

Undergrad research sparks creative innovation

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

Minnesota State held the 26th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Centennial Student Union Thursday, where students presented research from disciplines across.

“This year’s symposium is a celebration of intellectual exploration, creativity and collaboration,” president Edward Inch said in his greeting for the symposium.

Topics studied by students ranged from microaggressions towards senior citizens, antibiotic resistance in human gut microbes and attitudes about flu vaccines.

The symposium included a keynote address by Dr. Analía Dall’Asén on “Unveiling the Secrets of Extraterrestrial Materials: Studying Meteorites with Undergraduate Students.”

The symposium also included presentations on how students could use their research to further their career goals and how to develop grant applications.

MSU students presented research via oral presentations, by participating in poster sessions and by presenting art in the CSU Gallery.

Students who participated in poster sessions answered questions about their research projects and



Pictured above is Aryee McCabe presenting their undergraduate research project at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Centennial Student Union.

explained their findings. Many students also had a variety of reasons for why they chose their topics.

Emily Hodge studied the laws around domestic partnerships and how they varied across states. She

started the research after learning about domestic partnerships from a survey.

“I think there should be more diversity when it comes to committed relationships. People only

think about marriage. So I just want to showcase that this is another option and that it’s possible. It just needs some more recognition,” said Hodge.

Madisyn Jarvey was one of the

researchers on a project studying the impact of hormones on DNA expression in anole lizards during mating and off-mating seasons.

“I thought it was definitely interesting because it wasn’t something I thought I would find interesting, so learning about their behavior and the stuff in their brain is really cool,” said Jarvey.

A project by Gifty Jijo studied the impact of increased employment hours and other economic factors on student performance. The findings of course were not surprising: more hours worked meant lower grades and other negative outcomes.

“There are many mental health resources on campus but not many students are aware that these exist. So it wasn’t until a few months ago I realized that there were resources available to help. So advertising that these resources are available on campus is something that can be invested in,” said Jijo.

Alysha Kruger was one researcher on a project that studied the concerns of students on the issue of safety on campus.

“We found that 70% of students are very concerned about sexual assault and rape as one of their primary safety concerns. We also found that there is a really big lack of knowledge of those safety resources on campus,” said Kruger.

DAVIS JENSEN • The Reporter

Mavs in Action help clean up Mankato

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

Mavs in Action hosted Maverick Day of Service Saturday, a volunteering event, to help clean various locations around Mankato. Students gathered in the Centennial Student Union before heading out to cleanup locations.

Interim assistant director of community engagement Crystal Watts said the Maverick Day of Service is a tradition students love. In addition, it is hosted during National Volunteer Month. The Student Activities office decorated the showcase area in the CSU to recognize and thank volunteers on campus.

“The Maverick Day of Service also happens to coincide with the city of Mankato as the beginning of their Earth Week,” said Watts.

Students were broken up into several groups which worked at specific sites throughout the day.

“Typically what we used to do is try to get about five or six different work sites in service within two to three hours,” said Watts. “This year, we’ve broken it up across the span

of the whole day.”

A lot of the projects were focused on the city of Mankato. Volunteers traveled to different locations to help clean up parks, walkways and other community areas.

“We are going to be doing Stoltzman Road trail, Rasmussen woods clean up, Val Imm Drive clean up from campus down to Warren Street, and Glenwood trail,” said Watts. “Then we have a special crew going over to a newer organization called A New Start, and they help repurpose furniture and gather household goods for people emerging from homelessness.”

Some locations were more distant from campus and are not walkable. Student groups were transferred to the locations on minivans rented by Mavs in Action.

“I’ve got some student drivers and we will be shuttling people to various locations that are not walkable,” said Watts. “For example, students will walk down to Rasmussen woods but they’re going to be tired by the time they get done. So



Crystal Watts is seen volunteering on the Maverick Day of Service, which is a Maverick tradition to give back to the community via volunteering projects.

ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

ACTION on page 5

NSBE, a club for Black Engineers



Courtesy National Society of Black Engineers

The National Society of Black Engineers is one of the largest student-government organizations in the United States. There are numerous chapters across the country and they make significant impacts on the community.

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

There are a handful of groups on campus tailored specifically for Black students, including the African American Affairs Center and the Black Student Union.

But there is a unique one among them you may not have heard: the National Society of Black Engineers.

The NSBE is one of the largest student-government organizations in the United States, with numerous chapters across the country.

The Mankato chapter is dedicated to fostering culturally responsible Black engineers who not only excel academically and professionally but also make a positive impact on the community.

"You get to see like-minded people like yourself. There are numerous opportunities that you can take advantage of. Sometimes, we're not able to take advantage of some opportunities because we just don't know about them or just don't have access to them," said the President of the club, Motunrayo Ajayi. "It sets tables for you to step and go higher in either your academic career, your professional career or networking in general. NSBE is a really strong and important organization that I would recommend every black STEM major finds a way to become a part of."

NSBE started with the Chicago Six, a group of Purdue engineering students and their professor who formed the first chapter. Their first meeting was in April 1975, with 48 students from 32 schools. It has grown into so much more.

Members of Mankato's NSBE attended a conference in Atlanta

recently and were able to speak on a panel. This was one of the highlights for President-Elect Edidiong Ukoeninn. He said another highlight was being able to have on-the-spot interviews there.

"The National Conference opens up the floodgates and allows people to meet with these super high-rated companies that have tons of opportunities for engineers looking for interns and employees," said Ukoeninn. "That's not necessarily something that smaller career fairs do, where a company sees you, they talk to you, and they're like, 'Hey, here's a card. At 11 o'clock tomorrow, we're gonna sit down and have our interview full out,' and you might get the job on the spot."

The National Conference was a way for NSBE students across the United States to get together and give Black people the opportunity to meet with big-name companies, such as Apple, Dell and others. A few MSU NSBE members were interviewed by those companies. Ajayi said getting to this conference was a challenge as they struggled raising funds for it. They got some help from the College of Sciences, Engineering and Technology and a few academic departments.

"If you think about coming from a mid-size, somewhat diverse university to being in the midst of thousands of other people and being able to secure a spot for an interview, is a big deal," said Ajayi. "I'm really proud of my board and how well they did. Regardless of the challenges we faced to get ourselves there, I'm just proud that we traveled, and I'm proud of how much progress we've made."

Ajayi said many members, including her, went for the first time.

She said it was a life-changing experience.

"Being somewhere with 18-20,000 other people was a drastic shift in what you're used to. And it's all Black people, too," said Ajayi. "It was a sense of community I got there that made me feel so fulfilled. Being able to represent the school on a bigger stage and the chapter on a bigger stage."

One reason Ukoeninn likes NSBE is that it is for specific people and adds a level of safety. He said that when he joined it, he felt instant support from the community. In engineering, it can be a hostile environment for Black students.

"If you don't necessarily come from those circumstances where that's been your life since birth, it can be very off-putting, and it can have a negative impact," said Ukoeninn. "So having a community of people who share the same struggles and hurdles to support you, I think, is amazing."

The Mankato chapter of NSBE has tripled in size over the last academic year. The reason? More events and getting the name out there to Black engineering students. Ukoeninn said he credits Ajayi with helping this increase because of her work over the last few months.

"She has been the number one catalyst for catapulting NSBE from where it was at the beginning of the year, where we're just getting the ball rolling, to where it is now. Things feel more official," said Ukoeninn. "The organization has gotten its legs under it, and people are participating more. Much of that is work that Mo's done, pulling us all into shape and getting us all together, ensuring that we're staying on task, completing things in time, getting department funding, and the list keeps going on."

Insulin prices return to pivotal campaign issues once again



BRYNN ANDERSON • The Associated Press

Tommy Marshall, 56, of Atlanta, poses for a portrait on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, in Atlanta. Marshall who has type 1 diabetes, paid \$251 dollars for four to eight weeks worth of medication in November.

By WILL WEISSERT
The Associated Press

Rarely a day goes without President Joe Biden mentioning insulin prices.

He promotes a \$35 price cap for the medication for Americans on Medicare — in White House speeches, campaign stops and even at non-health care events around the country. His reelection team has flooded swing-state airwaves with ads mentioning it, in English and Spanish.

All that would seemingly add up to a sweeping political and economic impact. The reality is more complicated. As his campaign tries to emphasize what it sees as an advantage over presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump, Biden often overstates what those people who are eligible for the price cap once paid for insulin. It's also not clear whether the number of Americans being helped will be enough to help sway November's election, even in the most closely contested states that could come down to a few thousand votes.

"It is about political signaling in a campaign much more than it is about demonstrating for people that they benefit from the insulin cap," said Drew Altman, president and CEO of KFF, a nonprofit that researches health care issues. "It is a way to make concrete the fact

that you are the health care candidate."

Many who are benefiting from the price cap were already getting insulin at reduced prices, were already Biden supporters, or both. Others who need reduced-price insulin, meanwhile, cannot get it because they do not have Medicare or private health insurance.

Biden's campaign is emphasizing the president's successful efforts to reduce insulin prices and contrasting that with Trump, who first ran for president promising to lower drug prices but took limited action in office.

"It's a powerful and tangible contrast," said Biden campaign spokesman Charles Lutvak. "And it's one we are campaigning on early, aggressively, and across our coalition."

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Roughly 8.4 million people in the United States control their blood sugar levels with insulin, and more than 1 million have Type 1 diabetes and could die without regular access to it. The White House says nearly 4 million older people qualify for the new, lower price.

The price cap for Medicare recipients was part of the Inflation Reduction Act, which originally sought to cap insulin at \$35 for all those with health insurance.

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Earth Day: How to take steps avoiding plastic

By MICHAEL HILL
The Associated Press

Nature wraps bananas and oranges in peels. But in some modern supermarkets, they're bagged or wrapped in plastic too.

For Judith Enck, that's the epitome of pointless plastic. The baby food aisle is similarly distressing for her, with its rows and rows of blended fruits, vegetables and meat in single-use pouches that have replaced glass jars.

Less than 10% of plastic is recycled. Most is buried, burned or dumped. Recycling rates for glass, aluminum and cardboard are far higher. And cardboard or paper packaging is biodegradable.

The global theme for Earth Day on Monday is planet vs. plastic. Plastic production continues to ramp up globally and is projected to triple by 2050 if nothing changes. Most of it is made from fossil fuels and chemicals. As the world transitions away from using fossil fuels for electricity and transportation, plastics offer a lifeboat for oil and gas companies as a market that can grow.

The Earth Day environmental movement is calling for "the end of plastics for the sake of human and planetary health." People are increasingly breathing, eating and drinking tiny particles of plastic, though researchers say more work is necessary to determine its effect on human health. Millions of tons



GERALD HERBERT • The Associated Press

An assortment of vegan, organic, locally sourced, and wild caught food products all using plastic packaging, sit in a shopping cart at a grocery store in New Orleans, Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

of plastic wind up in the ocean each year.

This week, thousands of negotiators and observers representing most of the world's nations are gathering in Ottawa to craft a treaty to try to end the rapidly escalating levels of plastic pollution.

Plastic is everywhere in mod-

ern society. That's evident whenever you go grocery shopping, said Enck, a former Environmental Protection Agency regional administrator who now heads up the advocacy group Beyond Plastics. There are things shoppers can do if they want to use less plastic.

On a recent trip to the Honest

Weight Food Co-op in Albany, Enck bought almond butter and yogurt in glass containers. She asked that her fish be wrapped in paper and not placed in a plastic bag. She steered clear of bagged carrots and breezed past the lettuce packed in what she calls "plastic coffins."

She keeps reusable shopping bags in her car, a common practice in New York since the state banned plastic carryout bags several years ago.

"Even small steps make a difference because big supermarkets notice when people ask for less packaged material. Also, our kids pay attention. If they're shopping with us and you talk about why you're reaching for the glass jar rather than the plastic jar, it's an opportunity for education," she said.

This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: How do you avoid plastic packaging and products at the grocery store?

I tell everyone you're not going to be perfect, but do the best you can and focus on things you buy most often. I just could not keep buying those plastic orange juice jugs. So what I did on the juice was, I bought a really nice glass pitcher with a lid on it. And for juices and lemonade, I only buy the frozen concentrate. You avoid the plastic altogether. It takes a little bit of time to melt it and add three cans of water. But most people can manage that.

AP: Many shoppers start in the produce aisle. What are some tips?

I bring reusable cloth produce bags because I don't want to use those thin plastic bags. So if I need a couple of apples, a couple of avocados, I'll put them right into my reusable produce bag.



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Get outside for Earth Day

Most Minnesotans have kept warm in the comfort of the indoors during the cold winter months.

However, spring has finally sprung, and there is no better way to celebrate Earth Day than getting outside.

April 22 marks the annual date to celebrate mother earth, and April as a whole envelops the same traditions Earth Day brings.

On top of making green choices to keep the planet afloat, we can also use it as an opportunity to spend more time out in the world.

According to the USDA Forest Service, there are many physiological and physical benefits in nature scientists have directly observed, supporting the body, mind and community.

A body spent in the great outdoors can increase life expectancy, improve sleep quality and reduce the risk of cancer.

Once we get our feet out the door, the opportunities are endless. Whether it's spent alone or with company, there are many outdoor activities to choose from.

Hiking, biking, running, walking or skipping — there are plenty of trails around Mankato to travel both on and off MSU's campus. It helps us get exercise while enjoying the scenic views on the road.

In a calmer fashion, we can also set out a blanket and have a picnic, play darts while sitting in a circle or catch some Vitamin-D while sunbathing on a beach towel.

There are sand volleyball courts on campus as well as other potential sports games to play.

Grab a few buddies, a ball and get competitive.

If the wind is preventing us from outdoor play, work with it instead of against it. We could go old-school and fly a kite or watch a sailboat flow down the river.

Sometimes we have things to work on indoors, but many of these things can be completed outside as well.

We can make art or other crafts outside or catch-up on homework while sitting on a patio.

Another idea to not only get comfortable with outside while helping it grow is to start planting a garden.

This could be anything from flowers to fruits, and it could help save a few coins on groceries.

Getting outside is a simple mood-booster from the stress of finals week, and it celebrates Earth's best qualities as April or Earth Month comes to an end.

It's a great way to say thank you to Earth, our one and only home planet.

Perspectives

Mindful Journeys: My life changed a year ago



EMMA JOHNSON • The Reporter would be feeling later on.

Anniversaries are usually celebrated and looked upon as joyous. Dates, weddings, how long you've worked at a job. Anniversaries can also have a bittersweet feeling, such as how many years someone you've loved has passed. For me, I have a lot of feelings about an unexpected anniversary that happened a year ago.



Emma Johnson
Editor In Chief

I went to bed on April 23, 2023 feeling off, but I brushed it off assuming it was the stress of finals. I woke up in the middle of the night, nauseated and sweating. As someone who pushes through colds to go to class, I stayed home sick that day despite the sweat and nausea fading as I went back to bed. The uneasy feelings stayed throughout the rest of the week. My head felt bogged down, I didn't want to eat or participate in activities I used to enjoy and every day felt like I could die at some point. It took me two weeks

of suffering before I went to a doctor and found out I had a general anxiety disorder with a major depressive episode.

It would be another two and a half months before I saw a therapist and got on medication. During that time, I had to go about my days on an absolute roller coaster. I could go a couple of days feeling perfectly fine and others when as soon as I opened my eyes, I wished I was going to sleep. Getting out of bed seemed to be the hardest thing I had to do each day, not knowing how I

While I consider myself lucky to have never had suicidal thoughts, there were several days when I didn't feel like life was worth living anymore and hundreds of reasons why I was feeling this way floated through my mind. I had so much going for me in my life up until that point: a good career path, amazing friends and family and much optimism for where my life was heading. It was taken away from me overnight.

Cut to where I am a year after anxiety changed my life. It's completely altered the way I view life. Anxiety, while it had been a part of my life albeit not as bad, made me realize how grateful I was to finally experience good days. There is no yin without yang and to fully appreciate the good, you have to go through

COLUMN on page 5▶

Pulse

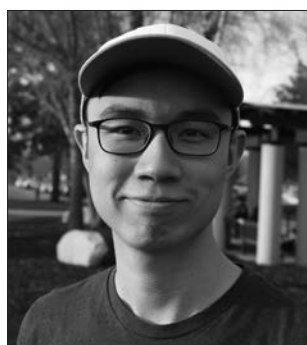
“What is your favorite memory this year?”

Compiled by Nathanael Tilahun



DILUNG KULLANG,
FRESHMAN

“Intramural basketball.”



JAMES HAWCO,
JUNIOR

“Preska Palooza.”



LOGAN TUCKNER,
FRESHMAN

“Making new friends and being part of the community.”



MADI HUBBARD,
FRESHMAN

“Hanging out with the team after indoor track meets.”



NATALIE BINA,
FRESHMAN

“I went to the zoo with learning communities.”



SHAKIRA FIERO,
FRESHMAN

“The Winter Fest ice rink.”

Prehistoric lake sturgeon is not endangered, US says



JULIA NAGY • The Associated Press

Lake sturgeon don't need Endangered Species Act protections, federal wildlife officials announced Monday, April 22, 2024, saying that stocking programs have helped the prehistoric fish return to areas where they had vanished.

By TODD RICHMOND
The Associated Press

Lake sturgeon don't need Endangered Species Act protections, federal wildlife officials announced Monday, saying that stocking programs have helped the prehistoric fish return to areas where they had vanished.

The decision ends the Arizona-based Center of Biological Diversity's petition filed in May 2018 asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list lake sturgeon as endangered or threatened. Such listings would make harvesting the fish illegal, but without them, popular sturgeon harvest seasons in states such as Wisconsin and Michigan can continue.

The center argued that over-harvesting and deteriorating habitat have "severely depleted" the species. Dams block access to spawning and rearing habitat and water pollution and diversions have done "irreparable harm," the center said.

"This is a disappointing decision because though some populations are well managed, overall the lake sturgeon has suffered a drastic decline," said Tierra Curry, a senior scientist at the center. "Endangered Species Act protection would bring a comprehensive recovery plan and ongoing funding to restore these iconic fish

across their former range."

Chuck Traxler, the wildlife service's Midwest deputy regional director, said stocking has helped grow adult lake sturgeon populations and increase spawning, agency officials said. Putting the creatures on the list would be like going to the emergency room, and the rebounding species doesn't need that level of protection, said

"It doesn't mean everything is good right now," he said. "It means keep up the good work."

Populations aren't at historical highs, the agency acknowledged in a December assessment, but stocking returned them to the Red River of the North between Minnesota and North Dakota, the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, portions of the Mississippi River and the Coosa River.

Dam removals and habitat restoration efforts also have helped, the agency has said, citing work in 2015 to retrofit a dam on Wisconsin's Menominee River to allow spawning sturgeon to travel upstream and the removal of the Brecksville Dam on Ohio's Cuyahoga River in 2020.

The agency also pointed to reef restoration work in the corridor connecting Lake Huron and Lake Erie that has created a place for sturgeon to lay eggs and noted that nine of 43 toxic spots along Great Lakes shorelines have been

cleaned up.

The assessment also noted the adaptable species should be able to withstand warmer water due to climate change.

Lake sturgeon are ancient North American freshwater fish. They're essentially living fossils, first appearing about 136 million years ago when dinosaurs ruled the planet. They resemble torpedoes, with dorsal ridges and snouts. They can grow up to 7 feet (2 meters) long and weigh up to 300 pounds (136 kilograms). Males typically live about 50 years. Females can live anywhere between 80 and 150 years.

They're found in the upper and lower Mississippi River basin as well as the Great Lakes. Commercial anglers considered lake sturgeon a nuisance because they tore their nets, leading to widespread over-harvesting in the 1800s that continued into the 20th century.

Lake sturgeon can't reproduce fast enough to replace the losses. It takes up to three decades before they reach spawning age, and even then they don't spawn annually. And many don't survive the trip back to their birth waters to spawn. The wildlife service has compared lake sturgeon losses to the mass destruction of the American buffalo.

Twenty states have outlawed sturgeon harvesting.

◀**ACTION from page 1**

we're going to go pick them up and bring them back to campus. Val Imm Drive is pretty much connected to campus so people can walk that, which is really accessible for some students."

According to Watts, honoring volunteer work and recognizing it throughout the month is important.

Volunteer work is focusing attention on important issues by showing a community that volunteers care and want to improve specific aspects.

"If you think about how communities are situated, so much of what we enjoy, is brought about by volunteers. Volunteers can be seen in just about every facet of our community life," Watts said. "A lot of very serious conversations have gotten started because volunteers choose to step up and serve, especially when you're talking about food insecurity, housing issues, environmental impact and children's programming."

While Mavs in Action wraps up its activities for the academic year and helps students earn re-

quired volunteer hours, Watts recognizes the achievements made throughout the year.

"Mavs in Action has seen an unprecedented growth in our activity and involvement and it's because of very passionate students," Watts said. "It doesn't matter if they're volunteering with us because they have a scholarship or classroom requirement, or they love doing it, all volunteers are valid and we make sure that they know that and we're super grateful for them."

Europe is the fastest-warming continent, report says

By JAMEY KEATEN
The Associated Press

Europe is the fastest-warming continent and its temperatures are rising at roughly twice the global average, two top climate monitoring organizations reported Monday, warning of the consequences for human health, glacier melt and economic activity.

The U.N.'s World Meteorological Organization and the European Union's climate agency, Copernicus, said in a joint report that the continent has the opportunity to develop targeted strategies to speed up the transition to renewable resources like wind, solar and hydroelectric power in response to the effects of climate change. The continent generated 43% of its electricity from renewable resources last year, up from 36% the year before, the agencies

say in their European State of the Climate report for last year. More energy in Europe was generated from renewables than from fossil fuels for the second year running.

The latest five-year averages show that temperatures in Europe are now running 2.3 degrees Celsius (4.1 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, compared to 1.3 degrees Celsius higher globally, the report says — just shy of the targets under the 2015 Paris climate accord to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"Europe saw yet another year of increasing temperatures and intensifying climate extremes — including heat stress with record temperatures, wildfires, heat waves, glacier ice loss and lack of snowfall," said Elisabeth Hamdouch, the deputy head of unit for Copernicus at the EU's executive commission.

◀**COLUMN from page 4**

the bad. It's made me realize how important mental health can affect your physical health and that finding healthy ways to cope is just another way of discovering more about yourself. It's also made me resilient and built up my mentality to tackle whatever life could throw my way.

I'll admit, not every day feels like I won. There have been several days where I've masked my feelings, telling everyone I was fine when that couldn't have been farther from the truth. I'm no stranger to crying myself to sleep or laying in bed staring into the dark with my mind racing. On the days when it's tough, I realize I've made it through every hard day in my past. I turn to my support sys-

tem and they make me feel safe and comforted. Even though I'm in a much different place than I was a year ago, I'm still learning how to navigate my life like this and it's likely to be a lifelong journey.

To those who have read my column throughout this year and may be going through their own mental health struggles, know you aren't alone and you haven't seen the best days of your life yet. If I had chosen to give up, there are so many memories I would have missed out, people I wouldn't have met and battles I've defeated. Your mental health is not what defines you or controls your life. There is always someone there for you and you can get through it.

Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus

The Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus will celebrate the **50th Anniversary** of the chorus by presenting their annual show titled "50 Years of Harmony."

April 27th, 1:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased from any Riverblenders Chorus member, online at singmankato.com, Cub Foods stores, Hilltop HyVee or Nutter Clothing in St. Peter.

Ticket prices are: \$15 adult and \$5 student

50 Years of Harmony

Hosanna Lutheran Church, Mankato

Kennedy's relatives endorse Bidens campaign

By MEG KINNARD
The Associated Press

Independent candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on Sunday acknowledged endorsements from more than a dozen of his relatives who are backing Democratic President Joe Biden, noting that he feels no ill will over the family political divide.

"Some of them don't like the fact that I'm running," Kennedy said of his relatives, after a comedy showcase in suburban Detroit to benefit his campaign.

Kennedy — who last year launched an independent presidential bid after first challenging Biden for the Democratic nomination — was reacting to the endorsements from his sister and other relatives last week, a move by the Biden campaign that signals how seriously the president's team is taking a long-shot candidate using his last name's lingering Democratic magic to siphon support from the incumbent.

In Philadelphia, Kerry Kennedy, a daughter of former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, niece of former President John F. Kennedy and sister of the current presidential candidate, called Biden "my hero," saying — without mention of her brother — that the family wanted to "make crystal clear" their support for reelecting Biden.



Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. speaks to supporters during a campaign event, Sunday, April 21, 2024, in Royal Oak, Mich.

JOSE JUAREZ • The Associated Press

Biden, who keeps a bust of Robert F. Kennedy in the Oval Office, said the endorsements were "an incredible honor."

Going on to describe family de-

bates he said his father orchestrated among his children, Kennedy said Sunday night that the exercise showed him a respectful way to take opposing positions with peo-

ple he cares about without taking it personally.

"I debated them with information and passion and not to hate each other because we disagreed

with each other," he said. "I love my family, either way."

Kennedy — who mentioned Biden's Oval Office RFK bust, as well as his relatives currently working both in the Biden's administration and on his own presidential campaign — made his remarks in Michigan, where last week, the campaign secured access to the general election ballot.

In front of the suburban Detroit theater ahead of the performances, several dozen protesters opposed Kennedy's appearance, with signs aiming to align Kennedy with former President Donald Trump.

Kennedy has spoken publicly in the past about disagreeing with his family on many issues, but maintains it can be done in "friendly" ways.

After a super political action committee supporting his campaign produced a TV ad during the Super Bowl that relied heavily on imagery from John F. Kennedy's 1960 presidential run, Kennedy Jr. apologized to his relatives on the X social media platform, saying he was sorry if the spot "caused anyone in my family pain."

"I love my family. I feel that they love me," he said Sunday. "And I wish the same thing would happen for all of our country, where we disagree with each other without hating on each other."

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SPORTS

Men's golf punches ticket to NCAA by winning the NSIC

By LUKE JACKSON
News Editor

The Maverick golf team birdied 21 holes in their final round to take first in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Championship Sunday.

Over the course of the three-day event, Minnesota State shot a 286-296-276—858, the lowest three-round total in league tournament history.

The title marked Minnesota State's first conference crown since the 2017-18 season and the 20th NSIC in program history. Between the NSIC and the NCC, the Mavericks have now collected 31 conference titles. The win secured MSU's place in next month's NCAA tournament.

The top three golfers in the tournament were Mavericks. Max Brud led the tournament shooting -2 in his final round. Ben Laffen and Karson Patten were close behind in second and third.

Brud recorded 12 birdies over the weekend including three championship Sunday. He became just the eighth Maverick in school history to win medalist honors at the NSIC championship. His three-day total of 212 is the third lowest of all-time in the tournament.

"I felt really good all weekend,"



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

This win gave the Mavericks their 31st conference title in school history. The Mavs also had the top three performers of the tournament.

said Brud in a press release uploaded by Maverick Athletics. "We took advantage of the opportunities we had. Going into this week we had a mindset of being grateful for this

opportunity and enjoy our time out on the course."

In what will be his final conference tournament, Laffen shot a 213. In his lowest round where

he carded a 67, Laffen used four birdies on the front nine and three more on the back nine. Laffen had 15 birdies, which led the entire competition. He also scored a par

or better on 42 of the 54 holes.

Patten's third-place finish saw him end with a score of 215. The freshmen finished the competition in par four scoring with 4.03, and was tied for third in par five scoring with 4.50. He also finished with 11 birdies and 34 pars over the course of the three days.

Throughout the tournament, the average round shot was 76.35. The Mavericks success shows as their average was 72.2.

"I'm really happy with how we started the day going ten under through five holes allowing us to extend our lead," said head coach Alex Schmitz. "We never let up on the gas after that and we got a lot of putts to fall when we needed them. We're excited for the opportunity to represent the conference at the regional tournament."

The tournament was hosted at Adams Pointe Golf Club in Blue Springs, Missouri where the team recently finished third at the pre-view tournament three weeks ago. It is a par-72 course that plays to 6,848 yards. At the tournament, the team battled through freezing temperatures and snow.

MSU shot a 288 in the second round, which meant that going into the final day of the tournament, the Mavs held a five-shot lead over Winona State University.

NSIC on page 8▶

Minnesota Crookston upsets Mavs at home

By AHMED HASSAN
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State men's baseball team's seven-game series winning streak came to an end over the weekend after being defeated twice at home by the Minnesota Crookston Golden Eagles.

The Golden Eagles won the series 2-1, beating the Mavs in both games Saturday.

The Mavs took game three Sunday winning 8-5 in an eighth-inning comeback.

After the series defeat, the Mavs hold a 25-14 overall record and a 21-8 conference record which keeps them second in the NSIC one win above St. Cloud State.

The Mavericks' series winning streak dated back to March 9th.

Crookston rose to fourth in the conference after their series win, holding a 25-13 overall record and 19-9 conference record.

The Mavs started game one Saturday on fire with Louis Magers and Ryan Wickman smashing solo home runs to give the Mavs an early 2-0 lead going into the third inning.

But then the Mavericks went cold. They were unable to hold the lead and went cold, going scoreless for the rest of the game.

Danny Wensloff scored for Minnesota Crookston in the top of



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Mavericks and Golden Eagles both entered the series off of mid week games. The Mavs split their series against the University of Sioux Falls Wednesday losing game one 5-3, but winning game two 10-4.

the third to bring the game within reach.

Wensloff and Mitch Goodwin settled it for the Golden Eagles in the fifth inning giving them a 3-2 lead. The rest of the game ended

with no teams scoring.

The Mavs cold streak carried into game two as the Mavs faced a 7-0 deficit after the first four innings.

The Mavs built momentum in

the fourth inning putting up five hits which resulted in four runs. The Mavs were unable to build on the momentum going scoreless the rest of the game along with Golden Eagles which resulted in a 8-4 loss

for the Mavs.

Game three Sunday was more of the same for the Mavs as they yet again started the game cold and unable to score.

The Mavs were down 5-0 after four innings, managing only four hits through seven innings against the Golden Eagles starting pitcher Brody Sorenson.

The Mavs turned their fortunes around and came out firing in the eighth scoring eight runs for the second time this season for the comeback win.

Aidan Byrne, Zach Stroch and Ryan Friedges opened up the inning for the Mavs working two walks and loading the bases for Wickman who flied out to the left fielder providing the Mavericks' first run of the inning.

Spencer Wright finished the game for the Mavs, closing out the Golden Eagles earning his fifth win of the season.

"Impressive come-from-behind win against a very good team. We were down but not out," head coach Matt Magers stated.

"Our bullpen was able to provide five shutdown innings allowing for our offense to go to work to pull off the win."

The Mavs are back in action Tuesday at home to host Northwestern College.

Senior Night at the Diamond ends in a split



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Minnesota State softball team has appeared in the first edition of the NCAA Central Region rankings.

By HAYDEN LEE
Staff Writer

Ahead of the four games they played in the past week, the Minnesota State softball team appeared in the NCAA Central Region Rankings.

This was the first installment of the list, so the teams were simply listed in alphabetical order.

Over the past five days, the Mavericks played in two series, the first against Winona State and the second against Wayne State.

They split against both teams, winning the first and dropping the second each time.

In their first game Thursday, the Warriors got on the board first, scoring on an RBI single with two outs in the third.

However, that would be the only run that McKayla Armbruster would allow. In the fifth inning, the Mavs struck back, scoring two runs courtesy of Kylie Sullivan's triple.

The Warriors would fight back in the sixth and seventh, putting runners in scoring position, but to no avail. The Mavericks won the first game, 2-1.

In the game that immediately followed, the Mavericks were unable to get the bats going as they fell to the Warriors, 4-0.

The Warriors got on the board in the third inning, and held onto their lead. The Mavericks had a chance to score in the fifth, load-

ing the bases with no outs.

However, a fielder's choice and a double play prevented any runs from being scored—a worst-case scenario for the Mavs.

The Warriors added three more runs throughout the game to make the 4-0 final score.

"In the first game, I felt very fortunate to get out of there with a win," said Mavericks head coach Lori Meyer in a press release posted to the Maverick Athletics website.

"We contained them, but they made it hard on us. In game two, we didn't do what we had to do offensively.

We have to be able to get out of innings defensively with two outs."

Three days later, the Mavericks trotted back out onto the Diamond for Senior Night against the Wayne State Wildcats.

The Mavericks completely controlled the first game, capturing a 1-0 lead in the first inning, added another run in the second and fended off the Wildcat offense.

The Wildcats got on the board in the third, however, cutting the Mavericks' lead to 2-1.

The Mavericks responded one inning later with two more runs, and added a final run in the fifth. Game one of senior night was a 5-1 win for the home team.

However, the real blunder for the Wildcats was leaving 10 runners on base and committing four

errors.

Game two got off to a slow start, as the Mavericks were the first team on the board in the bottom of the third when they scored their only two runs of the game.

The Wildcats responded immediately, putting up three runs in the fourth, essentially sealing the game.

The 3-2 score remained the same until the top of the seventh inning, when the Wildcats tacked on two more runs to give us a final score of 5-2 after the Mavericks failed to score in the bottom of the seventh.

This time around, the Mavericks left ten runners on base and committed four errors, beating themselves just as the Wildcats did in the first game.

"We were lucky to win game one. We won because we capitalized on their mistakes," Meyer said. "In game two we beat ourselves.

When you leave runners on base every inning and commit that many errors, you don't deserve to win."

The Mavericks will take the field next on the road against Southwest Minnesota State on April 27, before they take on Augustana on the 28th for the regular season finale.

Saturday and Sunday's double-headers begin at noon.

No Giannis? No Leonard? No problem just yet for the Bucks and Clippers



MORRY GASH • The Associated Press

Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo reacts from the bench during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA playoff basketball game Sunday, April 21, 2024, in Milwaukee.

By STEVE MEGARGEE
The Associated Press

The Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Clippers remain unsure just when they'll have their top player back on the floor.

So far, they've still managed to do just fine in their respective first-round playoff series.

Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo hasn't played since straining his left calf April 9 and Los Angeles' Kawhi Leonard has been unavailable all month with inflammation in his surgically repaired right knee.

Neither team is saying anything about their potential availability Tuesday when the Bucks attempt to take a 2-0 lead over the Indiana Pacers and the Clippers

try to maintain home-court advantage against the Dallas Mavericks.

Bucks coach Doc Rivers said Antetokounmpo "went through a pretty good brisk workout" on Sunday and had been on the court four straight days before taking a maintenance day Monday.

Leonard participated in a non-contact practice with the Clippers on Monday.

"He's got to go through practice today, and we'll see," Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said about Leonard's status for Game 2.

While the Bucks and Clippers are missing team leaders, the Phoenix Suns have their star trio intact with Kevin Durant, Devin Booker and Bradley Beal all healthy.



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◀NSIC from page 7

They came back to the course to fair weather and the team showed they had what it takes to win.

Their ability to fight and learn the course in the harsh conditions proved to help them in the final tournament.

Looking ahead, the Mavericks return to action at the NCAA

Midwest/Central Super Regional, May 9-11 at KickingBird Golf Club in Edmond, Oklahoma.

The event is hosted by Southern Nazarene University.



Matt Ryan officially announces his retirement

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

On the very first pass of his very first NFL minicamp, Matt Ryan delivered a wobbly throw that left his new Atlanta Falcons teammates shaking their heads.

They couldn't help but wonder if the team made a huge mistake drafting this skinny kid out of Boston College with the No. 3 overall pick in 2008.

"He threw a duck," said former Falcons receiver Michael Jenkins, chuckling at the memory. "We're like, 'Uh, is this the guy?'"

He was.

After putting up numbers that will surely put him in consideration for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Ryan formally announced his retirement Monday to cap a 15-year career in which he spent all but one season as the steady-as-they-come quarterback of the Falcons.

He signed a one-day contract with Atlanta so he could officially close his career with his longtime team.

"I took the hometown discount," Ryan quipped.

The decision was not a surprise, given the quarterback had not played since a single disappointing season with the Indianapolis Colts in 2022. He worked last season as an analyst for CBS, receiving a rousing ovation when he called a game in Atlanta.

Ryan, who turns 39 next month, threw for 62,792 yards and 381 touchdowns in his career, quickly becoming the face of the Falcons during the most successful era in franchise history.

He ranks seventh in NFL history for passing yards, ninth in career TD passes and won the



BRYNN ANDERSON • The Associated Press

Former Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan looks on after speaking about his retirement during a news conference Monday, April 22, 2024, in Flowery Branch, Ga.

league MVP award in 2016 when he guided the Falcons to only their second Super Bowl appearance in franchise history.

But Ryan came up heartbreakingly shy of the ultimate goal when Atlanta squandered a 28-3 lead to Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in the title game, losing 34-28 in overtime.

"It hurts," Ryan conceded. "It's one of those things that's always a part of you. Falling short of what you ultimately set out to do is tough. But that's life. There's so many things in your life that are going to go that way. You've got to

pick up and move on."

The lack of a championship — and the improbable way the Falcons lost to the Patriots — could hurt Ryan's bid for a spot in Canton.

"Obviously, if you had that Super Bowl victory, it might make things a little easier," Jenkins said. "But I do think he's a Hall of Famer."

Jenkins was among three former teammates who attended Ryan's retirement announcement at the Falcons training complex in suburban Flowery Branch. Team owner Arthur Blank sat with Ryan's

wife, Sarah, and the couple's three young sons.

Ex-Atlanta center Todd McClure, who snapped the ball to Ryan for his first five seasons, will always remember how the guy who became known as Matty Ice helped steady the franchise as a rookie.

The Falcons were reeling from franchise quarterback Michael Vick being sent to prison for running a dog-fighting operation and Bobby Petrino abandoning the head coaching position after just 13 games the previous season.

Right from the start, Ryan brought much-needed profession-

alism to the locker room to go along with stellar play on the field, leading the Falcons to a surprising playoff berth in 2008 coming off an awful 4-12 season.

"You look back, the Petrino fiasco and everything that happened with Mike," McClure said. "To be able to get a guy that would come to this organization and play for as long as he did, be the ultimate competitor, the ultimate pro, it meant a lot. He steadied the franchise. He steadied the fan base."

Ryan's rookie campaign turned out to be the first of five straight winning seasons for a team that had never put together even back-to-back records above .500 over the first 42 years of its existence.

Ryan thanked pretty much everyone who worked in the Falcons organization, from Blank and the front office, to the coaches and players, and even included a shout-out to the training staff and media relations team for contributing to his success.

But he reserved the biggest thanks for his wife, who he met when both were athletes at Boston College.

"I would not have had the career that I've had without you," Ryan said, his voice choking with emotion. "I prided myself on coming to the building every day with the same mindset and being consistent for my teammates. But I know I wasn't that for you when I came home. You are the one person on the planet who saw how it really was every day for me."

Ryan would lead Atlanta to one more playoff appearance in 2017 — a season he's especially proud of coming off that Super Bowl debacle and the Falcons becoming the butt of jokes from around the nation.

FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

THE FRATERNITY AND SORORITY COMMUNITY CONGRATULATES THESE SPRING 2024 GRADUATES ON THE ATTAINMENT OF THEIR DEGREES AND LOOKS FORWARD TO THEIR CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT AS ACTIVE ALUMNI.

Alpha Chi Omega

Jaycey Horton
Katie Stewart
Emily Reed
Madison Chelmo

Alpha Sigma Alpha

Halie Stern
Abby Johnson
Amber Lovely
Gracie Mulder
Kendra Dowe
Teagan Allen
Kate Kahnke
Julia Market

Gamma Phi Beta

Mckenzie Wallerus
Taylor Stradinger
Abbey Stohs
Sarah Novak
Angela Murphy
Sarah Morris
Rebecca Anderson

Lambda Chi Alpha

Nate Addy

Phi Delta Theta

Ben Leonard

Phi Kappa Psi

Jack Muck
CJ Mathis

Sigma Chi

Josh Palashewski
Ryan Guse

Sigma Nu

Joe Roeser
Jaden Lamb

Sigma Sigma Sigma

Jade Costello
Kayla Polanco
Lucy Delorme
Betsy Staiger
Lexi Thomas
Sarah Reed
Delia Stoeckel
Grace Andrews
Hope Kilmer
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VARIETY

Fly with Maverick Skydiving Club

By ANAHI ZUNIGA
Staff Writer

Is skydiving on everyone's bucket list?

If so, MSU students may be in luck.

With Minnesota State being home to over 200 recognized student organizations, they all aim to improve campus life for students by offering new opportunities to gain new interests and experiences.

The Maverick Skydiving Club is no exception.

Club president Rodin Lampert said the club's main goal is to make skydiving accessible to students. Students can either obtain a skydiving A-license, or participate in tandem skydiving — a jump that can be done with zero training.

"I think it's definitely something that's on most people's bucket lists. With the tandem, they record you on the way down and it's hilarious watching people's reactions. Some are laughing and some are crying. You get to see a lot of different emotions coming out and it's pretty fun," Lampert said.

Lampert recalls his first time skydiving and how he was able to work toward his own skydiving license.

"It was for my birthday last year. And my only goal with it was to do the tandem. The people who own Skydive Northstar offered me the chance to do the ground school and work toward my license. And I just thought that was the coolest thing ever," He said. "That's kind of what started it. I ended up getting

SUMMER on page 11▶



Courtesy Maverick Skydiving Club

The Maverick Skydiving Club is one of Minnesota State's Recognized Student Organizations; the club gives students the opportunity to obtain a skydiving license and experience jumping out of an aircraft safely for their first time.

Another gem: Swift drops 31-song double LP

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

At the stroke of midnight Friday, Taylor Swift's 11th album, "The Tortured Poets Department," was unveiled, surprising fans with its depth and emotion. But the surprises didn't end there. Two hours later, Swift dropped another bombshell, announcing 15 more songs and dubbing it "The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology." This unexpected double album was not what Swifties were anticipating, but it's a welcome surprise that has fans buzzing.

Swift is known for her fifth track being the most vulnerable and personal. "So Long, London" is definitely one of them, and tissues are a must. On Swift's album, "Lover," she has a song called "London Boy." It is assumed to be about her ex-boyfriend, Joe Alwyn, as he is British. This feels like her way of saying goodbye to the relationship as she sings, "Had a good run, but I'm not the one." This song leaves you with chills.

Swift did a world tour last year, which was a three-hour show. Her song, "I Can Do It With a Broken Heart," leaves fans thinking it's about the tour and how she did the whole thing with a broken heart as her break up happened before the tour started. The lyric video for this song shows clips from the Eras Tour, confirming the theory about the song's meaning. She sings in the pre-chorus, "They said, 'Babe, you gotta fake it 'til you make it,' and I did." The song has a happy beat, so you would assume it's a happy song, but if you listen to the lyrics, it's not.

"But Daddy, I Love Him" describes a forbidden relationship. It feels like her song "Love Story," but more mature. She sings, "I'd rather burn my whole life down than listen to one more second of all this bitchin' and moanin'. I'll tell you something 'bout my good name. It's mine alone to disgrace. I don't cater to all these vipers dressed in empath's clothing." It seems to be her way of rebelling against public scrutiny about her relationships.

Swift has had a few enemies, including Kim Kardashian and Kanye West. It started in 2009 when West came onto the stage during Swift's acceptance speech for Best Female Video and said it should've gone to Beyoncé. Kardashian comes into the picture when she leaks an audio recording of Swift saying she was OK with West's song where he said he made that b— famous. Swift did not agree to it, and in her song "This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things," Swift sings,

SWIFT on page 11▶

Summer is good for students' souls

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

The academic year can feel lengthier than an entire 365 days around the sun. Between waking up with the roosters for an 8 a.m. class, constant note-taking, homework on the side and papers on top of exams, it can seem as though there is no end in sight.

But there is.

Summer is right around the corner; the sun's warm blanket will embrace us in a hug, letting us know we worked really hard and we finally deserve some time off. We are finally being welcomed home from war — the war of being swamped in college education, that is.

For a multitude of reasons, a summer off of school is a necessity for student growth. It becomes increasingly obvious as the semester goes on how students appear completely burnt out. Assignments start rolling in past the deadline, everyone's faces resemble zombies and the class turnout rate slowly diminishes. If students did not have a sunny, "Hello," on the horizon, the

burnout would result in a complete crash.

Luckily for us, we get to replenish the vehicles of our mind. We can rotate our tires, or brain gears and wash off at the beach like a car wash. Summer serves as a time to get our minds off of the books and back on ourselves.

Whether or not a summer job is consuming or time, it is refreshing to transition from one primary focus to another. Getting into the groove of being a full-time worker helps us gain basic skills to serve us for future careers beyond our college endeavors. We have the opportunity to meet several people as coworkers and customers, and potentially build meaningful bonds. As a cherry on top, it adds more to the resume.

For days off of the clock, it is important to spend time with loved ones. Cherishing free time in the schedule with those who are hard to fit in around the academic year is essential. We can go on trips close to home, or far from it and create lifelong memories. Spending quality time with people we may not often see is reason enough to keep



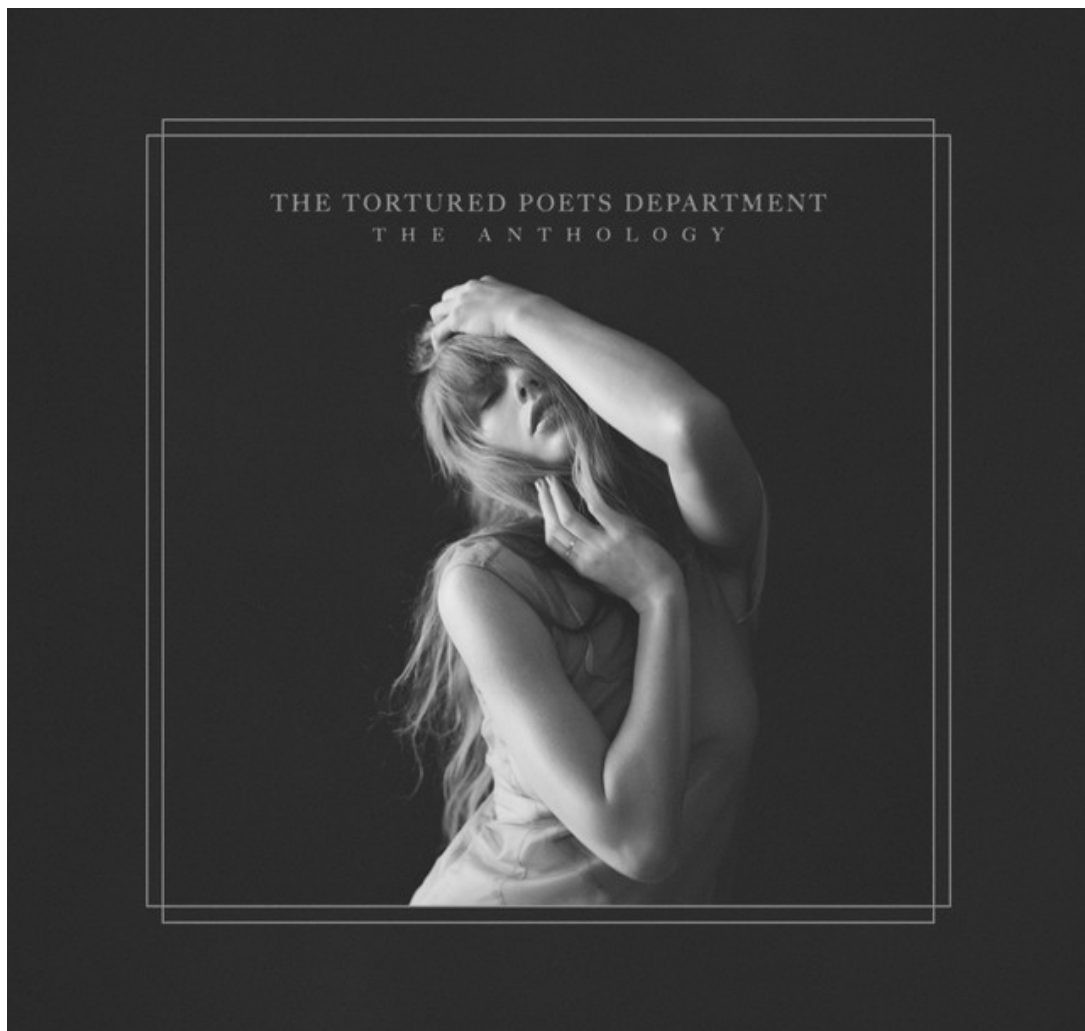
ALEXIS DAKROW • The Reporter

Minnesota State students enjoy a game of volleyball outside the dorms. Sand volleyball is one activity many students can enjoy during summer break.

summer break on the academic calendar.

The best part about summer is to have extra time getting to know ourselves. With a hefty plate pertaining solely to our paths of study, we may have lost a few appetizers of our individual identities. We can use these next few months to get to

know each element of our personalities, what kinds of hobbies we want to explore further and general interests we may have not yet discovered. It is as good of time as any to take time for ourselves, and come back with a strong sense of self come fall.



Courtesy Republic Records

This cover image released by Republic Records shows “The Tortured Poets Department” by Taylor Swift, her 11th studio album released April 19.

◀**SWIFT** from page 10

“Friends don’t try to trick you. Get you on the phone and mind-twist you,” West told Swift a different lyric, not the lyric he actually sings in the song.

In her song “thanK you aMee,” Swift references the feud in many ways, such as “She wrote headlines in the local paper, laughing at each baby step I’d take” and “I wrote a thousand songs that you find uncool. I built a legacy that you can’t undo.” Swift uses this song to show them she has healed and, in a way, is thankful to Kar-dashian.

While this album has many break-up songs, there are also a few love songs. One is “The Alchemy,” which many fans believe is about her current boyfriend, NFL player Travis Kelce. In this song, she sings in the bridge,

“Shirts off and your friends lift you up over their heads. Beer

stickin’ to the floor, cheers chant-ed ‘cause they said ‘There was no chance trying to be the greatest in the league.’ Where’s the trophy? He just comes runnin’ over to me.”

It’s pretty clear this is referenc-ing the moment the Kansas City Chiefs won the Superbowl in 2024, where the two gave us a bunch of PDA, which Swift has never done in her past relation-ships.

Swift has had a bunch of rumo-rs surrounding her personal and professional life. In “Who’s Afraid of Little Old Me?” she underlines how the media con-sistently downsizes her plainly by repeating “little old me” while referring to herself. She sings in the song, “Is it a wonder I broke? Let’s hear one more joke. Then we could all just laugh until I cry.” “Laugh until you cry” refers to laughing until tears well up in your eyes. Swift turns the phrase, which often has a positive mean-

ing, on its head by claiming that she is crying out of sorrow rather than happiness since everyone is laughing at the jokes about her, and she is acting like she is smil-ing, too.

With this album, Swift has broken many records. It has been out for five days. On its first day of release, it became the first album in Spotify history to have over 300 million streams in a single day. It was also the biggest pop album of all time by first-day streams on Apple Music. It was also the most streamed album on Amazon Mu-sic ever on its first day.

To me, this album is one of my favorites of hers. The album feels like it is written in the style of her album, “reputation,” but the in-strumental feels like it is a mix of “folklore” and “Midnights.” She wrote this album for herself; it is her way of healing from her break up with Alwyn.

◀**SUMMER** from page 10

my license at the beginning of September. It took me about three months and it’s about 25 jumps.”

As for experiencing skydiving for the first time ever, Lompart said he was terrified, mentioning “the scariest part was when we were just taking off.”

“I just remember looking out the window and my hands were getting all sweaty. And once we got up to 10,000 feet, I think most of the nervousness went away. But I remember he just pushed my feet out,” Lompart said. “But it was a really fun positive experience. While it was happening, I kind of accepted it. And for me, I wasn’t scared but it was a really fun time.”

Lompart mentions how the club offers more skydiving oppor-tunities to those who obtain their license and wish to participate more with the club.

“For people with their license, if we could get them done, I be-lieve it’s the end of summer, there’s competitions that we can go to as a skydive team. So I think that’s our biggest hope, for people to get licensed, but we understand it’s expensive and we’re all college students,” he said.

For students wanting to be in-volved in the club but not skydive due to fear, Lompart said the club offers ground operation opportu-nities, saying the “one thing that we tried to make really clear is you don’t actually have to jump to be part of the club.”

“We have a lot of ground op-erations that we need help with like driving; we have golf carts out there to go pick people up and shuttle them around. If you want to get more involved with the club, we can teach you how to pack a parachute. I think that’s probably one of our bigger goals for ground operations personnel,” Lompart

said.

In the end, Lompart said that, for students who are interested in skydiving but are afraid to take the leap, they are going to have to “just keep taking that step and putting the gear on, getting in the plane, and just keep moving forward with that.”

“It’s a weird kind of way to face a fear. I think you just kind of have to do it. For me, I was super nervous and I didn’t think I would be but while it’s happening, it’s kind of the build up that’s the scariest part. But once you’re back on the ground, just a ton of emotions, super excited and happy,” he said.

The Maverick Skydiving Team’s First Jump Day was unfor-tunately canceled due to weather but they will be returning next fall for the new academic year. For more information on the Maver-ick Skydiving Club, visit <https://mavcentral.mnsu.edu/feeds>

Record Store Day celebrates indie retail music sellers



ROSS D. FRANKLIN • The Associated Press

Jeff Maimon, of Chicago, checks out some vinyl at Tracks In Wax record shop, Thursday, April 18, 2024.

By ANITA SNOW
The Associated Press

Special LP releases, live per-formances and at least one giant block party are scheduled around the U.S. Saturday as hundreds of shops celebrate Record Store Day during a surge of interest in vinyl and the day after the release of Taylor Swift’s latest album.

There were no announced Record Store Day specials for the arrival of Swift’s “The Tortured Poets Department” on Friday, but her fans always anxiously look forward to the new albums and accompanying collectible LPs.

In suburban strip malls and big city downtowns, indie record stores are often the first to recog-nize and promote emerging artists. Years before Swift was setting Grammy records and sell-ing out concerts in Japan, Bull Moose Music in Portland, Maine, was giving away one of her auto-graphed guitars in an enter-to-win contest.

“We were carrying her music before all the big stores. We always knew she would be a star,” said Chris Brown of employee-owned Bull Moose and a co-founder of Record Store Day.

A wave of interest in physi-cal records, especially LPs, has helped keep the independent stores going, Brown said. And LPs have gotten a huge boost from Swift, who has been dubbed the “Vinyl Queen” for releases of her work in limited physical record offerings with specialized content and striking covers.

The Recording Industry As-sociation of American said in its 2023 year end report that reven-ues from vinyl records grew 10% to \$1.4 billion last year. That was the 17th consecutive year of growth and accounted for 71% of physical format revenues.

WHAT IS RECORD STORE DAY?

Record Store Day is a celebra-tion of the estimated 1,400 inde-pendent record stores in the U.S. and thousands more worldwide that endure long after the demise of megastores like Tower Records.

While most people stream their music on services such as Spotify and Apple Music, old-school LPs remain popular for collectors who prefer the packag-ing and the listening experience of records.

“For me, records sound bet-ter than any CD,” said Michael Iffland, a 70-year-old retiree who was considering some Beatles sin-gles at the Tracks in Wax record store in Phoenix. “It’s just cool having a record in your hand, looking at the cover graphics and listening to that wonderful sound.”

HOW DID RECORD STORE DAY START?

Owners and employees of the independent stores came up with the idea at a gathering in 2007 as a way to draw attention to their unique culture on the third Satur-day of April.

The first Record Store Day was on April 19, 2008, and cities around the U.S. later declared the celebration an official holiday, in-cluding New York City, Los Ange-les and Las Vegas.

“For us, records have never gone out of style,” said Waric Cameron, co-owner of Josey Re-cords in Dallas.

“It’s the biggest day of the year for us,” added his business part-ner, Luke Sardello. “It’s like the Super Bowl of record stores.”

Jamal Alnasr, owner of Village Revival Records in New York’s Greenwich Village, called Re-cord Store Day “one of my biggest money growers of the year. Peo-ple even camp outside the night before.”

WHAT’S BEING PLANNED THIS YEAR?

Record Store Day is typically marked by special vinyl and CD releases and various promotion-al products and events featuring artists and labels. Metallica spent hours on the first Record Store Day meeting fans at Rasputin Music in the San Francisco Bay area.

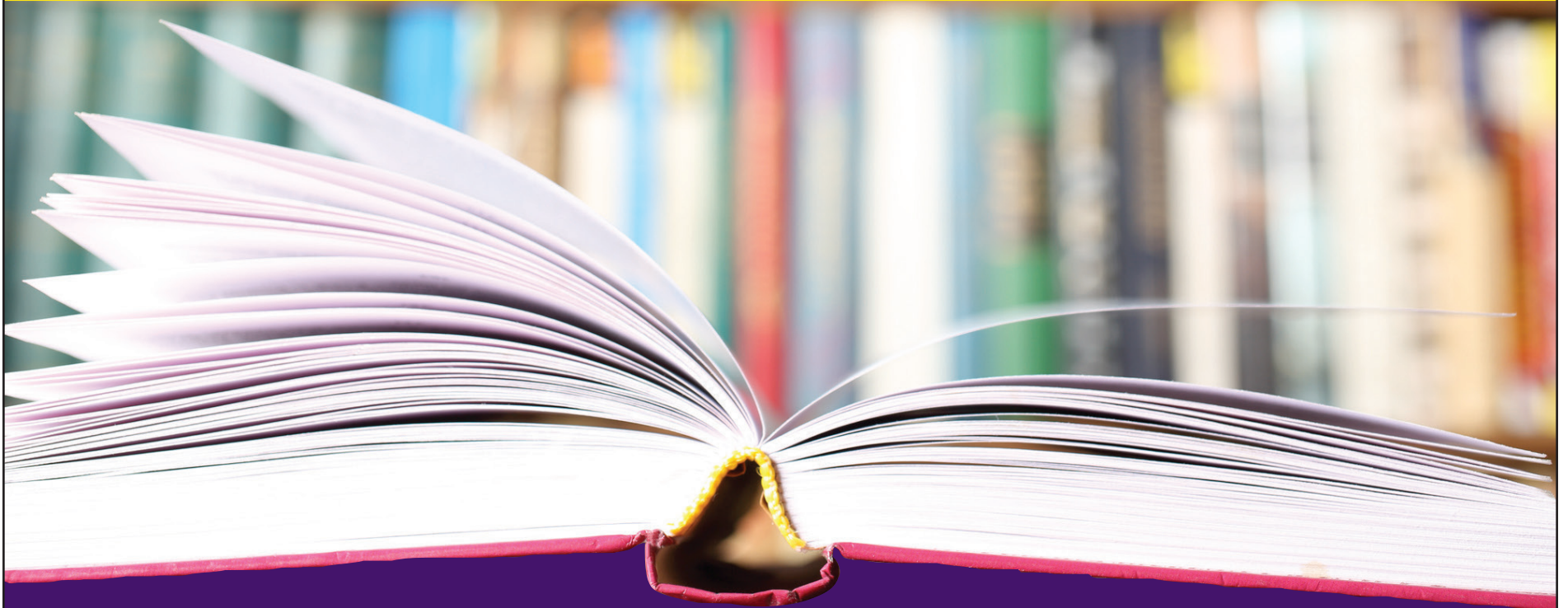
Jesse “Boots Electric” Hughes of Eagles of Death Metal was de-clared a Record Store Day ambas-sador in 2009 and a string of oth-er artists followed in subsequent years, including Ozzy Osbourne, Iggy Pop, Jack White, Fred Ar-misen, as well as Swift in 2022.

There were 387 planned re-leases announced for this year’s Record Store Day.

Paramore, the event’s 2024 ambassador, will have a pair of physical releases of the digital album that featured celebrity remixes from songs on its 2023 “This is Why” album.

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