

## 'Remember the forgotten'



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

The Tigray Student Association hosted their first official meeting Tuesday night with a candlelight memorial. Over two dozen students came to the event at Wiecking Center as students were encouraged to dedicate their candle to those still in Tigray.

## Housing fair presents the options for students to move in

By AMALIA SHARAF  
Staff Writer

As the final weeks of the fall semester approach, students at Minnesota State begin looking for off-campus housing options.

Representatives from 8 different off-campus property managers presented students with their options at Centennial Student Union's MavAve at the Housing Fair.

Students in different years of study are looking for options for housing. After visiting the fair, they got acquainted with various complexes. The most significant criteria for students when choosing between housing were distance to campus, easy transportation, as well as the cost. Second-year student, Isaiah McColley, shared what he was looking for.

"The main criteria are probably location and price. Other than that it is probably just small stuff that they offer, like the internet. Gym and the other amenities are not that important for me because we get stuff like this on campus where I can just go," said McColley.

A junior student at MSU, Emily Schmidtbauer, was searching for a better option to live in and highlighted the importance of furniture as well.

"Last year we were able to find a good option that was close to campus and it was cheaper but still had some quality stuff [to improve]. A furnished house is also important because you don't have to worry or buy your own furniture," said Schmidtbauer.

Representatives at the booths were aware of the criteria that students emphasize while searching for housing. They advertised the room types they had at their location. All of the housing options are pet-friendly and offer different amenities such as a pool, gym and parks around the location.

Kelly Miller, a worker at the College Station apartments, shared some reasons

**HOUSING on page 2▶**

## Potential for peace in Tigray conflict piques students' interest

By JULIA BARTON  
Editor in Chief

The conflict between Ethiopia and Tigray- which has reportedly- resulted in the loss of hundred of thousands of lives looks to be headed for a partial resolution, this has at least one Minnesota State student cautiously optimistic.

"I've heard from the Ethiopian government before saying these peaceful allegations for the Tigrayan government, but nothing changed and the fighting continued, and the genocide continued," said Kidus Asgedom, president of the Tigray Student Association at Minnesota State.

The Ethiopian government and Tigray

**TIGRAY on page 2▶**

## MSU's efforts to cease smoking around campus

By EMMA JOHNSON  
News Director

New signs advocating for the cessation of smoking have been placed in parking lots and doorways throughout campus. These signs are the newest addition in helping raise awareness of smoking addiction and to remind students, faculty and staff that Minnesota State is a smoke-, vape- and tobacco-free campus.

Associate Professor Mary Kramer applied for the Blue Earth County Statewide Health Improvement Partnership Grant to update the signs after she was required to give students and faculty surveys regarding smoking in 2019. The data found Minnesota State students were two times more likely to use

tobacco than the national average.

Kramer said she believes Minnesota State's rate is in part due to the rise of JUUL pods in 2016 and their marketing directed to youth and young adults.

"We have twice the national rate of students reporting regular vaping on campus which is a little concerning because tobacco affects all levels of achievement. The higher the usage of tobacco, the more we see grades being affected," Kramer said.

Kramer has also been managing monthly online coaching sessions, free of charge. Kramer said she started the sessions to open the lines of communication to those who struggle with addiction, and to help them realize quitting is harder than it seems.



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

These signs (pictured above) have been put in doorways and parking lots around campus to raise awareness on the hazards of smoking.

"By interviewing tobacco users on campus, we found that they're ashamed and don't always come forward and that shouldn't be the case in a mod-

**SMOKE on page 2▶**

# CVS, Walgreens announce opioid settlements totaling \$10B



KEITH SRAKOCIC • Associated Press

On Nov. 2, CVS Health said it has agreed to pay about \$5 billion to state, local and Native American tribal governments to settle lawsuits over the toll of opioids. CVS is not admitting wrongdoing about the situation.

By GEOFF MULVIHILL  
Associated Press

Two of the largest U.S. pharmacy chains, CVS Health and Walgreen Co., announced agreements in principle Wednesday to pay about \$5 billion each to settle lawsuits nationwide over the toll of opioids, and a lawyer said Walmart is in discussions for a deal.

Together, the developments amount to what could be the last round of huge settlements after years of litigation over the

drug industry's role in an overdose crisis that has been linked to more than 500,000 deaths in the U.S. over the past two decades.

In the lawsuits, governments said pharmacies filled prescriptions they should have flagged as inappropriate.

The deals call for most of the funds from Woonsocket, Rhode Island-based CVS and Deerfield, Illinois-based Walgreens to be used to fight the opioid crisis through such efforts as expanding treatment

and support programs for people with addiction, along with providing overdose antidotes and launching prevention efforts.

In a conference call with analysts Wednesday, CVS Health CEO Karen Lynch said the deal sprang from mediation discussions that started last month.

Under the tentative plans, CVS would pay \$4.9 billion to local governments and about \$130 million to Native American tribes over a decade.

## ◀TIGRAY from page 1

agreed to a truce after two years of conflict that resulted in war that affected millions. According to the Associated Press, Ethiopia's two conflicting sides agreed to permanently cease the conflict that has reportedly killed hundreds of thousands and displaced millions over the duration of the two-year war.

Hospitals, schools and businesses were reported looted and destroyed by Ethiopian and Eritrean armed forces. There were also restrictions on humanitarian access. More than 2 million people fled their homes — with thousands fleeing into Sudan, and left at least 2.3 million in need of assistance.

"I hope for the better, and they have been talking about humanitarian aid and serving the people in Tigray, but I can't really talk about it until I see something change," Asgedom said.

Members of the TSA agree and said they are hoping for the best but are still unsure if the agreement will hold.

"This might bring a smile to most of the Tigrayan people, this is a good thing," Asgedom said.

Challenges that lie ahead include getting all parties to lay down arms or withdraw. Eritrea, which fought with Ethiopia, was not a part of the conversation of the peace talk. It is unclear if they will follow Ethiopia and honor the agreement. The draft agreement between Ethiopia and Tigray states "collusion with any external force hostile to either party."

The night before the truce agreement was announced, TSA hosted a candlelight memorial for those still facing crisis overseas. Over two dozen students gathered in MSU's Wiecking Center. This was the group's first official meeting as an RSO where students came to show their support and dedicate their candles to loved ones still in Tigray.

TSA became an officially recognized student organization this semester and plans to keep educating people and

celebrating its culture despite its hardships. One of their main goals as a new organization is to raise awareness about what is happening in Tigray.

"We wanted to share knowledge about what was happening in Tigray and what Tigray is. There is little to no media coverage about the situation," Asgedom said.

Being in Tigray when the war first started and now having lost connection with his family for over a year, he has found it crucial to find community in the U.S.

"Finding my people here, there's hope. They make me feel strong and to keep fighting," Asgedom said. "They made me realize I'm not alone and I can do this."

Asgedom was on the verge of being deported as his student visa requires him to be a full-time student as well as pay tuition and international student insurance fees.

"I was on the verge of not being able to go to school and being an international stu-

TIGRAY on page 4▶



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

The Housing Fair gave students the opportunity to look at a variety of affordable apartment complexes in Mankato including College Station, Highland Hills and The Grove.

## ◀HOUSING from page 1

students might consider this complex to live in.

"We are about a mile from campus right on the MSU bus road and have the right pricing. Our location is central within Mankato. It is close to shopping and grocery stores, as well as campus," said Miller.

To prepare for moving off of campus, students need to choose the right residential complex that fits their needs. The Housing Fair event offered students a chance to take their

first step in moving off-campus. Attendees have learned more about housing options that they will consider and move in for the upcoming academic year.

"I have a couple of friends at College Station, so I kind of know what it looks like," said first-year student Lilly Hang. "I also have been to Highland Hills and The Grove. I came today just to know more about these apartments and already have some information."

## ◀SMOKE from page 1

ern, progressive view of addiction," Kramer said. "We want people to feel comfortable talking about it because then they'll be more likely to get help."

Kramer also helped construct "quit kits" that have been placed all around campus. These kits contain a variety of materials to try quitting including fidget tools, flavored toothpicks and a tip card with resources targeted to students.

The kits can be used to help students with their designated plan for quitting. Kramer said the first three to five days after quitting are the most intense,

but it gets easier from there.

"Most people try quitting up to seven to 10 times, and they shouldn't be discouraged for a slip-up," Kramer said. "It's not the end of the world, it's actually a teaching moment."

Since the signs have gone up and resources have been available to the public, Kramer has received feedback praising awareness on dangers of smoking.

"I have received nothing but positive comments and thank yous for those that may feel a certain legitimacy to smoking on the property," Kramer said.

SMOKE on page 4▶

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# Ethiopian govt, Tigray agree to end fighting

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME and CARA ANNA  
Associated Press

Ethiopia's warring sides agreed Wednesday to a permanent cessation of hostilities in a conflict believed to have killed hundreds of thousands, but enormous challenges lie ahead, including getting all parties to lay down arms or withdraw. The war in Africa's second-most populous country, which marks two years on Friday, has seen abuses documented on both sides, with millions of people displaced and many near famine.

"The level of destruction is immense," said the lead negotiator for Ethiopia's government, Redwan Hussein. Lead Tigray negotiator Getachew Reda expressed a similar sentiment and noted that "painful concessions" had been made. Exhausted Ethiopians, urged by the parties to "stop voices of division and hate," watched them shake hands.

A draft text of the agreement, shared with The Associated Press by a diplomat, says Tigray forces will be disarmed, starting with "light weapons" within 30 days of Wednesday's signing, and Ethiopian federal security forces will take full control of "all federal facilities, installa-



THEMBA HADEBE • Associated Press

Lead negotiator for Ethiopia's government, Redwan Hussein, left, shakes hands with lead Tigray negotiator Getachew Reda, as Kenya's former president, Uhuru Kenyatta looks on, after the peace talks in Pretoria, South Africa.

tions, and major infrastructure such as airports and highways within the Tigray region." The final, detailed agreement was not made public, but the brief joint statement notes "a detailed program of disarmament" and "restoration of constitutional

order" in Tigray.

Ethiopia's government will continue restoring basic services to the Tigray region, where communications, transport and banking links for more than 5 million people have been severed since fighting began. The

parties also commit to unfettered humanitarian access.

"The devil will be in the implementation," said former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, who helped facilitate the talks. An African Union panel with representatives from both

sides and Africa experts will monitor the process. It was not immediately clear when independent journalists and human rights researchers would be allowed into Tigray.

Major questions remain. Neighboring Eritrea, which has fought alongside Ethiopia, was not part of the peace talks. It's not clear to what extent its deeply repressive government, which has long considered Tigray authorities a threat, will respect the agreement. The draft says the Ethiopian and Tigray sides agree to stop "collusion with any external force hostile to either party." Eritrea's information minister didn't reply to questions.

Eritrean forces have been blamed for some of the conflict's worst abuses, including gang rapes, and witnesses have described killings and lootings by Eritrean forces even during the peace talks. On Wednesday, a humanitarian source said several women in the town of Adwa reported being raped by Eritrean soldiers, and some were badly wounded. The source, like many on the situation inside Tigray, spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

Forces from Ethiopia's neighboring Amhara region also have been fighting Tigray forces, but Amhara representatives also were not part of the talks.

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## N Korea fires 23 missiles, prompting air raid alert



South Korea Defense Ministry via Associated Press

South Korean Air Forces' KF-16 fighters prepare to take off during a joint aerial drills called Vigilant Storm between U.S and South Korea, in Gunsan, South Korea, Monday, Oct. 31, 2022.

By HYUNG-JIN KIM  
Associated Press

Air raid sirens sounded on a South Korean island and residents evacuated to underground shelters after North Korea fired more than 20 missiles Wednesday, at least one of them in its direction and landing near the rivals' tense sea border. South Korea quickly responded by launching its own missiles in the same border area.

The launches came hours after North Korea threatened to use nuclear weapons to get the U.S. and South Korea to "pay the most horrible price in history" in protest of ongoing South Korean-U.S. military drills that it views as an invasion rehearsal. The White House maintained that the United States has no hostile intent toward North Korea and vowed to work with allies to curb North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

The North's barrage of missile tests also came as world attention was focused on South Korea following a weekend Halloween tragedy that saw more than 150 people killed in

a crowd surge in Seoul in what was the country's largest disaster in years.

South Korea's military said North Korea launched at least 23 missiles — 17 in the morning and six in the afternoon — off its eastern and western coasts on Wednesday. It said the weapons were all short-range ballistic missiles or suspected surface-to-air missiles. Also Wednesday, North Korea fired about 100 artillery shells into an eastern maritime buffer zone the Koreas created in 2018 to reduce tensions, according to South Korea's military.

The 23 missiles launched is a record number of daily missile tests by North Korea, some experts say.

One of the ballistic missiles was flying toward South Korea's Ulleung island before it eventually landed 167 kilometers (104 miles) northwest of the island. South Korea's military issued an air raid alert on the island, according to the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff. South Korean media published photos of island residents moving to underground shelters.

◀TIGRAY from page 4

dent you have to go to school full time. Once that is gone they deport you, which is not an option for me being from Tigray," Asgedom said.

Finding supportive peers during this time has been difficult due to the lack of coverage in the midst of the Ukraine and Russia conflict.

"We didn't have a lot of support on campus because a lot of people don't know about it," Rediet Gebretsadik, vice president of the TSA, said. "A lot of people don't want to talk about it. None of the students will understand unless it is happening to them."

Schools and other service buildings were shut down during the war.

"None of the schools are open at the moment and recently a children's school was bombed. People are being displaced and it's really terrible," Gebretsadik said.

TSA not only wants to educate those about the war in Tigray but also to share and celebrate the culture.

"We're trying to share our culture and have some members perform again at the International Festival and share the culture through dance," Asgedom said.

In the future they are planning to conduct a fundraiser for those who were displaced either in neighboring countries or overseas. The TSA hosts weekly meetings on Tuesdays at the Library.

## Parkland shooter sentenced to life

By TERRY SPENCER  
Associated Press

Parkland school shooter Nikolas Cruz formally received a sentence of life without parole Wednesday after families of his 17 slain victims spent two days berating him as evil, a coward, a monster and a subhuman.

Cruz, shackled and in a red jail jumpsuit, watched Judge Elizabeth Scherer but showed no emotion as she sentenced him to 17 consecutive life terms for the Feb. 14, 2018, massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in suburban Fort Lauderdale, and an additional 17 terms for the attempted murders of those he wounded.

Scherer had no other choice; the jury in Cruz's three-month penalty trial voted 9-3 on Oct. 13 to sentence him to death, but Florida law requires unanimity for that sentence to be imposed.

Cruz acknowledged under questioning by the judge before sentencing that he is on medication but could understand what was occurring.

The sentencing came after two days' worth of parents, wives, siblings and others of slain victims and some of the surviving wounded walking to a lectern 20 feet to address him face to face.

The judge commended the



AMY BETH BENNETT • Associated Press

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooter Nikolas Cruz was sentenced to life in prison for murdering 17 people at Parkland's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School more than four years ago.

families and wounded who testified, calling them strong, graceful and patient.

"I know you are going to be OK, because you have each other," Scherer said.

The judge's voice broke as she read the first of the 34 life sentences, but she her voice gained strength and volume she moved down the list. Some parents and other family members wept as she read.

Families and the wounded spent two days verbally thrashing Cruz, wishing him a painful demise in prison and lamenting that he could not be sentenced

to death.

"Real justice would be done if every family here were given a bullet and your AR-15 and we got to pick straws, and each one of us got to shoot one at a time at you, making sure that you felt every bit of it, and your fear continued to mount until the last family member who pulled that last straw had the privilege of making sure that they killed you," said Linda Beigel Schulman, mother of teacher Scott Beigel. "That's real justice for you."

◀SMOKE from page 4

Kramer wants people to recognize smoking addiction is a social justice issue and resources exist for those looking to quit.

"I think what's been amaz-

ing is the amount of students that support this and want to help others.

I'm amazed at how many come forward and explain that they want help when it's offered," Kramer said.

"It's not a matter of people fighting it as much anymore."

For those seeking additional resources to quit smoking, they can go on [bit.ly/mavscanquit](https://bit.ly/mavscanquit).

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# Tony Hawk uses skateboarding to teach community organizing



The Skatepark Project via Associated Press

Skateboarder Tony Hawk poses for a picture at the Linda Vista Skatepark in San Diego in 2020. Hawk started a new program for skateboarding enthusiasts by building skateparks in underfunded neighborhoods.

By GLENN GAMBOA  
Associated Press

Sara Campos remembers being inspired to start skateboarding after playing Tony Hawk videogames on the California family's PlayStation 2.

Campos, 23, who uses they/them pronouns, never dreamed they would be part of Tony Hawk's charitable work.

But last month, Campos was selected for the first class in The Skatepark Project's fel-

lowship program. The program trains 15 diverse skateboarding enthusiasts in community organizing and project management to be able to build a skatepark in their neighborhoods.

Not only does the program hope to create a new gathering place in minority communities. It also aims to support and train young minority leaders.

"It's almost like a dream come true," said Campos, who used to draw skatepark designs on printer paper to show their

parents.

"Getting to do that again, but for real this time, is one of those things you didn't actually think would happen."

It's almost exactly what Hawk hoped for when he launched this initiative.

"With this program, we are engaging these kids — not only to advocate for a skatepark for their use but also to realize that their voices can matter, that they can effect change," Hawk said.

# As housing prices surge, rent control is back on the ballot



DAMIAN DOVARGANES • Associated Press

Cities across the country are pushing measures to stabilize or control rents when housing prices are skyrocketing. Voters from Orange County and in several California cities are asking voters to approve measures.

By JANIE HAR and  
MICHAEL CASEY  
Associated Press

I have a job locally, my family, my friends. It would be a big challenge to uproot my entire life chasing cheaper rent."

Liberty McCoy was out Saturday urging voters to pass a Nov. 8 ballot measure to limit rent increases in Pasadena because she's afraid she'll be priced out of the city where she grew up and where her aging parents live. The librarian and her husband, a freelance consultant, received notice of a \$100 monthly rent increase last year and another for \$150 this year, bringing the rent on their home outside Los Angeles to \$2,350 a month. They can absorb the increases for now — but not forever.

"A lot of times people are like, 'Well, just try and pick up and move to someplace cheaper,'" the 44-year-old said. "But

With rental prices skyrocketing and affordable housing in short supply, inflation-weary tenants in cities and counties across the country are turning to the ballot box for relief. Supporters say rent control policies on the Nov. 8 ballot are the best short-term option to dampen rising rents and ensure vulnerable residents remain housed.

Opponents, led by the real-estate industry, say rent control will lead to higher prices for tenants in housing not covered by rent caps and harm mom-and-pop landlords relying on rental income for retirement.


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## Is smoking just smoke and mirrors?

The University has recently put up signs all around campus advocating that students don't smoke on campus, in efforts to transform itself into the "smoke-free" campus it claims to be. Smoking has always been a problem for students, both here on campus at MSU and on college campuses all around the world.

The life of a college student is a life full of stress. Trying to balance fast-approaching deadlines with a lack of time to complete them, a job (or two) to pay bills and a personal life can make any college student feel like life's kicking them when they're already down.

As a result, many students turn to smoking as a means to resolve any feelings of anxiety, whether that be in the form of cigarettes or electronic vapes, getting themselves caught into an endless cycle of addiction before they've even realized.

The rise of social media certainly hasn't helped solve the problem, either. Video sharing platforms like TikTok dominate the Internet, showing off videos of young adults or even teenagers hitting Vapes and blowing smoke rings. We as students believe that no matter how cool smoking may make you look, the effects of smoking span much further than a cool photo op to post online. The detrimental health effects far outweigh the potential benefits one may receive from picking up smoking as a hobby, if there are any benefits at all.

The most obvious effect smoking has on your health is that it destroys your lungs. We've all seen the pictures of the pink, pure pristine lung of a non-smoker vs. the crumbling, collapsed charred lungs of a smoker. For this reason, many younger people have switched to vaping, rather than smoking, since they think it's healthier. And while it may be a healthier alternative to smoking tobacco, it's still a bad choice.

A common argument many make is that vaping is merely just fruit-flavored water vapor. And in response to that claim, they're right; it is fruit-flavored water vapor. But what they're failing to admit is that it's not just water vapor. It's fruit-flavored diethylene glycol, diacetyl and propylene glycol. Do you know how to pronounce any of those words? We don't either. So why would you choose to put that in your body?

Another aspect many don't talk about is the toll smoking takes on your bank account as well as your body. A typical disposable vape pen is around \$10 a piece, while higher quality pens can range anywhere from \$20 into the hundreds. You could be burning through nearly \$100 a week - literally.

As students, we believe that the cons of smoking vastly outweigh the pros. There are plenty of better ways of blowing off steam than actually blowing steam.

# Perspectives

## Thanksgiving shouldn't be overlooked



Flickr photo

After living on Ramen for a few months, homecooked food is enough to make a college kid cry.

By EMMA JOHNSON  
News Director

With spooky season behind us, it can be easy to brush aside the month old cobwebs and look forward to the holidays ahead. From one fast paced holiday to the next, Thanksgiving is overlooked, when in actuality, this holiday should be appreciated just as much as Christmas or Halloween.

November allows us to slow down and take a break to recuperate before the rush of buying presents, attending celebrations and cramming for finals. The first half of the month allows us to come down from our candy high and long weekends of Halloween parties. While everyone can try to avoid Mariah Carey (it's literally impossible), November gets us ready to prepare for the end of the

year hustle. While the last week and a half of the month are packed with holiday travel and feasts, the month on the whole gives us a much needed breather.

Everyone wants to cut straight to Christmas and while that's understandable, there are certain pros to the underappreciated break. Starting off with the fact that it still allows for a short break before finals. Having around five days off is the much needed break students want and gets them motivated to power through finals. The spread of homecooked food makes students blaze down the interstate and not let them leave home.

Another benefit of going home for Thanksgiving is getting to see your hometown friends. After months of separation, it's the best to throw a huge get-together

and catch each other up on a semester's worth of gossip. It's much better that getting asked unnecessary questions by relatives such as "Why aren't you dating someone?" and "Have you decided what you want to do with your life?"

The anticipation of Christmas starts when the clock strikes 12 on November 1 according to society, but I feel that it kills the mood quickly, especially when Christmas music starts. The few days leading up to Black Friday build the excitement right before the holidays. In my house, Christmas decorations are put up the day after Thanksgiving, allowing it to have its moment in the spotlight.

So while you're packing up the pumpkins, let the turkey take a breather before breaking out boughs of holly.

# Pulse

## "What's the worst show/movie on Netflix?"

Compiled by Dylan Engel



TIFFANY HALLISY,  
JUNIOR

"Senior Year movie."



TIARA NIETFELD,  
SOPHOMORE

"Some Freaks movie."



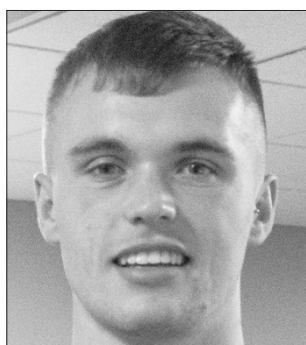
ZOIE WOBHEMA,  
FRESHMAN

"Hallmark Christmas movies."



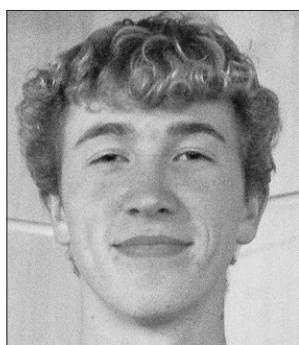
ADDI REICHENBERG,  
FRESHMAN

"Santa Clarita Diet show."



SHANE DUNNE,  
MASTER GRAD

"The Black Phone movie."



BROCK DENTON,  
FRESHMAN

"Vampire Diaries."

# People banned from Twitter won't be restored for weeks



GREGORY BULL • Associated Press

Twitter will not allow anyone who was kicked off the site to return until it sets up procedures on how to do that, a process that will take at least a few weeks, letting people who violated Twitter's rules to return to the platform.

By HALELUYA HADERO  
Associated Press

Elon Musk said Wednesday that Twitter will not allow anyone who has been kicked off the site to return until it sets up procedures on how to do that, a process that will take at least a few weeks.

That would mean people banned from the site for violating Twitter's rules for harassment, violence, or election and COVID-related misinformation will not be able to return before next Tuesday's U.S. midterm elections.

The pledge came after Musk, who took control of the social-media site last week after buying it for \$44 billion, said in a tweet that he had met with a handful of civil-society leaders "about how Twitter will continue to combat hate & harassment & enforce its election integrity policies."

Those attending the meeting Tuesday asked Musk not to restore the banned users ahead of the midterms, said Jessica González, an attorney and co-CEO of the advocacy group Free Press who attended the meeting.

The attendees — including leaders from the NAACP, Anti-Defamation League and Color of Change — also requested Twitter have a transparent process on how it plans to restore accounts.

Musk has publicly said that he would let former President Donald Trump back on the site, though Trump — who routinely touts his own platform Truth Social — has given no indication as to whether he will return.

González said the attendees also requested Twitter enforce election-integrity measures that are already in place, and

encouraged him to hear from a diverse array of people — particularly racial minorities and those who've been targeted by hate and harassment campaigns.

"He agreed to all of those things in our meeting, but actions speak louder than words," González said. "I've had a lot of meetings with tech CEOs. And I've been made a lot of empty promises. And with Elon Musk in particular, he's shown himself to be inconsistent, saying one thing that one day and another thing the next. So we fully intend to hold him accountable to these promises and more."

The NAACP, for its part, said in a statement that it expressed to Musk its concerns about "the dangerous, life-threatening hate and conspiracies that have proliferated on Twitter" under his watch.

The organization cited a report about a spike in hate speech on Twitter in the hours following the Musk acquisition, saying a failure to take action will "put human lives at risk and further unravel our democracy." It also said any account that perpetuates misinformation about elections should not be allowed on the platform.

"As long as hate, misinformation, and disinformation spread across Twitter, the bird cannot be free," the organization said. After taking over Twitter last week, Musk tweeted "the bird is freed," a reference to the site's logo.

In a separate letter to Musk on Tuesday, the NAACP, along with the National Urban League and the National Action Network, said they were alarmed by the rise of racial and religious hatred on Twitter and accused the billionaire

of unwittingly unleashing "the worst of human nature."

Musk said last week he won't make major decisions about content or restoring banned accounts before setting up a "content moderation council" with diverse viewpoints. He reiterated that point on Wednesday, adding the council he's assembling will include "the civil rights community and groups who face hate-fueled violence."

No group representing the LGBTQ community was present during Tuesday's meeting and Twitter did not immediately reply to a request for comment on whether Musk plans to meet with one. The billionaire Tesla CEO has said in the past that he supports transgender people, but has criticized the use of different pronouns.

In a tweet this summer referring to Canadian psychologist Jordan Peterson, who was locked out of his account following a post about transgender actor Elliot Page that seemingly violated Twitter's rules, Musk said the platform was "going way too far in squashing dissenting opinions."

A spokesperson for the advocacy organization GLAAD said the group remains in communication with Twitter and expects to continue to provide feedback and research about LGBTQ safety on the site, as it does with every other leading platform.

Twitter and other social media platforms have long been awash with misinformation about voting and elections, as well as the COVID-19 vaccine. The platform is retaining its misinformation labels for the 2022 midterms and attempting to debunk tweets that contain misinformation with links to credible information.

## Letter to the Editor: Ellison is the right choice for students

I have been a teacher here at Minnesota State University for over 20 years. In that time, one of the issues that has consistently been an issue for students is housing, especially off-campus housing. Students — and others throughout the community who don't make a lot of money — have consistently complained about the way they are treated, about rents and abusive contracts, hidden fees and nonrefundable deposits. I've heard far too many accounts of discrimination.

Students need to know that there is someone in State government on their side, working for them. Keith Ellison, who visited Mankato on Monday, is that person. The latest issue of the Reporter only references reproductive choice (an important issue) but I was with Keith for the better part of three hours and I can tell you the topic of the day was protecting renters from unscrupulous property management cartels.

I have heard a lot of politicians speak. I have heard them talk about what they've done and what they would do

and what they want to do. I've heard a lot of promises but on Monday, I heard from a young student who was struggling to find new housing they could afford and feel safe. They talked about the kinds of barriers they faced.

Keith didn't say what he would do if elected. He didn't promise anything. He listened. He asked questions and listened some more. Then he said something I have never heard a politician say:

651-296-3353

That's the number in his office right now that looks into these kinds of abuses and injustices. That young person is already calling and getting action. That's the kind of Attorney General Keith Ellison is. That's why having leaders who care about students and working people and people struggling and not about big corporations and conglomerates and cartels. That's why elections matter to students and why everyone, whether you agree with me or not, needs to vote on November 8th.

Jim Dimock

## Corrections

In Tuesday's issue, Blue Earth County Sheriff candidate Paul Barta's name was misspelled.

In Tuesday's issue, candidate for first congressional district Jeff Ettinger's name was misspelled.

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# Going to win \$1.2B Powerball prize? Don't take cash



REBECCA BLACKWELL • Associated Press

A sign shows the current jackpot for the Powerball lottery, \$1.2 billion, as it hangs in the reflective window of a convenience store in Miami. The jackpot climbed to \$1.2 billion after no one matched all six numbers.

By SCOTT MCFETRIDGE  
Associated Press

Think you're a sure bet for Wednesday night's estimated \$1.2 billion Powerball jackpot?

If so, you need to decide whether to take cash, which would actually pay out \$596.7 million, or choose the \$1.2 billion annuity option that is twice as large but is paid out over 29 years.

Winners of giant jackpots nearly always take the cash, and financial advisers say that might be a mistake.

Nicholas Bunio, a certified financial planner from Downingtown, Pennsylvania, said even with his expertise, he would take an annuity because it would so dramatically reduce his risk of making poor investment decisions.

"It allows you to make a mistake here and there," Bunio said. "People don't understand there is a potential for loss. They only focus on the potential for gain."

The gulf between the cash and annuity options has become larger because inflation has prompted a rise in interest rates, which in turn results in potentially larger investment gains.

With annuities, the jackpot cash is essentially invested and then paid out to winners over three decades.

Under the annuity plan, winners will receive an immediate payment and then 29 annual payments that rise by 5% each year until finally reaching the \$1.2 billion total.

Lottery winners who take cash either don't want to wait for their winnings or they figure they can invest the money and end up with more money than an annuity would offer.

It's what the biggest winners nearly always do, including the buyers of a Mega Millions ticket in Illinois in July who received a lump sum payment of \$780.5 million after winning a \$1.337 billion prize.

As Jeremy Keil, a financial

adviser from New Berlin, Wisconsin, put it, "There is no bad choice."

Keil said Powerball's annuity assumes a 4.3% investment gain of the jackpot's cash prize.

"If you think you can beat the 4.3%, you should take the cash," Keil said. "If you don't, take the annuity."

While purchasing five Powerball tickets at a Speedway gas station in Minneapolis, 58-year-old Teri Thomas said she'd rather take the cash prize because she doesn't think she'll live long enough to collect an annuity over 29 years.

"And I'd rather get all my good deeds done right away and feel good about the giving," Thomas said, adding she would donate to groups that do medical research for children as well as help veterans, homeless people and animals.

Charles Williams of Chicago, who buys a Powerball ticket each week and always plays the same numbers, was adamant that he'd take the cash option.

"I want all the money. I want the cash out and then I'm going to spend it how I want it because ain't nothing guaranteed in life," Williams said.

Of course, it's good to keep in mind that your chance of winning the jackpot is incredibly small, at 1 in 292.2 million.

That's why no one has won Powerball's top prize since Aug. 3 — resulting in 38 consecutive draws without a jackpot winner.

All that losing has let the Powerball jackpot grow to be the fourth-largest in U.S. history.

If no one wins Wednesday night, the jackpot could become the largest ever, topping a \$1.586 billion Powerball prize won by three ticket holders in 2016.

Officials urge anyone lucky enough to win a Powerball jackpot to consult a financial adviser -- while keeping that valuable ticket safe -- before showing up at a lottery office for an oversized check.

# Food writer Julie Powell dead at 49

By MARK KENNEDY  
Associated Press

Food writer Julie Powell, who became an internet darling after blogging for a year about making every recipe in Julia Child's "Mastering the Art of French Cooking," leading to a book deal and a film adaptation, has died. She was 49.

Powell died of cardiac arrest Oct. 26 at her home in upstate New York, The New York Times reported. Her death was confirmed by Judy Clain, Powell's email and editor in chief of Little, Brown.

"She was a brilliant writer and a daring, original person and she will not be forgotten," Clain said in a statement. "We are sending our deepest condolences to all who knew and loved Julie, whether personally or through the deep connections she forged with readers of her memoirs."

Powell's 2005 book "Julie & Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen" became the hit, Nora Ephron-directed film "Julie & Julia," with the author portrayed in the movie by Amy Adams and Meryl Streep as Child.

Her sophomore and last effort — titled "Cleaving: A Story of Marriage, Meat and Obsession" — was a bit jarring in its honesty. Powell revealed she had an affair, the pain of loving two men at once, of her fondness for sadomasochism and even a bout of self-punishing sex with a stranger.

"People coming from the movie 'Julie & Julia' and picking up 'Cleaving' are going to be in for some emotional whip-



PETER KRAMER • Associated Press

Author Julie Powell who became an internet darling after blogging for a year about making every recipe in Julia Child's "Mastering the Art of French Cooking," died of cardiac arrest on Oct. 26, 2022, at her home.

lash," she told The Associated Press in 2009. "I don't believe it's going to be a Nora Ephron movie."

Powell began her affair in 2004 as she was putting the finishing touches on her first book, a time she writes when she was "starry-eyed and vaguely discontented and had too much time on my hands."

By 2006, she had landed an apprenticeship at a butcher shop two hours north of New York City, which offered an escape from her crumbling marriage and a place to explore her childhood curiosity with butchers.

"The way they held a knife in their hand was like an extension of themselves," she said. "I'm a very clumsy person. I don't play sports. That kind of physical skill is really foreign to me, and I'm really envious of that."

The book explores the link between butchering and her own tortured romantic life. At one point, while cutting the connective tissue on a pig's leg, she writes: "It's sad, but a relief as well, to know that two things so closely bound together can separate with so little violence, leaving smooth surfaces instead of bloody shreds."

Her book tapped into the growing interest in old school butchery and her experience slicing meat actually resulted in her eating less of it. She was an advocate for humanely raised and slaughtered animals.

"People want to get their hands dirty. People want to participate in the process. People want to know where their food is coming from," Powell said. "People don't want the mystery anymore."

She is survived by her husband, Eric.

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# SPORTS

## Mavericks look for the ticket to the NSIC finals

By CHARLIE GROEBNER  
Staff Writer

The weather outside might be getting colder, but things are just heating up for the Minnesota State University Mankato Mavericks. After a convincing 4-1 victory over the Concordia-St. Paul Golden Bears will have no time to relish the victory as they prepare for the semi-finals of the NSIC Tournament.

This week, the Mavericks look to keep momentum as they prepare to take on a familiar face in the Minot State Beavers. The last time these two teams played together was on Oct. 14 when the contest would end in a tie. Since then, the Beavers would compile a record of 1-0-3 and make the postseason. In the first round, they would be victorious with a 3-0 shut-out against Northern State University Wolves.

As for the Mavericks, they would ride a wave of momentum following their tie with the Beavers. The group proceeded to win four straight games in which they shut out every opponent. That hot streak would continue into the first round as they blew past the Golden Bears with no real trouble.

One of the key players in their first-round victory would be sophomore forward Maïlle Mathis. The native of Brooklyn Park, Minn. would contribute with two goals to help seal the deal for the Mavericks, but acknowledges it was not a solo act.

“I think I was just around that we have accomplished so far this season. It was a whole team effort and just me scoring goals. I was just super proud of all we have done this year as we get in the right headspace for our next match,” said Mathis



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Minnesota State Women's Soccer play against Minot State on Friday at 2 p.m. for the round-two game of the NSIC tournament.

Their next opponent will surely require them to work as a team to defeat. Coming off a 3-0 victory over the Northern State Wolves, look to continue to steamroll as they enter Maverick Country. Especially with freshman midfielder Hadlee Paxman beginning to heat up at the right moment. Hailing from Lehi, Utah she would score two of the beaver goals after a cold

streak lasting majority of the year.

Another key figure that makes up the Beavers is senior goalkeeper Maddie Kinnard. The Beaver's last line of defense has not allowed a goal in nine straight games. Now she looks to continue her dominance with a tenth straight shutout over the Mavericks. Even for all the challenges that the Beavers bring, the Mavericks welcome

the challenge that approaches.

“I think that our goal needs to be outworking them to get the win. The last time we played against them we tied against them, and I think will ultimately come down to who is gonna want it more. That is where I am at this week in trying to get in the right mindset going into this weekend.” Said Mathis.

## Mavs 20 game win streak at steak against Southwest Minnesota state

By LUKE JACKSON  
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State football team looks to continue its historic win streak versus Southwest Minnesota State Saturday.

The Mavericks average 39 points against the Mustangs and have never lost to them. The Mavs are looking for their 20th win against the Mustangs as they are 19-0 against them dating back to 1971.

Last year, the Mavericks played at the Mustangs' home stadium and won with the largest margin in matchup history, 52-0. This year, they play SMSU at home where the Mavs are currently 10-0 against the Mustangs.

MSU is on a hot streak of three wins in a row. They currently sit at 7-2 with losses to Northern State and Wayne State. In addition, they are undefeated at home winning all three games.



Minnesota State Football play their second to last home game of the regular season against SMSU this Saturday at 1 p.m. Photo is from earlier this season. (Trey Vaval No. 2 above)

This has resulted in them now being ranked 14 overall in Division II football. They are sitting higher than any other team in the NSIC with only one other team in their conference making the poll. The Bemidji State Beavers are ranked lower at 22.

Bemidji State is also 7-2 with one of its losses coming at MSU in week one.

Last week, the Mavs showed their dominating presence as they rolled through the Sioux Falls Cougars, a team ranked No. 1 in the NSIC going into the game. The Mavs won 38-24 in Sioux Falls.

In this game, sophomore kicker 37 Damian Chowanec had eight points. He connected on a 32-yard field goal and he went 5-for-5 in extra point attempts. This earned Chowanec NSIC's special teams player of the week. Two players have now earned this award for Mankato now with junior defensive

DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

# Mavericks take on out-of-conference foe, Sacred Heart



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

MSU hockey play a two-game series at home against Sacred Heart on Friday at 3 p.m. and Saturday at 1 p.m.

By KARSON BUELOW  
Staff Writer

After playing their first ten games of the season against opponents in their conference, the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA), the Minnesota State women's hockey team is set to compete against Sacred Heart University this weekend.

The SHU Pioneers are an unfamiliar foe for the Mavericks, enough so that the teams have never played each other before. Despite this, the teams seem very evenly matched on paper. Sacred Heart brings a 3-5-1 record into the series, while Minnesota State currently sits at 3-7-0.

Senior forward Kelsey King talked briefly about the difficulty of preparing for out-of-conference opponents saying, "Film becomes very key to strategy when we play out-of-conference teams because we haven't experienced them play. Self-film, breaking that down, watching them, and also not taking them for granted is super important. We don't want to take anything for granted."

"Regardless of what the stats may be or regardless of what conference they may be in, I think it's important that we always remember that we need

to take it seriously and play our style of hockey."

After a difficult 0-6-0 start to the season, the Mavericks have certainly started to play their style of hockey in recent weeks. Losing star senior defenseman Anna Wilgren was a huge loss to the team, but freshmen have stepped up in Wilgren's absence, helping the team win three of their last four games.

In the past two weeks, Minnesota State has supported two freshmen that have made WCHA honors for their efforts. Freshman defenseman Kianna Roeske and freshman forward Taylor Otremba both earned the honors, each scoring their first collegiate goals in the past two series.

King has been impressed with her fellow teammates earning honors but knows efforts as a team help players stand out as individuals.

"That was super exciting for us. Coach had said at practice that 'When good things happen as a team, individual efforts can be recognized.'" King went on to say, "They really set the pace in Bemidji, which is cool to see because that's what you need. When your veteran players are down on themselves, maybe not producing as people would think on the scoreboard, the freshmen have to step up."

"It's so important to see

those freshmen thrive and to see them start to fit into their own and be just as big leaders on the team as the rest of us."

Despite the Mavericks playing well recently, the team does not want to take the Pioneers lightly. As a WCHA team, Minnesota State feels like they have a target on their back when playing teams from out of conference.

Not only that, King was quick to say, "A few of them are probably from Minnesota. So it's a time to not only prove themselves but also a time to play and have their families watching. That will undoubtedly have an impact on how they'll perform. They're not just gonna give up out there."

King was right. Despite being a team from Connecticut, Sacred Heart brought in ten players from the Midwest to their 2022-23 roster, six of which are from Minnesota.

There is plenty of unknown for the upcoming contest, but one thing is certain: the first win against the other in program history. With nothing but improving their record on the line this weekend, both teams will be hungry for wins.

Puck drop is set for 3 p.m. and 1 p.m. on Nov. 4 and 5 at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center in downtown Mankato.

to the playoffs. Winona State is 7-2 as well. They are currently in a five-team tie for first place in the NSIC.

Right now, SMSU is 4-5 and in the middle of the pack in the NSIC standings. They have one game after MSU

as they look to face off versus Augustana in their final week.

Mankato will need to focus this week to keep the 20-game win streak alive and to keep their chances of making it to the postseason.

## Senior Spotlight No. 24 Nyles Williams



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

Williams has a total of 1127 receiving yards and 352 rushing yards.

By ALI REED  
Staff Writer

For someone who has been playing the game of football since they were 5 years old, Nyles Williams, a senior wide receiver for Minnesota State University, Mankato, has found himself putting everything he has into his final season of collegiate football.

"It's my last year so it's like, go all in," said Williams. "Go all in or go home."

Williams grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, playing multiple sports all through high school. Watching his older brother play football is what inspired Williams to get into the sport.

"What made me want to play football is watching my older brother play," said Williams. "A lot of people looked up to him and he was pretty

good. So when I saw him play, I was like, man, I want to do the same thing."

Williams attended Brown Deer High School, where he competed in football, baseball and track and field. He was a starter for all four years for their football team, earning all-suburban and all-conference honors during his junior season. He also was a state qualifier for multiple relay events for track and field. However, Williams true passion and focus lies in football.

Making the jump from high school football to collegiate football was quite the eye opener for Williams.

"In high school, you ain't gotta worry about nothin'. It's all fun and games," said Williams. "Here, you gotta wor-

SPOTLIGHT on page 11 ►

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### ►FOOTBALL from page 9

back Trey Vaval winning it in week two against the Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs.

Mankato looks to play the Winona State Warriors after their matchup versus SMSU. This matchup could make or break their chances of going

# Men's Basketball hosts Gustavus Adolphus in first game since 1988



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

The Minnesota State men's basketball team takes on Gustavus Adolphus in an exhibition game on today in the Taylor Center at 7 p.m.

By HAYDEN LEE  
Staff Writer

After an early playoff exit last season, the Minnesota State men's basketball team begins its chase for a Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference championship Nov. 3. The Mavericks have been picked to finish seventh in the NSIC pre-season coaches' poll, and have been projected to finish third in the south division behind Wayne State and Upper Iowa.

The Mavericks' season begins with an exhibition game against Gustavus-Adolphus, an opponent they have not played a regular season game against for 34 years. The last time these two teams faced off was on Dec. 12, 1988. The game was played in the home of the Golden Gusties, where the Mavericks won a nailbiter, 75-71.

Starting off the season hot is a goal for the Mavericks, and they will look to some familiar faces to help them reach new heights. Senior center Kelby Kramer is back in his final season as a Maverick. The seven-footer has been holding

down the paint for three seasons now, and will play a big role in the team's success. Sophomore forward Brady Williams showed flashes of greatness toward the end of the year last season, including a season high 21 points against the Augustana Vikings (2/12/22) where he shot 5-of-6 from beyond the arc. Junior guard Malik Willingham is also a flamethrower from deep and plays a crucial part of the Maverick's offense. Look for these three players to lead a fast-paced Mavericks team alongside head coach Matt Margenthaler in their first game and beyond. Regarding the team leaders, Margenthaler shows a lot of confidence in his leaders' abilities.

"Kelby Kramer has done great things for us over the past few years, expect another big year from him. Malik has also played a lot of minutes for us, we know he can do some big things," said Margenthaler. "And then Brady Williams, he's one of the better wings in this league."

Although their 2021 season came to an abrupt end, the

Mavericks will not be the only ones playing with something to prove this year, as the Golden Gusties come into the year with a bad taste in their mouth after a disappointing loss to St. Olaf in the MIAC. This exhibition match should provide each team with an opportunity to hit the ground running for the promising seasons these two teams have ahead of them.

The Mavericks will host the Golden Gusties on Thursday, November 3 at Taylor Center. In what should be a competitive opening night matchup, the game is scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

The Mavericks open their regular season schedule on Friday, Nov. 11, where they will take on Missouri Southern in the Central Region Challenge in Kansas City, Mo. Tip-off between the Lions and Mavericks is scheduled for 1 p.m.

"Our league is really just amazing, there's no game you can really take off without losing by 20 or 30 points," said Williams. "We have to be prepared for every team every week."

◀**SPOTLIGHT** from page 10  
ry about stuff. It's a lot more work."

Even though there is a lot more to worry about in collegiate football, it hasn't stopped Williams from showing off his talent. Since he first took the field for the Mavericks in 2017, Williams has recorded a total of 1127 receiving yards, while also reaching 352 rushing yards.

Williams was drawn to MSU due to Head Coach Todd Hoffner and the team's welcoming atmosphere, along with

their success in previous years.

"When I came here for my first official visit, they were really welcoming. More than any other school," said Williams. "Obviously I saw how good they were doing, too."

Outside of football, Williams put a lot of effort into academics, having graduated in December of 2021 with a major in Communications and minor in Business. He also spends a lot of his time hanging out with friends and eating good food.

After football at MSU, Williams is not planning to leave the game behind. He hopes to be a part of the Senior Bowl and attend a few NFL Scouting Combines. If not, Williams is set to move to Arizona and go to barber school. As he has been here since 2016, Williams has always hoped for his newer teammates to be able to experience a successful year, the same way he has. Standing at 7-2, the Mavericks are looking to do just that and more in the postseason.

## Look to remain perfect in conference play against Tommies



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Minnesota State men's hockey team faces up against St. Thomas on Saturday at 6:07 p.m. at the Mayo Clinic Civic Center.

By KARSON BUELOW  
Staff Writer

After the Minnesota State University, Mankato men's hockey team swept Bowling Green University last weekend in their first conference matchup of the season, the team is prepared to return to battle with a home-and-home series against the University of St. Thomas this weekend. The Mavericks will take on the Tommies Friday at 7:07 p.m. in St. Paul and then close out the series with the finale at 6:07 p.m. on Saturday in Mankato.

The Mavericks and Tommies have had quite opposite seasons through their first eight games respectively. Minnesota State sports a 5-3-0 overall record and 2-0-0 in conference play, while St. Thomas owns a


2-6-0 overall record and 1-1-0 in conference play. The two teams last met in last year's CCHA conference playoffs, where Minnesota State swept St. Thomas in a best-of-three series during the first round.

The two teams are no strangers to each other, playing each other a total of six times during the 2021-22 season including a sell-out crowd on a snowy Hockey Day Minnesota. The last time the two teams met prior to last season happened in 1996, the last year before the Mavericks made the jump to division I.

But don't let the Tommies' record fool you, as they received a handful of transfers from other division I universities heading into this season. In addition, the Tommies have  
MHOCKEY on page 12 ▶


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DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

◀**MHOCKEY** from page 11

also been able to acquire several highly-rated junior prospects to their lineup.

St. Thomas is coached by Rico Blasi, who is in his second season with the university and has a handful of experience with other notable division I powerhouses. The 2005-06 National Coach of the Year led the University of Miami to two Frozen Fours and 10 NCAA Tournament appearances.

On the other side of the ice, the Mavericks remain loaded with talent up and down the roster, but still have questions at the goaltending position. Both sophomore Keenan Rancier and freshman Alex Tracy have gotten starts in the net, but neither have made a solid impression to retain the consistent starting position.

Of the many notable players to watch during this weekend's series, junior forward David Silye remains a standout among others. The Arnprior, Ont. native has six points through the first eight games and scored a hat trick during last year's Hockey Day Minnesota game against the Tommies.

Silye gave his thoughts regarding this weekend's series against St. Thomas and what to expect. "The rivalry we've built in being so close to them is special and they have a fresh team," Silye said. "We're looking forward to this weekend and building off last Saturday."

The Mavericks are coached by Mike Hastings, who is in his 10th season with the program and has accumulated a resume not many others can match. The native of Crookston, Minn. has led the nation in win percentage during his tenure and coached in the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Hastings commented briefly about coming off the sweep against Bowling Green and heading into this weekend against St. Thomas. "We faced a lot of adversity over the weekend and it was good to see some guys get their first," Hastings said.

"Now heading into our last series before break in St. Thomas, their special teams have been good and their powerplay has been dialed. They'll be a very difficult test for us."

# Vikings' Hockenson giddy move

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
Associated Press

The heavy playbook study sessions facing T.J. Hockenson this week weren't much of a worry at all for Minnesota's newly acquired tight end.

Hockenson could hardly hide his smile on Wednesday, the first full day of his fast-tracked initiation. He has the opportunity to play home games one state away from his native Iowa.

He has joined a Vikings team his father rooted for as a child with a bedroom painted purple and yellow.

Then there's the NFC North standings: going from 1-6 one day to 6-1 the next.

"Really what we're here to do is go somewhere and win some games. That's kind of the first time I've been able to say that," said Hockenson, who arrived in Minnesota on Tuesday after a trade with Detroit. The Lions were 12-42-2 since Hockenson was drafted eighth overall in 2019.

"I'm just excited to have a piece in this puzzle. A lot of good guys around here. This facility is beautiful, so I'm just excited to be here, man," Hockenson said. "There's nowhere I'd rather be."

Hockenson hails from Chariton, a small farming town in southern Iowa about a 4½-hour drive from Minneapolis. His parents, Teri and Tod, attend all of his games, so their commute will be cut by more than half of the length of the trip to Detroit.

When the Lions played at Minnesota in Week 3, Hockenson had to buy about 30 tick-



CARLOS GONZALEZ • Star Tribune via AP

Newly acquired Minnesota Vikings tight end T.J. Hockenson (87) during NFL football practice on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022, in Eagan, Minn.

ets. "We can't make that a habit," he said, "but there's going to be a lot of people here."

The Vikings don't play at home again until Nov. 20 against Dallas, but his mother and father are planning to be at Washington for the game this Sunday.

Hockenson's crash course in the new offense was softened a bit by his appreciation of head coach Kevin O'Connell, for whom his former quarterback Matthew Stafford played for last year with the Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams. Still, the "drinking from a fire hydrant" challenge of changing teams midseason is real.

"It's one thing to be able to see it on paper and say, 'OK, oh, yeah, I got it,' but then you hear it and you have to mentally decipher everything. It's a different story," Hockenson said.

"So it's definitely a process, and I'm starting." The Vikings

now have another proven field-stretching option for quarterback Kirk Cousins to pass to and help keep some of the opposing defensive attention off wide receiver Justin Jefferson and running back Dalvin Cook.

"It's early right now, but I definitely feel that he's a good fit," Cousins said.

With 395 receiving yards, Hockenson has the highest seven-game total of his career. He has a league-leading average of 15.2 yards per catch among qualifying tight ends. Hockenson made the Pro Bowl in 2020 and has 2,068 receiving yards and 15 touchdowns on 186 catches in 47 games.

The Vikings are last in the NFL with an average of 7.3 yards per reception by a tight end. Their primary tight end Irv Smith Jr. suffered a serious ankle sprain on Sunday and will miss a minimum of one month on injured reserve.

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# VARIETY

## Sleigh bells ring, and students are listening

By LAUREN VISKA  
Staff Writer

Even though it is not officially Christmas season, the MSU Theatre Department debuts their rendition of 'A Christmas Carol' today, Nov. 3. The cast has worked on this play since Oct. 10 and is prepared to show the MSU students and community members this show. 'A Christmas Carol' runs at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3-5 and Nov. 10-12 and 2 p.m. Nov. 12 & 13 in the Ted Paul Theatre at the Earley Center for Performing Arts.

Matt Caron, the director of the show, spoke about why they did this show earlier in the year instead of toward the end of

November.

"We have five mainstage shows and four shows in the studio season. We have to be careful about how they all overlap and intersect because our designers will be working on multiple shows at a time, and the same with our actors," said Caron. "Our dance concert always falls on finals weekend, so we need to have time to do that too. It's as close as we can get to Christmas without interfering with the dance concert."

The protagonist of "A Christmas Carol" is Ebenezer Scrooge, a stingy, bitter, and self-centered old man who despises Christmas and anything that brings joy. He gets haunted Christmas Eve night by his old business

partner, Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas.

Chandler Rosengren plays Scrooge in this play and says that it is different from the roles he has played in the past.

"This show is much more involved in having different physicality and vocal patterns than me as a person. It's been a good challenge for me," said Rosengren.

"The main part of the story is you know the golden rule. Treat people how you want to be treated. Just try to be nice to people. We're all here living our lives."

Sarah Potvin plays Mrs. Cratchit and the narrator in the show. She is excited for students to come to the show.

"It's one that will help them get into the holiday spirit early," said Potvin. "There's a lot of really cool technical elements in this one that I think students are going to love as well."

Along with being a show about treating people with kindness, it has a bunch of technical aspects, such as revolving platforms and different lighting effects.

"The whole idea with the show, conceptually as the design team, and I've sort of come up with it's, you know, the things just appear and disappear magically," said Caron.

"When students come into the theater, it's not much to look at, it's pretty bare and blank. Once we get the lights, sound

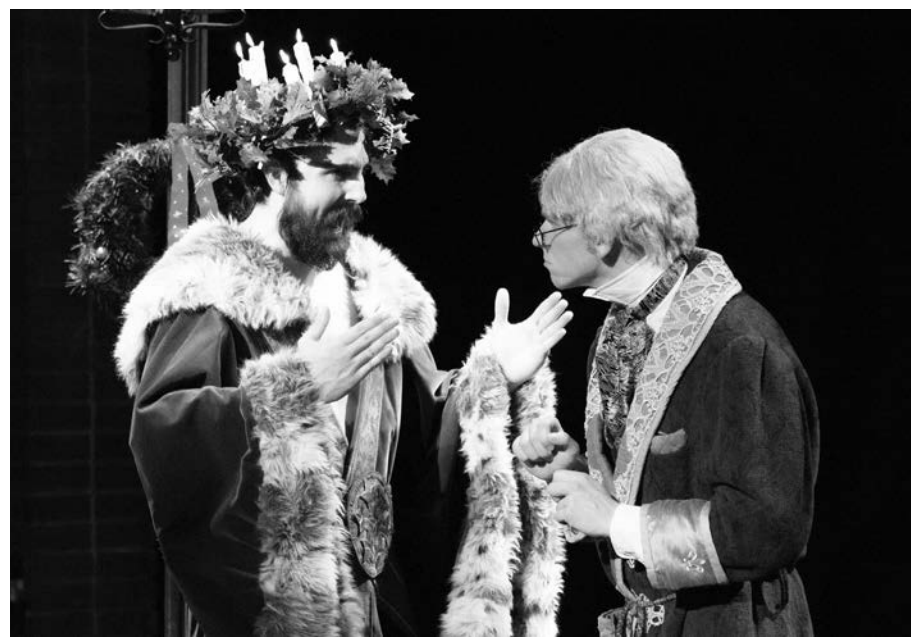
and some special effects going, it will be pretty spectacular."

Members of the cast encourage students to come to the show to escape their busy schedules.

"Students should come to the show because the moral of the story is something that we as a society can really use nowadays. There's so much arguing and everything in politics," said Rosengren.

"We're all humans. At the end of the day, be nice to each other and try to get along."

Students can find more information about tickets and other upcoming shows on the MSU website so that they do not miss out on getting into the Christmas spirit.



Photos by Dylan Engel

'A Christmas Carol' is MSU's latest theatre production, based off of the novella of the same name by Charles Dickens. The play is centered around Ebenezer Scrooge, a bitter old man who opposes anything Christmas, until a haunting visit by three Christmas ghosts changes his mind. The show will be decked out in unique lighting effects unlike those from any other theatre production, and a revolving stage platform.

## Smokin' Joe & Friends light up the Hearth Lounge

By JOEY ERICKSON  
Variety Editor

The Hearth Lounge was lit up yesterday afternoon by the musical stylings of Joe Scarpellino and his similarly-named bandmate, Joe Barrons, known formally as Smokin' Joe & Friends.

The duo played live music from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Centennial Student Union downstairs, garnering the attention of many interested students as they walked by.

"You'll always catch people walking by, they'll stop and look, which is nice. It's like, 'I gotcha!' It's fun to see what catches people's attention. I think it went great," Scarpellino said.

There are two Joe's that are the staples of the group: Smokin' Joe himself, and his bandmate Joe Barron. Barron met Scarpellino seven years ago and quickly became his right-hand man for all things music.

"He's my combination best friend, business partner and bandmate. I originally started booking and managing his



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Joe Scarpellino and Joe Barron, known formally as "Smokin' Joe & Friends", performed yesterday in the Hearth Lounge. The group has come to campus to perform countless times, each time showcasing the talents of a new local musician.

band. He was really interested in the booking, and managing side of things, so I took and taught him everything I knew, and when I ran out of stuff to teach him, I asked him if he wanted to be a partner in my business," Scarpellino said.

The two of them run a company called Get Down Enterprises, focused on helping further the local music scene as well as sustainably supporting local musicians.

"We put on events, and play shows and put on shows, we book other bands, manage other bands, kinda just help create our live music scene. And yeah, we've kinda just been together ever since," Scarpellino said.

Scarpellino, originally from Iowa City, Iowa, started making music at the age of 9. Scarpellino played the cello and the drums, plucking and pit-patting his way into his high school band. From there, his kindling music career began to grow, as he started a band at 10 and performed his first in-club gigs at 13.

"I just was always obsessed with

MUSIC on page 14

## Booker Prize winner lets ghosts of Sri Lanka's past speak



ALBERTO PEZZALI • Associated Press

Author Shehan Karunatilaka holds the Booker Prize during a photo call after the announcement of his victory, at the Roundhouse in London, Monday, Oct. 17, 2022.

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

When the book became a finalist for the 50,000-pound (\$58,000) fiction award this summer, protests over a deepening economic crisis gripped Sri Lanka. An uneasy calm had returned by Oct. 17, when Karunatilaka's novel won the prestigious prize, catapulting its author to literary stardom.

"Surreal" was the word Karunatilaka used to describe edging out finalists who included Americans Percival Everett and Elizabeth Strout with his novel about a war photographer who wakes up dead.

Stranded in a bureaucratic limbo of an afterlife, Maali Almeida has a week — seven moons — to discover who killed him and retrieve a trove of photos to secure his legacy.

The book is set in 1989, during Sri Lanka's brutal civil war — a time, the author says, when "we had an abundance of corpses, an abundance of

unsolved killings."

The book looks unflinchingly at the violence of war, shot through with what Karunatilaka calls Sri Lanka's characteristic "gallows humor." Neil MacGregor, who led the Booker judging panel, said it found "joy, tenderness, love and loyalty" in "the dark heart of the world."

Karunatilaka, 47, started writing it a decade ago, soon after the country's long civil war ended.

"There was a lot of debate over how many civilians had been killed and whose fault it was — and the debate got us nowhere," Karunatilaka told The Associated Press.

"I didn't feel there was enough truth or reconciliation. It was just one side blaming the other side and trying to just apportion whose fault it was rather than addressing the causes."

"And so I (thought), what if we could allow these silenced voices to speak? What

if we could have a ghost story where the dead were allowed to speak?"

Writing novels can be a dangerous business — a risk driven horrifyingly home when Salman Rushdie was stabbed and seriously injured during an August literary event in New York state.

Karunatilaka says the fear of violence is "something that hangs over all of us."

"I don't see myself as a political writer or someone who courts controversy," said the author, a polymath who has written journalism, children's books and screenplays, once belonged to a grunge band and has a day job as an advertising copywriter.

But, even so, writing about the post-civil war period felt "too close. And also, it might have been unsafe, it might have ruffled the wrong feathers."

Setting his novel more than 30 years in the past "allowed me the freedom to write."

### ◀MUSIC from page 13

music. I played all-ages punk shows, other all-ages shows, and lots of venues. And then, kinda snowballed from there," Scarpellino said.

The name of Scarpellino's most recent band, "Smokin' Joe & Friends", wasn't one that he came up with himself; rather, it was bestowed upon him, shortly before one of his initial bar performances.

"I had an acoustic guitar set, but I didn't have a name, and I smoked a lot of cigarettes at the time. The bar was literally like, 'You smoke, your name's Joe, you're 'Smokin' Joe', and I

just kinda kept it. I was dubbed it," Scarpellino said.

Smokin' Joe is a constant in each show that Scarpellino plays in.

The latter of the group name, however, differs with almost every show, as Scarpellino travels from city to city and performs with different people.

"It's anyone and everyone at the time. It's an all-inclusive me. [For] other folks it could be any instruments from cello and violin, to bass and drums. We've had a trumpet. I played with a harp once. Pretty silly," Scarpellino said.

This isn't the first time Scar-

pellino has come to campus to perform. He's played on campus seven times before, and yesterday wasn't the last.

According to him, the reason he continues to return is because of the sheer importance of music, and how it can connect people.

"I like to bring artists of all different kinds down here. Maybe there'll be a student sitting, listening, and they'll hear an artist saying something they can relate to, someone that is more like them. Finding those artists is extremely important. That's why I keep doing it," Scarpellino said.

## Autopsy: Takeoff died from gun-shot wounds to head



RICHARD SHOTWELL • Invision via AP

Takeoff of the group Migos performs during the 2019 BET Experience in Los Angeles on June 22, 2019. A representative confirms that rapper Takeoff is dead after a shooting outside of a Houston bowling alley.

By JUAN A. LOZANO  
Associated Press

Rapper Takeoff died from gunshot wounds to the head and torso following a shooting outside a private party at a downtown Houston bowling alley, authorities announced Wednesday.

The announcement — following an autopsy by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences in Houston — comes as police are still seeking the public's help in tracking down the person or persons responsible for the rapper's death Tuesday.

Takeoff's primary cause of death was listed as "penetrating gunshot wounds of head and torso into arm" and his manner of death was called homicide.

Takeoff, whose off-stage name was Kirsnick Khari Ball, formed one-third of the Grammy Award-nominated rap trio Migos with uncle Quavo and cousin Offset from suburban Atlanta.

The 28-year-old rapper was killed around 2:30 a.m. Tuesday when gunfire erupted outside of 810 Billiards & Bowling following a private party.

Investigators are looking to speak with the 40 people who attended the party and fled after the gunfire, Houston Police Chief Troy Finner said.

At least two people discharged firearms, according to Finner. Two others were hit by gunfire but had non-life-threatening wounds and went to hospitals in private vehicles, he said.

Finner said Takeoff was "well respected," and there was "no reason to believe he was involved in anything criminal at the time."

Migos' record label, Quality Control, mourned Takeoff's death in a statement posted on Instagram. The statement said senseless violence "has taken another life from this world and we are devastated."

The bowling alley is in a three-story Houston retail complex.

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# 'Bluey,' 'Funny Girl' set for parade



SETH WENIG • Associated Press

The Tom Turkey float waits along Central Park West before the start of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, in New York on Nov. 25, 2021.

By MARK KENNEDY  
Associated Press

The debut of a giant "Bluey" balloon, Lea Michele and the Broadway cast of "Funny Girl" and the legendary Dionne Warwick are some of the highlights slated for this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

This year's parade — the 96th annual — will feature 16 giant character balloons, 28 floats, 40 novelty and heritage inflatables, 12 marching bands, 700 clowns, 10 performance groups and, of course, Santa Claus. New balloon giants joining the line-up on Nov. 24 include Stuart the one-eyed Minion from "Despicable Me 2," a new green dinosaur, an Apatosaurus, the debut of the animated sensation "Bluey," and a new "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" balloon.

Other celebrities slated to be on hand include Paula Abdul, making her parade debut; Fitz and the Tantrums; Big Time Rush; "Blue's Clues & You!"

host Josh Dela Cruz; Gloria Estefan along with her daughter, Emily, and grandson, Sasha; Kirk Franklin; Mario Lopez; Ziggy Marley; and Miss America 2022 Emma Broyles.

The singers Joss Stone, Jordan Sparks and Betty Who will all be part of the festivities as will the stars of Peacock's "Pitch Perfect: Bumper in Berlin" — Adam Devine, Sarah Hyland and Flula Borg. Jimmy Fallon & The Roots will be on a float celebrating Central Park.

"This November, as we once again set the stage for the start of the holiday season, we are thrilled to showcase another spectacle full of magic and wonder that will help create everlasting memories with loved ones during this special time of year," Will Coss, the parade's executive producer, said in a statement. Viewers nationwide can see the parade live on NBC and streaming on Peacock on Nov. 24.

In addition to "Funny Girl," Broadway will be represented

by the casts of "A Beautiful Noise," "Some Like It Hot," "The Lion King," which is celebrating its 25th year on Broadway. The Radio City Rockettes will also march. This will be Warwick's third parade; she also appeared in 1967 and 1984.

Returning giant balloons include "Ada Twist, Scientist," "The Boss Baby," Chase from "Paw Patrol," the Pillsbury Doughboy, Red Titan from "Ryan's World," Ronald McDonald, Papa Smurf from "The Smurfs," "SpongeBob SquarePants" and Pikachu and Eevee. The Macy's parade has been a traditional holiday season kickoff and spectators often line up a half-dozen deep along the route to cheer the marchers, floats, entertainers and marching bands.

Marching bands this year will represent South Carolina, Kentucky, Indiana, California, New York, South Dakota, Florida, Missouri, Texas and Veracruz, Mexico.

# Theft charges dismissed for Marvel's Stan Lee



JORDAN STRAUSS • Invision via AP

Stan Lee, left, and Keya Morgan arrive at the world premiere of "Avengers: Infinity War" on April 23, 2018, in Los Angeles. A Los Angeles judge declared a mistrial and dismissed grand theft charges Tuesday,

By ANDREW DALTON  
Associated Press

A Los Angeles judge declared a mistrial and dismissed grand theft charges Tuesday against a former business manager of Marvel Comics mastermind Stan Lee.

Superior Court Judge George Lomeli dismissed the charges against Keya Morgan, who was accused of stealing from Lee, when a jury was deadlocked 11-1 in favor of acquittal after two days of deliberations and a 2 1/2-week trial.

Lomeli said he was stepping in to clear Morgan of three felony counts of grand theft from an elder "in the interests of justice," according to Variety.

"My client and I have spent four years proving his innocence and today we prevailed,"

Morgan's attorney Alex Kessel said in an email to The Associated Press.

Prosecutors had alleged that Morgan, 41, stole more than \$220,000 in proceeds from three memorabilia signings from Lee about six months before Lee died in 2018.

Morgan was arrested the following year. Initial charges of elder abuse and false imprisonment against Morgan were dropped long before the trial.

The prosecution argued during the trial that Morgan had preyed on Lee when Lee was in mental decline in the last months of his life, and acted without authority on his behalf.

Kessel argued that the missing money actually went to Lee's daughter and heir J.C. Lee, who was a witness.

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