the first team since UConn in 2016 to go undefeated. South Carolina had a couple scares throughout the season, but always found a way to win.

With most of the team returning next year, Staley's team is in a good position to keep this run going.

"This team, we're going to be good. Coach Staley, we have the best coach, what, in the country, in the nation, in the whole wide world?" Raven Johnson said.

"It's no telling what she's going to add to the pieces that's already here. I just say be on the lookout."

Tessa Johnson led South Carolina with 19 points. Cardoso, the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player, also blocked three shots.

"Kamilla Cardoso was not going to let us lose a game in the NCAA Tournament," Staley said. "She played through an injury, she played like one of the top picks in the WNBA draft, and her

teammates did something that no teammates have done for somebody who went to the WNBA in our program.

They send her off as a national champion. So this is history for us."

Led by the 6-foot-7 Cardoso and Ashlyn Watkins, South Carolina enjoyed a 51-29 rebounding advantage. It also finished with 30 second-chance points.

The Gamecocks also showed off their impressive depth. Tessa Johnson helped the team to a 37-0 difference in points by reserves.

South Carolina trailed 46-44 late in the second quarter before going on an 11-0 run spanning halftime to open a 55-46 advantage early in the third quarter. Clark finally ended the run with a layup.

The Hawkeyes closed to 59-55 and had a chance to get even closer, but Hannah Stuelke missed a wide-open layup on a brilliant pass from Clark.

South Carolina responded with the next eight points, including two 3-pointers. The Gamecocks, who were 4 for 20 from behind the 3-point line during last season's Final Four loss to Iowa, went 8 for 19 from deep against the Hawkeyes in the victory.

Iowa was down 80-75 after a three-point play by Sydney Affolter with 4:12 left. But the Hawkeyes were shut out the rest of the way.

Clark checked out with 20 seconds left when Iowa coach Lisa Bluder subbed in fellow senior Molly Davis, who hadn't played since she got hurt in the regular-season finale against Ohio State.

"I'm proud of my team, though. Finishing national runner-up two years in a row is an amazing feat," Bluder said. "Nobody thought we were going to be here at the beginning of the year, so that makes it pretty special."

# Irving scores 48 as Mavs rally past Rockets



Dallas Mavericks via The Associated Press

This handout photo provided by the Dallas Mavericks shows Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving (11) shooting against Houston Rockets defenders Jalen Green (4) and Cam Whitmore (7).

By SCHUYLER DIXON  
The Associated Press

Kyrie Irving scored a season-high 48 points, Dante Exum forced overtime with a buzzer-beating 3-pointer and the Dallas Mavericks rallied from 22 points down for a 147-136 victory over the Houston Rockets on Sunday.

Luka Dončić had 37 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds as the Mavericks took another step toward the fifth seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

Dillon Brooks scored a season-high 29 points, and Fred VanVleet had 24 points and 12 assists for the Rockets, who were eliminated from postseason contention after not trailing until the final three minutes of regulation.

It was a fifth consecutive loss for Houston following an 11-game winning streak that is tied for the longest in the NBA this season.

With Houston leading by three with 8.3 seconds to go in regulation, Jabari Smith Jr. missed two free throws. Dallas was out of timeouts, and Exum scrambled up the court and passed to Dončić. The Dallas superstar dribbled toward midcourt and faked a shot

before passing to Exum, whose 3 over Smith beat the buzzer.

"I just went and grabbed it and tried to get the ball to Luka," said Exum, who took the ball after P.J. Washington's rebound. "Luka is obviously great knowing that two guys are going to double him and trusting his teammates."

Irving, who scored 25 points in the fourth quarter and overtime, put Dallas ahead for good in the extra period at 133-131 with two free throws.

Washington, who had 14 points and 13 rebounds, finished off the Rockets with consecutive corner 3s for a nine-point lead with 33 seconds to go. Exum had 14 points and nine rebounds.

The Mavericks have won 14 of 16 to take the inside track to a guaranteed spot in the West playoffs, and Dallas is 22-7 in the 29 consecutive games Irving has played since returning from a thumb injury.

"I'm depleted. Energetic, but I'm depleted," said Irving, who was 15 of 25 from the field. "We kept battling and kept doing the little things and trusting one another."

Houston, already missing Alperen Sengun because of an ankle injury, played most of the game without Amen Thompson.

## Good Counsel Learning Center

- One-on-One Tutoring in Reading, Writing, and Math.
- Experienced Tutors Wanted for Grades K-12 and Adults.
- Summer school starts June 10th.
- 5-15 hours/week, pay from \$20/hr.
- Apply online at: [gclearningcenter.org/apply](http://gclearningcenter.org/apply)



Good Counsel Learning Center

# VARIETY

## Write about the stuff no one writes about

By LAUREN VISKA  
Staff Writer

Lowell Andreas, his son David and his daughter-in-law Debbie created the Nadine B. Andreas Endowment at Minnesota State in honor of their mother and wife, Nadine. This endowment funds graduate assistantships throughout MSU's College of Humanities & Social Sciences.

The endowment also allows them to teach creative writing in their two final semesters and present creative work during the Good Thunder Visiting Writer Series.

Master of Fine Arts student Nathan Larson won this award this academic year.

"Whoever decides to apply for it competes with one another to see who gets it. If you get it, you not only get to read with one of the Good Thunder writers who also is the visiting writer, but you also get to teach Introduction to Creative Writing," said Larson. "It's a great opportunity to break out of teaching English 101 and start teaching English 242 and meeting more younger creative writers beginning the journey."

When Larson was writing his short story, "The Shades In-Between," he said he was inspired by author Christopher McCormick's book, "Desert Boys." McCormick is an associate professor in MSU's creative writing department.

"I liked the style of it. I like the idea of here are some things you should know. So I picked 10 things I thought people should know and mixed my own real-life with a fic-

tionalized second person," said Larson. "There's a little bit of colorism that goes on where, if you're lighter skinned, you get preferable treatment, and I'm not denying it doesn't exist. But one of the downsides of being mixed race is that you don't fit into any category. I haven't seen a lot of short stories with that topic."

During a Good Thunder workshop in the Ostrander Auditorium Thursday, Larson read some of his work as a graduate student with best-selling author Melissa Febos. Larson said sharing a stage with Febos was a great experience.

"I don't write CNF (creative nonfiction), but because the short story dealt with things that were true to my life experience, our work ended up speaking to one another in a very interesting way," said Larson. "She read from one of her new books, 'Dry Season,' and she did a year of celibacy which inspired it. So we talked in that line of, alright, here's something nobody talks about. Let's talk about it using our experience, and let's try to use language to render it in a way that's accessible."

Febos did a workshop and a craft talk along with a reading with Larson. She talked about ways for people to write using different techniques and how to come up with story ideas. Her work is primarily nonfiction, and she has written two memoirs and two essay collections that combine journalistic techniques, research and pop culture, and a personal narrative to it. Her book "GIRLHOOD," released in 2021, is a collection of intercon-



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Pictured is best-selling author Melissa Febos, who visited Minnesota State for the Good Thunder Reading series Thursday for a workshop, craft talk and book talk.

nected essays about her adolescent girlhood.

"It is how the challenges and

WRITE on page 11 ▶

## MiracleArts empowers MSU's creative writers

By ANAHI ZUNIGA  
Staff Writer

MiracleArts held its inaugural event, "Celebrating the Written Art," Friday in the Multicultural Center, featuring Minnesota State students Darlington "Destined" Sehgbear Jr. and Amber McFadden who both presented their work and their writing process.

The purpose of the event was to highlight the various career paths writers may take. MiracleArts, an art-based organization founded last December, dedicates itself to empowering artists of all fields to reach their potential.

McFadden is a technical writing major with a minor in computer technology. She presented her journey as a writer, the growth she has made, what her main inspirations are and what forms of writing she does most.

She said she mostly writes short stories and poetry. One recent story called 'Envision' includes a character who, anytime they look into their mirror, it predicts the future.

"It's kind of like a suspenseful story. A little bit of horror as well," McFadden said.

Having started writing at age 9



NATHANAEL TILAHUN • The Reporter

Minnesota State students Darlington Sehgbear Jr. and Amber McFadden shared their written work with the campus Friday in the Multicultural Center.

and continuing for 12 years, McFadden said her path as a writer consisted of "a few creative writing classes growing up."

"Mostly, I am in the creative writing group so I guess that's mostly where I practice my craft," she said.

For what inspired McFadden to write, she said her main inspirations are best-selling horror series "Goosebumps" and the comic-style book series "Diary of a Wimpy

Kid." She said she incorporates some of their elements and themes into her own stories.

"For 'Goosebumps,' I always liked the cover of the books. I also liked the suspenseful essence of it. And I also kind of liked how cheesy some of the dialogue was as well because it was written back in the 90s," McFadden said. "And then for 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid,' I just kind of like the art style of it. And I always just found the series really

fun to read. And I would also read them with my mom as well so we just kind of compare notes."

As for future plans, McFadden shared what her plans as a growing writer consist of and what other genres she would like to explore later on.

"Someday, I would like to maybe publish a book of either short stories, poems, or haikus and maybe even make a short film out of some of the stories that I've written," she said. "I'd be open to suspense, some thriller and maybe even some humor as well. I kind of like to write that off to the side for fun."

McFadden shares what she hopes to present and to inspire potential student writers at Minnesota State.

"I'd just say the importance of having a support system. Just always being passionate, always trying new things. Even when you encounter hardships, like during the creative writing process, just always pushing through and just finding a way to make or see your ideas come to light," McFadden said.

For more information about MiracleArts, visit their Instagram page @miracle.arts

## Comparison is the thief of confidence

By MERCEDES  
KAUPHUSMAN  
Variety Editor

You wake up on the right side of the bed, your pesky pimple faded overnight, it's a good hair day, you're wide-eyed and ready to slay the day.

Until you tap on Instagram to find Barbie's doppelgänger has posted a selfie.

You start to notice other blemishes, how your hair is slightly frizzy and realize you look like Barbie's manufactured error.

The self-confidence you woke up with immediately dimmed once you compared yourself to someone else.

This is an experience most of us deal with daily, yet we continue to indulge in our social feeds. This led me down a rabbit hole to answer: How do we praise others without inevitably comparing them to ourselves?

I was taught self-confidence from as early as I can remember. My mom would place me in front of the mirror while doing my hair and sing, "Who's the prettiest girl I know? Sadie, Sadie, Sadie Jo." My ego grew as I did, and I dressed the part.

She installed self-esteem rituals in me and allowed me to present myself the way I wanted. I wore obnoxious colors, glitter, sequins and sparkles, flashy earrings and a vigorous side part. I never doubted myself; I believed what my mom told me: I was pretty.

Along came the storm of puberty. I questioned everything. Why do my cheeks resemble chipmunks when other girls' don't? Why is my nose as big as their feet? Why are they growing and I'm the same height? Why do they get to wear braces and I'm left to chomp with my buck teeth?

Fast forward to the following decade of my life — my questions multiplied with every year I aged. The more women I encountered within the physical and online world led me unable to think highly of myself. The parts of me I loved the most were invisible once I saw them look better on someone else.

I thought I was taking all the correct steps, but once I chose confidence rather than simply wanting it, I leapt.

I remember sitting face-to-face with a mentor of mine and finally breaking my seal. I told her about each part of me I poked and prodded. She didn't see what I saw, but she listened. She slipped me a piece of paper and told me to write down every single flaw I saw in myself. It was hard and humbling, but then she gave me another sheet. She told me to write down what I loved about each flaw, and how they

THEIR on page 11 ▶

# Maverick Adventures hosts a bike workshop for Earth Month



DAVIS JENSEN • The Reporter

Maverick Adventures invited students to bring in their bikes for a bike tune-up workshop outside the Otto Rec Center.

By JACK HARDING  
Staff Writer

Sunny weather — mixed with many students in dire need of post-winter bike maintenance — proved a fruitful combination for a bike tune-up workshop last week.

Maverick Adventures set up a bike tune-up workshop outside of the Otto Rec Center Thursday where anyone could bring their bike over and have it tuned-up for free.

Maverick Adventures members taught maintenance basics such as inflating tires, keeping chains clean and greased, checking brake cables and making sure seat positions are correct.

Assistant program coordinator for Maverick Adventures Madison Vandersee talked about how Earth month ties into this event.

“For Earth month, we really want to provide opportunities for people to learn more about either environmental issues or topics that they’re interested in. But especially for this one, we wanted to offer an opportunity for people to get outside and have options to get around campus without needing

a vehicle,” Vandersee said. “So we want people to get their bikes in shape to use their own bikes, but then also learn how to maintain, and do some basic maintenance.”

Every year Maverick Adventures does more and more throughout Earth month. Since this is the third year, they have over 20 events going on throughout the month. They work with many different academic departments and Student Affairs departments to make these events possible.

Program Coordinator for Maverick Adventures Sam Steiger said he was very enthusiastic about getting students outside for the month of April.

“The schedule is really great. It’s just got tons of opportunities for students to either learn something, meet new people, or make an impact,” Steiger said. “We’re just really trying to reach out to anyone who wants to do anything related to sustainability and in the outdoors and in the environment.”

These events include things like a field trip to Jeffers Petroglyphs, campus cleanup activities, a bike trip to the Blue Earth Community Farm, and much more.

Don’t worry if you don’t have

a bike, the Maverick Adventures offers bikes for students to use during the biking events.

Steiger and Vandersee talked about the many reasons you should bike in Mankato. Obviously the amount of carbon emissions and fuel consumption prevented by biking is a big reason. They mentioned how the campus is very vibrant and beautiful, so biking around campus is a great way to get around, it also saves money if you don’t get a parking pass. They also said there’s many great biking trails around Mankato that make it fun to explore the city on a bike.

The bike repairs were mostly done by Evin Roddy, who works at the campus Rock Climbing wall and is a semi-pro mountain biker. He is also a supporter of the pro-bike lifestyle in Mankato.

“A very big part of bikes and why they’re so useful and why they’re so good is that bikes don’t take our limited fuel that we have on our planet. And so I think that more people on bikes means saving the earth one step at a time,” Roddy said.

## ◀WRITE from page 10

traumas and lessons from that period have affected me and sort of played out in the rest of my life, and I also interviewed a lot of other women,” said Febos. “It covers things that are both super impactful but also ordinary, like sexual harassment or what we would call slut shaming today, early sexual development, body shaming and navigating the world as a changing space once we come of age sexually.”

Febos said she didn’t want to write about that topic at first, but ended up being proud she did. She said her relationship with writing is getting a certain urgency around certain topics, and then she starts writing, not knowing where it’s going to go.

“Sometimes, the things I least

want to write about are the things I most need to read about. Sometimes, the things you need to talk about are the things you absolutely can’t say out loud. Writing is a little bit like that for me,” said Febos. “But now I’m incredibly glad I did because it’s connecting me with so many people and these experiences that felt very singular and that I felt quite alone and have turned out to be so much more universal than I thought. I’ve heard from thousands of readers who have had similar experiences but also thought that they were alone.”

Febos said she likes reading with other people, as she did with Larson. She said it is important for writers in different career stages to collaborate.

“We can get a little bit siloed inside of our own generations

and our own experiences. There are different levels of mentorship and connection that happen when people are coming from different places but also different places in their practice and in their writing career,” said Febos. “I learn as much from my students as I think they learn for me. So, I try to have a very age and career stage diverse community of writers.”

Febos has a book coming out in 2025 called “Dry Season” about her experience being celibate for a year. Celibate is abstaining from marriage and sexual relations. She said it was the “most surprising and insightful and happiest of my whole life, which was pretty shocking to me. And I wanted to share the things I learned.”

# A call for donations at MSU toiletry drive



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

A toiletry drive hosted by the Center for Sport and Performance Psychology is collecting donations to support high school students in the Mankato area. Students and faculty are welcome to drop off toiletries like lotion, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, deodorant and other care products until April 26.

# Morgan Wallen is arrested



SANFORD MYERS • The Associated Press

In this June 5, 2019, file photo, Morgan Wallen arrives at the CMT Music Awards on at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn.

The Associated Press

that they watched Wallen pick up a chair, throw it over the roof and laugh about it.

Country music singer Morgan Wallen has been arrested after police say he threw a chair off the rooftop of a newly opened six-story bar in downtown Nashville.

Wallen, 30, was booked into jail early Monday on three felony counts of reckless endangerment and one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct, Metro Nashville Police tweeted.

The charges stem from a chair being thrown from the rooftop of Chief’s bar and landing on Broadway near two police officers.

An arrest affidavit says the chair landed about 3 feet (1 meter) from officers, who talked to witnesses and reviewed security footage. Witnesses told officers

Wallen’s attorney, Worrick Robinson, confirmed the arrest late Sunday and said the singer was cooperating fully with authorities. He was released from custody, and has a court date scheduled May 3.

Wallen is one of the biggest names in contemporary country. His third studio album, 2023’s “One Thing at a Time,” was the most-consumed album in the U.S. last year. It spent 16 weeks at the top of the Billboard 200 in 2023 — which meant he held the top spot for 30% of the year, more time at No. 1 than any other album since Adele’s “21” dominated over a decade ago.

## ◀THIEF from page 10

made me, me.

It completely changed my perspective.

Each time my inner dialogue caught me comparing, I forced myself to say something good. Each lingering insecurity was placed next to a security; each compliment I gave, I sent a compliment through my own head.

I was able to appreciate the beauty in someone else while

embracing my own, which is entirely the point. Confidence isn’t believing you are better than others, but rather sharing a pedestal with them. We are all individuals for a reason, and what makes us unique is what makes us special.

Coming to terms with this isn’t as simple as a click of a button, but once you realize there is enough room in the world for each of us to shine individually, confidence finds you.

# Inside rapper Missy Elliott's first headlining tour



CHRIS PIZZELLO • The Associated Press

Missy Elliott performs "Lose Control" at the 65th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023, in Los Angeles.

By MARIA SHERMAN  
The Associated Press

At a 24,000-square-foot studio near downtown Los Angeles, Missy Elliott, Busta Rhymes and Ciara are preparing to film the video announcement for a tour no one saw coming.

This summer, the trio — along with legendary producer Timbaland — will hit the road for Elliott's first headlining arena tour, appropriately titled "Out of This World — The Missy Elliott Experience."

"Listen, I didn't realize I never had my own tour," says a smiling Elliott, holding her tiny Yorkie, named Fendi, dressed in Gucci. "The last real tour that I went on — like, consistent days — was with Beyoncé and Alicia (Keys)."

That was in 2004.

Call it long overdue, but the timing is ideal.

Over the last few years, Elliott — the forward-seeking artist — has been recognized for her talents as a musician, producer, songwriter and beyond.

In 2019, she became the first female rapper inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and received the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award at the MTV Video Music Awards.

In 2021, she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 2022, her hometown of Portsmouth, Virginia, named a boulevard after her.

Last year, she became the first female hip-hop artist inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

"Getting those accolades, I feel like I've finally made it," Elliott says. "It feels amazing. I feel so blessed."

"What we're seeing now is kind of the rest of the world catching up," says Mona Scott-Young, Elliott's longtime manager and co-producer of the tour. "She's always been ahead."

In his green room, Busta Rhymes tells the AP that a tour had never come up in conversa-

tion across his decades of friendship and collaboration with Elliott.

(He's the intro and outro voice on her canonical debut album, 1997's "Supa Dupa Fly." They've long since been inseparable.)

"She doesn't really tour and she doesn't perform often. I just kind of understood my sister — the unspoken thing," he says. "You knew that if she decided to do this, go to the place where she was actually ready to tour, the s--- was going to be crazy because one thing Missy never did was play with her production. And you saw that in everything she did, from her shows to her videos."

He continued: "Missy will turn down \$10 million to do a show. ... She's super in control of her destiny in that way, and without compromise, is what made her super incredibly great. You can't do nothing but love her for that. She's a true artist in the purest form of the word."

And make no mistake, this isn't a nostalgia tour.

"We are in the best spaces in our lives, individually and collectively, we're at the most experienced spaces in our lives," Rhymes says. "We're no longer Daniel-san. We're now all Mr. Miyagi senses. You know what I'm saying? We're all at our perfection levels of what we've been doing and building together as a collective family for 30 years."

Elliott echoed the sentiment.

"The lineup feels something special," says Elliott. "It's family. It's not put together."

On set, the trio are styled by longtime collaborator June Ambrose — all-black looks, like if the Avengers were impeccably dressed and made up of R&B and hip-hop legends. They take photos as a group and individually.

After her solo photo shoot, Ciara starts to tear up.

"When I was a little girl, a little artist coming up, and you would ask me, 'Who inspires you?' I would infuse a combination of people: Michael Jackson and Prince and I would say Missy El-

liott. She's one of the best performers of all time," she said.

"She means a lot to me as an artist but also as a person, as a sister. She's always someone I can call for the truth, and she's got to keep it real with me. She's someone I can call and cry to if I need to."

But ask her if there will be any on-stage collaborations — Elliott wrote and was featured on Ciara's huge hit "1, 2 Step"; Ciara's on Elliott's "Lose Control" — she laughs. "Missy's very particular. I don't want to ruin any surprises," she says. "I think from beginning to end, people will be on their feet. All of us have a lot of energetic records."

"Somebody's gonna die!" Rhymes jokes.

"And come back to life," Ciara cuts in.

"Let's keep it positive," Rhymes laughs. "Someone is gonna die and come back to life."

Later, Elliott offers a hint at what fans can expect from the show.

"It's an experience, it's not just you seeing the artist on the stage," she says. "I want people to travel to those moments, those (music) videos, I want you to relive it on stage. It is most definitely a lot of good, good stuff. Expensive stuff!"

The "Out of This World — The Missy Elliott Experience" kicks off in Vancouver, British Columbia, on July 4 at Rogers Arena and concludes in Rosemont, Illinois, at Allstate Arena on Aug. 22.

It will hit Seattle; Oakland, California; Los Angeles; Las Vegas; Denver; Austin, Texas; Houston; Fort Worth, Texas; Tampa, Florida; Sunrise, Florida; Atlanta; Baltimore; Hampton, Virginia; Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; Newark, New Jersey; Boston; Brooklyn, New York; Detroit; Montreal and Toronto.

The tour is produced by Young's Monami Entertainment and Live Nation. Presale begins tomorrow, and tickets will become available to the general public on Friday.

# Jelly Roll dominates the 2024 CMT Music Awards



CHRIS PIZZELLO • The Associated Press

Jelly Roll performs during the iHeartRadio Music Awards, Monday, April 1, 2024, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

By MARIA SHERMAN  
The Associated Press

Jelly Roll won big at the 2024 CMT Music Awards Sunday night, taking home three awards at the annual event celebrating the best in country music videos.

His accolades began with the CMT performance of the year award for his gospel-assisted rendition of "Need a Favor" at the 2023 CMT Music Awards nearly a year ago to the day. It also was his first-ever awards show performance.

"In that last year you changed my life in every way I never thought my life could be changed," the tattooed rapper-turned-country breakout star said in an emotional acceptance speech live from the Moody Center in Austin, Texas. The show was broadcast live on CBS and Paramount+.

The music video for "Need A Favor" earned him male video of the year and the biggest award of the night, video of the year.

"I'm having one of the best nights of my life," he said, before focusing his speech on people who are looking for "second chances," specifically those in juvenile detention facilities. "I once heard a man say that 'you don't change until the pain to remain the same is greater than the pain it takes to change,' and that's what it takes. I love you, Texas."

In some ways, it was déjà

vu from the 2023 awards show, where Jelly Roll also took home three awards, winning over audiences for his larger-than-life personality and outsider songs.

Kelsea Ballerini hosted the awards for fourth time in a row, opening with a comedic sketch about reading the minds of country music's biggest names that ended with Keith Urban hugging the beaver mascot of beloved Texas gas station chain Buc-ee's.

Her many outfit changes were only the first of a few surprises, which also included Melissa Etheridge appearing on a duet of "Come to My Window" with Ballerini.

Early on, Carly Pearce and Chris Stapleton won collaborative video of the year for their song, "We Don't Fight Anymore." She thanked Stapleton, who wasn't in attendance, and "Fans, fans, fans, fans, fans!"

Ashley Cooke won breakthrough female video of the year for "Your Place," her first-ever award. "I just won a CMT award, oh my god, good night!" she cheered as she headed off stage. Warren Zeiders took home the male equivalent for "Pretty Little Poison," thanking God and his best friend: his dad.

Live performances were fast and furious. Three-time CMT award winner Cody Johnson opened the 2024 show with his ode to the lone star state, "That's Texas."

## WE'RE HIRING

### POSITIONS

- Mental Health Practitioners
- Clinical Trainees
- Qualified Mental Health Professionals
- Bachelors Level Internships
- Masters Level Internships

### SETTINGS

- In Home/Community
- School Linked Mental Health
- Day Treatment
- Outpatient

### COUNTY LOCATIONS

- Blue Earth
- Dodge
- Goodhue
- Mower
- Olmsted
- Steele
- Rice
- Waseca

### SCAN THE QR CODE TO APPLY



**FERNBROOK**  
Family Center

WWW.FERNBROOK.ORG  
(507) 446-0431  
2575 HARVEST LANE  
OWATONNA, MN 55060