

DFL Bus Tour hits MSU

By JULIA BARTON
Editor in Chief

Today is Election Day across the country and millions of people will take to the polls (if they haven't already) to cast votes. Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party candidates visited Minnesota State Friday as part of its Get Out The Vote Tour Rally in hopes of driving students to the polls.

Back to his old stomping

grounds, Gov. Tim Walz, who resided in Mankato for over a decade when he taught at Mankato West High School, energized the crowd while assuring them that, no matter the outcome, he is for Minnesota.

"Of course, we'll accept it, we value what the voters of Minnesota think. We know they're going to send us back. But should they not, not only will we honor the election, we'll help our opponents make Minnesota bet-

ter in any way that they need," Walz said. "We're not enemies, we're in this together."

Climate change, funding for education and abortion rights were a few big-ticket items discussed during the rally that could potentially impact this election's results. Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan joined Walz at the rally.

"We all do better when we all do better," said Flanagan, borrowing a famous quote from

the late Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone "If I'm thinking about the dreams for my kiddos and your kiddos, I want to make sure that my daughter doesn't have fewer rights than I as her mother, or her grandmother did. We will fight to ensure that we continue to have access to reproductive healthcare in this state."

Incumbent statewide office candidates at the rally included: Secretary of State Steve Simon, **DFL TOUR on page 2▶**



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (left) and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan spoke to the crowd at Friday's Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Get Out The Vote Rally.

College Dems host sit-in against homophobia

By EMMA JOHNSON
News Director

When Senior Maddy Berg heard of egging incidents on campus, she thought nothing of it. That was until an egg splatter showed up on the window of her dorm room, located over her trans flag.

"It wasn't apparent right away, but I knew I was targeted because I knew someone whose pride flag was egged in their window," Berg said.

This event was one of the catalysts that launched a sit-in hosted by the College of Democrats at Minnesota State Thursday. Students gathered in the CSU for a half hour to rally against the rise of homophobia on campus by sitting on the floor by Mav Ave, waving flags

in solidarity.

While the reason behind the rise in homophobia is unknown, Berg mentioned that the amount of targeting hasn't been as bad as in past years.

"It's jarring and discouraging to see, but we have such a strong community of people here who are supportive and want to raise awareness," Berg said.

Senior Storm Novak explained that the sit-in was hosted as a way to improve the campus climate and to work towards making Minnesota State a more accepting place.

"When you normally see a sit-in, you think 'Oh, they're protesting a unit of power,' but the intention of this is to create a demonstration of solidarity rather than to target any groups and say 'Hey, we think you



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Students sat in solidarity, waving pride flags in Mav Ave to raise awareness about the rise of homophobic issues on campus.

should do this job differently," Novak said.

Novak mentioned that one **SIT-IN on page 2▶**

New equity engagement space opens on campus

By CARLY BAHR
Staff Writer

An underused adjunct room will be used as a gathering place for conversations about race and intersectionality.

Dani Scott, assistant professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, began the process of transforming room 316 of the Clinical Science Building into the Equity Engagement Space in January assisted by Megan Mahowald.

"My office is two doors down so I'd always look at this room like 'What do they do in that room?' Megan informed me that it was an adjunct room, but last year we had a lot of people online so I just didn't see the room utilized," Scott said.

Scott said she took inspiration from a play she saw in January for the Equity Engagement Space.

"I went to this amazing play on campus. Written, produced — just creatively so beautiful — called the 'Wounded Healers' play. When I walked in there I felt so at home, more than I have felt since I have been here because there was artwork, there were books that I have read," Scott said. "So I felt like, in such a clinical building, it would be nice to have a welcoming, representative space for people of color and also for us to continue to explore, if you aren't a person of color, to just start to have conversations in a space."

Her vision for the Equity Engagement Space resembled the Wounded Healers set; dim lighting, intimate, with educational books for a wide audience on a variety of topics related to inclusivity.

Mahowald helped Scott put the room together during summer by acquiring furniture.

"I think I helped more with logistics and timing and how to get our hands on everything and go about building the space," said Mahowald.

Scott's graduate students, **EQUITY on page 3▶**

Pre-optometry club opens eyes to career pathways



ASUTOSH SILWAL • The Reporter

The pre-optometry club allows students to learn more information while helping them prepare optometry school applications.

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

The new pre-optometry club gives opportunities for Minnesota State students interested in higher education in medical fields.

Students who attend this club can share useful findings in the field of medicine that could help in future academic and career achievements.

The club aims to help students prepare applications for schools and give them more knowledge to pass mandatory entry exams such as Optometry Admission Test. Co-president of the club, Nicole Kaupa, says she hopes students can gain a variety of experiences.

“We wanted to get started to meet pre-optometry students in the university so that we could meet and kind of go over applying for optometry schools, getting to know each other a little bit and prepare to take the OAT test,” said Kaupa.

The students can also connect with people to learn more about the requirements and difficulties to enter optometry schools.

“Last year we did a Zoom meeting with someone that went to Midwestern University, I think, to kind of learn what the process was for that person and to be able to apply and take the OAT test,” said Kaupa.

Kylee Zytkevich is also a member of the club.

“The most interesting part is learning things that I did not know about before. Today we

have discussed a couple of new things. I think that it is gonna help me in the long run so that things are not last minute, and I will be prepared ahead of time,” Zytkevich said.

According to Zytkevich and other members of the club, joining their discussion makes academic growth more effective. Member Skyler Borresen mentioned that the club helps her gain more knowledge from experienced people.

“I learned stuff that I had no idea about because there is nobody to help me figure it out. It is nice to have people that are older than me and have kind of been through it,” said Borresen. “(The club helps me with) knowledge about where I need to go and how to apply. It is something that I am most nervous about.”

Another participant, Kyle Skellenger, recommends the club to those wanting to know more about the profession.

“I have wanted to be an optometrist since seventh grade. Now that I found other people who want to do what I want to do, I would recommend it to other people who are interested in health care because nobody thinks about your eyes. We take our vision for granted,” said Skellenger.

The pre-optometry club is ready to help students majoring in different programs with their career goals. It is not necessary to be a member of a pre-optometry program to join discussions within the club. To learn more about the meeting times, reach out to nicole.kaupa@mnsu.edu.

◀ DFL TOUR from page 1

State Auditor Julie Blaha, and Attorney General Keith Ellison. They were joined by incumbent State Sen. Nick Frentz of district 19, State Rep. Luke Frederick of district 19B and First District Congressional candidate Jeff Ettinger, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar also attended.

“I believe there will not be one student at this college who has not voted in this election.

They will be voting for reducing student loan debt, being able to afford medications that keep us alive and a better life for all of us,” Ellison said. “We have got to be the folks who will talk to our neighbors, our friends and family and let them know that it is absolutely important.”

Minnesota has ranked No. 1 in the U.S. with the highest voter turnout for the past three

DFL TOUR on page 4▶

Pelosi opens up on husband's attack

By LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi held back tears speaking Monday for the first time about being awakened by pounding on the door as Capitol Police rushed to tell her about the assault on her husband at the family's home in San Francisco.

“I was very scared,” Pelosi told CNN in an interview. “I'm thinking my children, my grandchildren. I never thought it would be Paul.”

On the eve of the midterm elections, the Democratic leader is opening up about the brutal attack, as her party is struggling against a surge of Republican enthusiasm to keep control of Congress at a time of rising threats of violence against lawmakers and concerns over the U.S. election.

Pelosi's husband, Paul, was bludgeoned with a hammer 11 days before the election by an intruder authorities said broke into the family's San Francisco and was looking for the speaker before striking the 82-year-old in the head at least once. The intruder told police he wanted



JEFF CHIU • Associated Press

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, middle, is escorted to a vehicle outside of her and husband Paul Pelosi's home in San Francisco where he was attacked with a hammer on the morning of Oct. 28

to talk to Speaker Pelosi and would “break her kneecaps” as a lesson to other Democrats. Paul Pelosi suffered a fractured skull and other injuries in what authorities said was an intentional political attack.

Pelosi said she was sleeping at her apartment in Washington, having just returned from San Francisco, when there was a “bang, bang, bang, bang,

bang,” on her door. It was about 5 a.m. on the morning of Oct. 28.

“We didn't even know where he was or what his condition was,” Pelosi said, in excerpts of the interview that is scheduled to air later Monday. “We just knew there was an assault on him in our home.”

David DePape, 42, is being held without bail in California.

◀ SIT-IN from page 1

of the ways MSU could further address homophobia issues on campus is by expanding safe spaces for students along with having faculty and staff indicate they're allies and resources to students.

“There's a feeling that the LGBT center is the only place where people feel comfortable and safe feeling out as queer. It feels like centers around cam-

pus are isolated pockets of acceptance,” Novak said. “When you're in the wider campus atmosphere, it feels that there's less of the safety net and not the same amount of solidarity and support.”

Freshman Harvey Buchanan came to the event to show solidarity with the LGBT community. He said that small events like sit-ins help advocate for a bigger cause by drawing eyes to

the issue.

“We had somebody walking by come in and sit down with us and I feel that's a big thing that we're getting people's attention,” Buchanan said. “It's a way for us to raise consciousness.”

One of the attendees was Henry Morris, the vice president of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, who sat with the

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Russian businessman messed with elections

Associated Press

Kremlin-connected entrepreneur Yevgeny Prigozhin admitted Monday that he had interfered in U.S. elections and would continue to do so — confirming for the first time the accusations that he has rejected for years.

“We have interfered, are interfering and will continue to interfere. Carefully, precisely, surgically and in our own way,” Prigozhin said in remarks posted on social media.

The statement, from the press service of his catering company that earned him the nickname “Putin’s chef,” came on the eve of U.S. midterm elections in response to a request for comment.

It was the second major admission in recent months by the 61-year-old businessman who has ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Prigozhin has previously sought to keep his activities under the radar and now appears increasingly interested in gaining political clout. In September, he also publicly stated that he was behind the Wagner Group mercenary force — something he also had previously denied — and talked openly about



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO • Associated Press

Businessman Yevgeny Prigozhin, an entrepreneur known as “Putin’s chef” because of his catering contracts with the Kremlin, has admitted he interfered in U.S. elections and says he will continue to do so.

its involvement in Russia’s 8-month-old war in Ukraine.

The military contractor also has sent its forces to places like Syria and sub-Saharan Africa.

Video also has emerged recently of a man resembling Prigozhin visiting Russian penal colonies to recruit prisoners to fight in Ukraine.

In 2018, Prigozhin and a dozen other Russian nationals and three Russian companies were charged in the U.S. with operating a covert social media

campaign aimed at fomenting discord and dividing American public opinion ahead of the 2016 presidential election won by Republican Donald Trump.

They were indicted as part of special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russian election interference.

Last week, Wagner opened a business center in St. Petersburg, which Prigozhin has described as a platform for “increasing the defense capabilities” of Russia.

◀**SIT-IN** from page 3

students to show support. He stressed that students should know they are not standing alone.

“I think it’s important that people who believe in the message of the institution are willing to publicly stand up, especially during times when a lot

of people don’t believe in those issues,” Morris said.

Berg said she wants MSU to connect on-campus students with those who live elsewhere in hopes of raising awareness about incidents that occur on campus.

“You’re not going to scare us. We’re here, we’re queer and

we’re allowed to feel safe and supported at this school,” Berg said. “No matter what people do, we’re not going to back down.”

The College of Democrats will be partnering with the LGBT Center to host a march 12-2 p.m. Thursday.



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Associate Professor Dani Scott created the Equity Engagement space to be a welcoming space for students and faculty to converse.

◀**EQUITY** from page 1

who are members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion task force, attended the open house celebrating the space’s completion and said they are looking forward to using the room for their meetings.

Bryce Mergens is one such graduate who said the group is “trying to make things more culturally responsive,” and needs a designated space to make plans to meet this goal.

“I think for us especially we think this is a really good safe space. We have a grad lab for our whole cohort, but I think this will be really nice especially for our meetings. Because it’s not always the most comfortable topic to talk about; diversity, equity and inclusion,” Mergens said.

Fellow graduate student Brittney Cooper said she is “excited” to see her group as well as others who want to educate themselves on diversity issues utilizing this space.

“I’m really excited for this

space and I think that it will be beneficial for everyone because it’s not just the Communication Sciences and Disorders room. It’s for all of the Allied Health and Nursing, so I really hope that people will gravitate towards the room,” she said.

Rebeca Alvarez is another graduate student and DEI task force member who said she looks forward to the different uses the room will provide.

“I think it will be used for a variety of things, honestly. It’s a nice space to kind of relax after a long day. It’s helpful that we have books in there that (promote) diversity, but it’s also helpful for people that are not people of color to learn more about diversity, equity and inclusion and that’s a good space to do it,” Alvarez said.

Some titles include “Two Moms and Me” by Michael Joosten, “This is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the

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Last total lunar eclipse for three years arrives Tuesday



TED S. WARREN • Associated Press

A Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022 total lunar eclipse will be visible throughout North America in the predawn hours — the farther west, the better — and across Asia, Australia and the rest of the Pacific after sunset.

By MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

Better catch the moon's disappearing act Tuesday — there won't be another like it for three years. The total lunar eclipse will be visible throughout North America in the predawn hours — the farther west, the better — and across Asia, Australia and the rest of

the Pacific after sunset. Totality will last nearly 1 1/2 hours — from 5:16 a.m. to 6:41 a.m. EST — as Earth passes directly between the moon and sun. Known as a blood moon, it will appear a reddish-orange from the light of Earth's sunsets and sunrises. At the peak of the eclipse, the moon will be 242,740 miles away.

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years. Elected officials predict the same this year according to KARE-11 TV in the Twin Cities.

"Minnesota is going to stand up for people who are attacking our democracy. It starts right here in Mankato so let's get this ticket over the finish line and move our state

forward," Klobuchar said.

One major challenge on the horizon for this year's midterm winners is what to do with the \$9 billion budget surplus.

Walz announced he plans to give a portion back to Minnesotans directly through stimulus checks, according to CBS Minnesota.

Kyiv prepares for winter with no heat

By SAM MEDNICK
Associated Press

The mayor of Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, is warning residents that they must prepare for the worst this winter if Russia keeps striking the country's energy infrastructure — and that means having no electricity, water or heat in the freezing cold cannot be ruled out.

"We are doing everything to avoid this. But let's be frank, our enemies are doing everything for the city to be without heat, without electricity, without water supply, in general, so we all die. And the future of the country and the future of each of us depends on how prepared we are for different situations," Mayor Vitali Klitschko told state media.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address to the nation Sunday that about 4.5 million people were without electricity. He called on Ukrainians to endure the hardships and "we must get through this winter and be even stronger in



ANDREW KRAVCHENKO • Associated Press

A man sits in a cafe during a blackout in Kyiv, Ukraine, Friday, Nov. 4, 2022. With winter fast approaching, several residents may be without heat or electricity to keep them warm for several months.

the spring than now."

Russia has focused on striking Ukraine's energy infrastructure over the last month, causing power shortages and rolling outages across the country. Kyiv was having hourly rotating blackouts Sunday in parts of the city and the surrounding region.

Rolling blackouts also were planned in the Chernihiv, Cherkasy, Zhytomyr, Sumy, Kharkiv and Poltava regions, Ukraine's state-owned energy operator, Ukrenergo, said.

Kyiv plans to deploy about 1,000 heating points, but it's unclear if that would be enough for a city of 3 million people.

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World" by Matt Lamothe and "We Should All Be Feminists" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

There are fiction and nonfiction books for children as well as adults. The children's books are for Communication Sciences and Disorders students to familiarize themselves with for children's therapy. Scott hopes faculty will use items for book clubs and educate themselves on their inclusive messaging.

"I know that Dani had two-

fold types of books that she was looking for. She was looking for books that faculty could use, books that could be part of book club discussions," Mahowald said. "But we also have books that are for children to look at, too. So multicultural books that will be helpful for those of us who work with children to actually see those books prior to using them, or be inspired to go purchase their own for whatever other settings they're working in."

Scott said she wanted to en-

sure the books were educational and promoted diversity without being stereotypical.

"We wanted them to be about equity, but also intersectionality. So not just books about race, but books about gender equity, disability, all kinds of stuff," Scott said. "I just hope it gets used as often as possible. I mean our (DEI task force), last year, we met on Zoom because we had to. So I would love for us to be able to meet in person in that room and just have conversations."

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US voters fret about democracy, polarization

By GARY FIELDS,
GILLIAN FLACCUS and
MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press

American voters are fractured politically and culturally ahead of Election Day, and they are anxious about where their country is heading — on inflation, abortion, immigration, crime, and much more.

They also sense something more fundamental at stake at a time of rising mistrust of institutions and each other: the future of democracy.

Some Americans remain hopeful, but a fretful outlook emerges from interviews with more than two dozen Democratic, Republican and unaffiliated voters before Tuesday's midterm elections — the first since followers of former President Donald Trump tried to halt the certification of President Joe Biden's 2020 victory.

These midterm elections are also the first since the Supreme Court took away a woman's constitutional right to terminate a pregnancy, leaving the matter to states.

"This election is hugely consequential," said Edward Foley, a professor at Ohio State University who directs its election-law program. "It's a question of where our democracy is



CHARLIE RIEDEL • Associated Press

Tony Bergida looks over an electronic ballot while voting early at a polling place, in Kansas. Bergida, a 27-year-old father of two and the chair of the Kansas Young Republicans, said the top issue on his mind was the economy.

and how we are doing with our collective self-governance."

Midterms are always important because a switch in control of the House or Senate can stunt the plans of a sitting president. Control of Congress could also affect various investigations into

Trump, including his role in the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection.

Dozens of statewide candidates have said the 2020 election was stolen; some running for positions that validate elections have refused to say if they will certify the 2024 results.

And there are already more than 100 legal challenges against this year's election.

The United States has stood at the precipice before. Not long after Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860, 11 states withdrew from the nation and the Civil

War began.

Ultimately, Foley said, the election turns on a question: "Can we actually build the system and produce accurate, honest outcomes, and will enough people believe them?"

Here is a sampling of what voters had to say about democracy and other issues:

COLLEGE STUDENT 'MOTIVATED TO CHANGE THINGS'

Brian Montes' Mexican-born parents told him that America is "a shining city on a hill" and urged him to take his responsibility as a U.S. citizen seriously.

Montes, 21, is majoring in political science at Portland State University, and will vote this election for the second time in his life. Montes was appalled to see election deniers attempt to overturn President Biden's victory. For him, democracy is on the ballot this November.

"Protecting our democracy truly is ... paramount. We can't really fix climate change, we can't, you know, help the health care system, we can't bring relief to students across this country until we have faith in our democracy," he said.

Montes, who is gay, also worries that political beliefs are now such a part of personal identity that it's almost impossible to separate politics from hate.

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How to fill out the Student Loan Forgiveness Application

The student loan forgiveness application has been active for about a month giving millions in the U.S. hope for their bank accounts.

Student debt has been an increasing issue within the last decade with inflation speculated to be the cause.

In the 1980s the average tuition cost was estimated at around \$3,400; today the average is about \$23,000 according to a study by informationstation.org.

It is no secret that eligible students take out thousands each school year to help pay for tuition through The Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA].

The Student Loan Debt Relief application would forgive up to \$20,000 in student debt for pell-grant recipients and \$10,000 for other recipients.

Do I qualify? We as students most likely have taken out student loans through FAFSA, and if you or your parents made less than \$125,000 in the 2020-21 year, you may qualify.

How can I apply? Filling out the online application takes less than 10 minutes at <https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief/application>. All the information you need to apply is the full name of the lender, social security number and date of birth along with a phone number and email address. Make sure you fill out your information on a secure website as private information will be stated.

After applying you will get a confirmation email stating you submitted your application.

Students will have to wait until the status of approval or deny. The government will ultimately decide how much money to allocate.

Whether it is a few hundred or a few thousand, this application is for those who seek aid in paying off their loans.

This application, created by the Biden-Harris administration, aims to relieve student debt for the middle class as part of a three-part plan to help students who borrowed government money to repay their debts.

Step one aims to extend the loan pause a final time through Dec. 31, 2022 with payments resuming in January 2023. The second will provide targeted debt relief to low-income and middle-class citizens with this application. The third will make the student loan system easier to navigate and manage for future and current borrowers.

We as students need to take advantage of this opportunity as inflation continues to rise and the cost of education is at a high.

For more specific details you can visit <https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief/application>. Apply for student loan debt relief no later than Dec. 31, 2023.

Perspectives

Made in China: Life after college



By **JULIA BARTON**
Editor in Chief

The closer I get to graduating the closer I will finally experience what it is like to exist outside of the world of being a full-time student.

As someone who has been enrolled in school almost my whole life, I have never experienced what it is like to not be a student 24/7. As a student, pretty much every aspect of your life is planned.

You wake up, go to school, do homework or work and then repeat. As a student, you live for the summers since that's your only time to truly relax along with holidays, which are centered around the winter months where you can enjoy the long break during the middle of the school year.

However, in the real world, there is no summer vacation and certainly no

winter break. This idea of working forever until my late sixties terrifies me.

After speaking to some of my friends who bravely found out what is on the other side post-grad, I have become even more anxious about what is to come after May.

I feel like nobody truly shares what life is like post-graduation. There are no sports games on the weekends, living with your college roommates, or spaces designed to socialize and network that a university or school uniquely offers. Most of the time you are eating alone, going to the store alone and going about your life alone.

To my friends who have landed on the other side, I always presumed that post-grad life was amazing. No homework, no noisy roommates and complete freedom.

But to my surprise, many have told me that initially, post-grad life is very lonely. Trying to find where you fit in without a student identity is something that many of them have struggled with and coming to terms with the fact they are now an adult who is responsible for budgeting their finances and maintaining a real job.

As someone who is graduating a year earlier than expected, I feel like my time spent at Minnesota State has been cut short. I came here in the fall of 2020 when all social events were canceled, classes were remote and meaningful connections between my peers and my professors were almost non-existent.

Graduating high school during a pandemic to now going through college in such an isolated environment was

COLUMN on page 7

Pulse

“Why should students vote in elections?”

Compiled by *Ajay Kasaudhan*



BRITNEY O,
SOPHOMORE

“Students deserve a voice.”



AHMED ALAHMARI,
SENIOR

“It’s our opportunity.”



NOAH THIESFELD,
SENIOR

“If you don’t vote, you can’t complain about who’s in office.”



CRISSTILL DUASO,
SOPHOMORE

“Students have the power to choose someone that represents the people well.”



CHIAPP LYNDA ALLEPO,
SENIOR

“They can voice themselves and they have power to choose their representative.”



TYLER SKOGSTAD,
FRESHMAN

“They can have their voices, ideas and opinions heard.”

Banned book lesson turned campaign

By SEAN MURPHY
Associated Press

Summer Boismier was living her childhood dream. She grew up a bookworm, became a high school English teacher, and filled both her classroom and home with her favorite literature.

She taught her students: “Stories are what is fundamental about the human experience. We all have them.”

Boismier especially loves the fantasy genre, a passion sprouted from childhood favorite “Harry Potter.” But even in a world of fantasy, she couldn’t have dreamed that a lesson from her English class would land her in the center of a vigorous statewide political campaign and turn her into a target for candidates and voters on social media.

Over the past two years, the nine-year teaching veteran was growing alarmed with the Republican-controlled Oklahoma Legislature’s increasing efforts to restrict access to books in public schools.

In her classroom, she covered some bookshelves with red butcher tape and labeled them “Books the state doesn’t want you to read.” She gave students a QR code link to the Brooklyn Public Library, which provides access to a variety of banned books.

She hoped to spark a discus-



SEAN MURPHY • Associated Press

Former Norman High School English teacher Summer Boismier found herself at the center of a political firestorm in Oklahoma after providing the QR code to her students and ultimately left her teaching job.

sion about the legislators’ book restrictions and a new law prohibiting lessons on critical race theory and other concepts about race and gender. Instead, she was summoned to a meeting with school administrators after a parent complained.

A firestorm erupted as Boismier resigned and a reporter covered the story. The state’s Republican candidate for superintendent of public schools, Ryan Walters, wrote a letter to the State Board of Education calling for Boismier’s teaching license to be revoked.

“There is no place for a teacher with a liberal political

agenda in the classroom,” Walters wrote in the letter he then tweeted and sent to reporters, even accusing Boismier of providing access to “pornographic material.” The incident gained traction on social media, and people claimed she was part of a larger movement of teachers indoctrinating students with liberal ideology.

Boismier, 34, and other teachers have found themselves at the center of a renewed conservative interest in public education as a political issue.

The movement gained steam with parents opposing mask mandates and other COVID-19 measures.

◀COLUMN from page 6

something I never anticipated. However, I do think my feat of overcoming loneliness is something my peers have collectively overcome and thus have bat-

tled since the pandemic started.

Nevertheless, I suppose only time will tell after I step across that stage for the first time.

The only comforting piece is

that this time I actually get to walk across a real stage in person and know that I made it to the other side despite what is waiting for me.

Jackson, in dissent, issues first Supreme Court opinion



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE • Associated Press

Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson stands as she and members of the Supreme Court pose for a new group portrait following her addition, at the Supreme Court building in Washington D.C.

By MARK SHERMAN and
JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press

New Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson issued her first Supreme Court opinion Monday, a short dissent in support of a death row inmate from Ohio.

Jackson wrote that she would have thrown out lower court rulings in the case of Ohio inmate Davel Chinn, whose lawyers argued that the state suppressed evidence that might have altered the outcome of his trial.

The two-page opinion came on the same day the high court was hearing cases that are part of a wider dispute over the power of the federal government. In her dissent, Jackson wrote that she would have ordered a new look at Chinn’s

case “because his life is on the line and given the substantial likelihood that the suppressed records would have changed the outcome at trial.” The evidence at issue indicated that a key witness against Chinn has an intellectual disability that might have affected his memory and ability to testify accurately, she wrote.

Prosecutors are required to turn over potentially exculpatory evidence to the defense. In this case, lower courts determined that the outcome would not have been affected if the witness’ records had been provided to Chinn’s lawyers.

Chinn’s lawyers said in a statement after his case was rejected that: “Ohio must not exacerbate the mistakes of the past by pursuing Mr. Chinn’s execution.”

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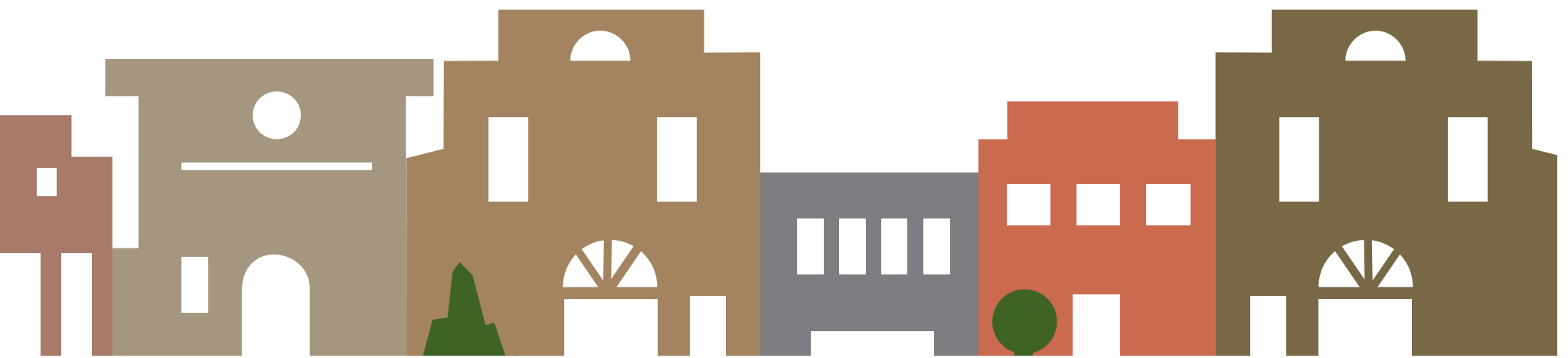
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SPORTS

Men's basketball handles Gustavus Adolphus in exhibition

By HAYDEN LEE
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State Mavericks started their season off hot Thursday with an exhibition game win against Gustavus Adolphus. In their first meeting since 1988, the Mavericks dominated the Golden Gusties, 100-58.

The energy from the Mavericks and their fans was evident, and this game was everything they could have asked for in their unofficial home opener.

The Mavericks debuted a starting lineup that included a backcourt of Trevor Moore and Malik Willingham, wings Brady Williams and Kyrese Willingham, and Kelby Kramer at center.

Kramer won the tip and, with that, the Mavs were off. In their first possession, senior transfer Moore knocked down a three-pointer off a rebound from Kramer to give the Mavs their first points of the season. The Mavs never lost the lead.

Texas native Moore has played four seasons in the NCAA ranks, two seasons with the University of Cincinnati Bearcats and two with the Morgan State University Bears. He showed confidence in his shot Thursday, introducing himself to the Mavericks and their fans to the tune of four threes and did not shy away from pulling the trigger on his shots.

Junior M. Willingham brought the energy on the defensive end early and often, getting in the passing lanes and disrupting the Golden Gusties' offense all night. Picking up five steals on the night, M. Willingham was the catalyst for defense leading to transition offense and easy points for the Mavs. However, it was his fluidity and confidence on the offensive end that stood out from M. Willingham. He picked up a majority of his points from beyond the arc, and was on fire from deep in the second half.

While M. Willingham and Moore were lighting it up from deep, sophomore forward Williams showed a lot of offensive talent him-



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Minnesota State Football team takes the win 45-24 against the SMSU Mustangs. Wide receiver DJ Barber (above) made a juggling catch to secure a touchdown just before halftime Saturday.

KEEPING THE STREAK ALIVE

Minnesota State now 20-0 vs Southwest Minnesota state overall

By LUKE JACKSON
Staff Writer

It only took the Minnesota State football team 10 seconds to get on the board Saturday against Southwest Minnesota State. And they never looked back.

The Mavericks blew out SMSU 45-24 to continue their historic win streak Saturday.

MSU sophomore Damian Chowaniec opened the game with the kickoff. SMSU Senior Austin Moore muffed the kick, resulting in Brock Galtich recovering the ball in the endzone. This gave MSU a very early touchdown making it 7-0 with only 10 seconds knocked off the clock.

SMSU head coach Scott

Underwood angrily argued with the refs about the call because Moore claimed he never touched the ball. Because of the lack of replays, the call stood as a muffed ball and the touchdown was given to Galtich.

"You never know what's going to happen and how they're going to make the call," MSU head coach Todd Hoffner said, "but I thought it touched one of their players, and obviously their player thought he didn't touch it."

Following this, SMSU drove the ball down to the Mavs goal line and was stopped on a fourth down resulting in a turnover on downs. Mankato's first offensive play of the game was an 85-yard receiving play bringing senior wide

receiver Nyles Williams into the back of the endzone while the Mavs took a 14-0 lead in the first four minutes.

"Nyles got off to an electric start after the muffed or mishandled kickoff return by Southwest Minnesota State," Hoffner said.

SMSU put its first points on the scoreboard with a 23-yard field goal from Carter Dicker. The next drive for Mankato started and ended as quickly as the last, but this time did yield a touchdown. Quarterback Hayden Ekern threw an interception to open his second drive. In two offensive plays, Mankato recorded one touchdown and one interception and still found themselves up by 11 in the first quar-

FOOTBALL on page 13 ►

Women's Soccer falls to Minot in shootout

By CHARLIE GROEBNER
Staff Writer

As a reigning champion, it's one thing to reach the top of the mountain; however, it is even harder to defend the title. This was the case Friday for the Minnesota State women's soccer team after losing to Minot State Beavers in a shootout.

During regulation play, neither side generated any offense. The true stars of the game were the goalkeepers.

Senior goalkeeper Macken-



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

The Minnesota State Women's Soccer team played their final home game Friday. Jenny Vetter (above) was awarded the Outstanding Senior Award.

MSU remain undefeated at home, sweep Tommies

By KARSON BUELOW
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Minnesota State University men's hockey team got to experience its first taste of traveling mid-series as they swept the University of St. Thomas in a home-and-home matchup.

Freshman forward Luc Wilson shone Friday night, potting his first two career collegiate goals in the Mavericks' 7-2 victory over the Tommies. Junior forward David Silye continued his strong career against the Tommies Saturday night as he tallied his second career hat trick en route to a 4-3 Maverick win.

The Mavericks got out to a quick start Friday as senior forward Brendan Furry got his team on the board just under five minutes into the game. Not long after, freshman forward Christian Fitzgerald tallied his first career collegiate goal with a snipe from the right hashmark to extend the Maverick lead to 2-0.

About three minutes later, St. Thomas cut the Minnesota State lead in half after freshman forward Cooper Gay potted his first collegiate goal with a wrist shot from the left circle. The goals came in quickly during the first period and Minnesota State carried the 2-1 lead heading into the second.

The Mavericks and Tommies fueled a hard-fought second period with neither team being able to cash in a goal during the first 13 minutes of action. Almost 14 minutes into the second period, the Tommies tied the game up at 2-2 as Gay buried a rebound past Maverick goaltender Alex Tracy for his second goal of the game.

Minnesota State and St. Thomas took a 2-2 tie heading into the final period of play. It didn't take long for the Mavericks to break the tie as junior forward Ondrej Pavel tallied his second goal of the season and gave his team the important 3-2 lead.

Maverick goals came in bunches during the final frame as the team scored three goals in just over three



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

The Mavericks secured the win 4-3 against St. Thomas Saturday, continuing a four-game win streak. In the first period, David Silye received a hat trick and Lucas Sowder (above) got the game winner in period three.

◀**MHOCKEY** from page 10
minutes including Wilson's first career collegiate goal. Wilson tallied the Mavericks' seventh goal of the night on the powerplay with just under 10 minutes left in the third.

Minnesota State went on to defeat St. Thomas by a final score of 7-2. The Mavericks and Tommies then shifted the tides back to Mankato for the series finale on Saturday night.

Tracy got the start in net Saturday night for his first back-to-back appearance since Minnesota State's series against Minnesota Duluth. St. Thomas was the first to get on the board Saturday night as freshman forward Jake Braccini wired a harmless wrist shot from the left circle that beat Tracy for a 1-0 lead.

Just over two minutes later Silye beat Tommie goaltender Ethan Roberts high on the glove side for his fifth of the year and making it 1-1. Nearly five minutes later, Silye potted his second goal of the game into a wide-open net on the powerplay which brought the Maverick lead to 2-1.

With a glimpse of déjà vu, Silye potted his third goal of the game on the powerplay just over five minutes later for the natural hat trick and gave the Mavericks a 3-1 lead. Silye now has two career hat

tricks against St. Thomas including last year's hat trick outdoors during Hockey Day Minnesota.

"It seems to be one of those teams where the puck bounces right for me," Silye said. "So I'm just gonna keep rolling with it and not overthink it."

The Maverick lead was cut to 3-2 under two minutes later as senior forward Luke Manning beat Tracy top-shelf from the high slot. With just under a minute remaining in the first period, St. Thomas appeared to have tied the game up at 3-3 as freshman forward Lucas Wahlin beat Tracy clean, but Minnesota State elected to challenge the goal for a potential offsides prior to the goal. After a long discussion from the referees, the goal was overturned and Minnesota State took a 3-2 lead heading into the second frame.

After a wild first period that saw several reviews for major penalties and goals and took almost an hour to complete, the Mavericks and Tommies returned to the ice for the second period. Despite the drama-filled first, both teams were unable to add to the scoresheet during the second.

Nearly a minute into the third period, the Mavericks appeared to have tallied their fourth goal of the game as

senior forward Lucas Sowder tapped the loose puck into the yawning cage for a 4-2 lead. But as the story of the game would entail, the Tommies challenged the goal for a missed call prior to the goal, but with no success.

The teams battled in a hard back-and-forth third period, but the Tommies broke through with roughly eight minutes left to go. Minnesota State challenged the goal but had no success as freshman forward Luc Laylin cut the lead to 4-3.

St. Thomas pulled its goalie with just over two minutes left as they looked for the game-tying goal. Minnesota State's defense came up strong as they kept St. Thomas off the board and cruised to a 4-3 victory, earning the series sweep.

"Odd game. Not a lot of flow to it," MSU Head Coach Mike Hastings said. "I gotta give credit to St. Thomas because Rico is doing a really good job over there. It was a hard-fought win and it's tough to sweep."

With their series sweep over the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota State improved to 7-3-0 on the season and remains undefeated in conference play at 4-0-0. The Mavericks will have an off-week before returning home Nov. 18 -19 to host Northern Michigan.

Mavericks take home two wins against Sacred Heart



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Minnesota State swept Sacred Heart last weekend at home 4-1 & 5-1.

By KOLE BUELOW
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State women's hockey team has officially caught fire in recent weeks, winning five of their last six while improving to 5-7-0 overall. The rough start to the season now seems to be a thing of the past, as the Mavericks cruised to 4-1 and 5-1 wins over Sacred Heart University this past weekend.

With two sweeps and a series split with Bemidji State just a week ago, the Mavericks are finding their stride. Junior forward Jamie Nelson attributed the team's recent success to many things, but most importantly, teamwork.

"We're getting a little bit of flow with our lines right now," explained Nelson. "In the beginning, they were being changed. When I came back from my injury, they had to change. We're just learning how each other plays and getting comfortable with that which has helped in capitalizing on the opportunities we're getting."

With nine total goals in two games this past weekend, the Mavericks scored their highest series total against Sacred Heart. The bulk of Minne-

sota State's scoring came off Nelson's stick, but senior defenseman Charlotte Akervik and freshman forward Taylor Otremba also found a pair of goals of their own.

The three Mavericks were recognized for their efforts this past series, each earning some sort of honor in the weekly Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) awards listing. Akervik earned WCHA defenseman of the week, while Nelson and Otremba were each runner-up for forward and rookie of the week respectively.

Akervik, Nelson and Otremba totaled seven of the nine Maverick goals against Sacred Heart, each scoring in unique ways. However, Nelson explained that Minnesota State may have stressed an important detail when shooting on the Pioneers' goaltender.

"Our coaches were stressing to shoot far pad," explained Nelson. "Usually that leads to a rebound. We were trying to get it there and as you saw, the goalie couldn't control them so it led to, I think, three rebound goals."

Despite prolific scoring this weekend, the Mavericks struggled to stay out of the penal-

WHOCKEY on page 13 ▶

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16th-ranked women's cross country team continues historic season

By HAYDEN LEE
Staff Writer

This season has been a historic one for the Minnesota State women's cross country team. As a collective, the Mavericks are ranked third in the Central Region and have moved up to 16th in the recent Division II coaches' poll.

The Mavericks, who finished first at the Bob Waxlax Invitational Meet Oct. 19, have trended in the right direction as of late.

They began the year with a third-place finish at the Augie Twilight (98 points), seventh at the Roy Griak Invitational (198) and second at the Lucian Rosa Invitational (59).

The team is led by NSIC Outstanding Senior of the Year Amanda Montplaisir, who has finished third, first, and second in three competitions this season.

However, this team prides itself on how devoted they are as a unit, and it shows in their teamwork.

"It's extra special to be a part of a team, it becomes easier to work towards an end goal when you know you have a role on your team," said Montplaisir. "It has been a long-time coming, and I feel like all of us have our individual goals that will lead us to our end goal of Nationals."

The Mavericks possess runners who love being a part of a team, and it is easy to see why. With the exception of the Roy Griak Invitational, the Mavericks have had at least two runners finish top 10 in their races, including an incredible five run-



Courtesy of MSU Athletics

The team is led by NSIC Outstanding Senior of the Year Amanda Montplaisir, who has finished third, first, and second in three competitions this season.

ners finishing top eight in the Bob Waxlax Invitational.

The other Mavericks making a name for themselves this year include junior McKenna Thurston, sophomore Emily Cunningham, senior Mackenzie Gaherty, and sophomore Makayla Bishop.

"They each have their own piece of the puzzle that when you put them together, it clicks,"

said Mavericks head coach Jen Blue. "They have been doing the little things, taking care of their bodies, progressing nicely, and if we keep doing what we are doing, good things are going to happen."

Blue is in her 14th season at the helm of the Mavericks' women's cross country and has hit her stride as of late.

In the 2021 season, the pro-

gram finished fourth in the NSIC Championships, and eleventh in the NCAA Regionals. Blue said the group of women on this year's has the potential to be the best team in Mavericks history.

"We have a really good team culture, we keep each other grounded and support each other through and through and good things have come so far," said Thurston.

This group of runners is at the height of their game so far this season, with a second-place finish at the NSIC Championship in Wayne, Nebraska Sunday, the best ever by Minnesota State.

"We have a really good team culture, we keep each other grounded and support each other through and through and good things have come so far," said Thurston.

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◀**FOOTBALL** from page 10

ter. “We needed to take care of the ball better, throwing an interception right away isn’t going to help our defense at all,” Hoffner said.

MSU’s defense saw the field for the majority of the first quarter due to the one-and-done plays by the offense. This allowed SMSU to wear down the Mavs and find a series of scoring opportunities.

SMSU had two receiving touchdowns thrown to tight end Dustin Pampel in the first half. The first was an 11-yard

pass and the second a 20-yard pass making the score 17-14.

MSU matched these touchdowns with a 54-yard touchdown from Williams. The second touchdown came on the last play of the half when Ekern found DJ Barber open in the endzone for an 8-yard touchdown.

“That was a gigantic nail in the coffin right?” Hoffner said, “The was only 21-17 prior to that and Hayden threw a touchdown pass with no time left on the clock. Think about the first and last plays of the half, both touchdowns.”

This final touchdown for Mankato was the beginning of the end for Southwest Minnesota as the end score of the game was 45-24. The Mavs have never lost a game to SMSU and now hold a historic record of 20-0.

MSU is now in a four-way tie in the NSIC with a record of 8-2 with one game remaining. Mankato looks to face Winona State next which may decide who wins the NSIC.

“I think we can play better and I think a lot of guys are looking forward to the next game,” Hoffner said.

◀**SOCCKER** from page 10

zie Rath continued her dominant streak that has lasted all season. Even in defeat, the native of Pierre, South Dakota recorded her eleventh regular-season shutout to match her career high from last season. Head Coach Brian Bahl sang praise for her performance even after the defeat.

“She’s incredible, I think that she’s one of the best goalkeepers in all of Division II. She came up big when we needed her, and you really could not ask any more of her after that,” said Bahl.

As for the Beavers, they also had outstanding play from senior goalkeeper Maddie Kinnard, who stopped all eleven of the shots on goal

and survived a lopsided 24-8 shot differential.

After regulation, both sides were unable to score. It required extra time which resulted in more outstanding defense and still no score from either side.

After going into the shootout, both sides sent out their best units to try and secure a spot in the NSIC finals. The Beavers jumped out early with two goals, but the Mavericks responded with two back-to-back scores. After scoring once more, Minot State scored two game-winners to end the Mavericks run and season.

After the loss, Coach Bahl credited the team for their performance.

“I think Minot is a very strong defensive team. They were good at making quality shots incredibly difficult, they have a strong goalkeeper and strong backline. I thought the first half they did a great job limiting us; second half we made some changes to get a flat foot. But in the end, it was just hard to execute and score,” Bahl said.

Although their NSIC defense was not successful, the team isn’t done yet. With a record of 14-1-5, they still have a chance competing in the NCAA tournament. As of this moment, all that the team can do is wait and find out if they will be in the 32-team gauntlet, and who their opponent will be.

◀**MBASKETBALL** from page 10

self, showing off his concentration around the rim and finishing well through contact. He also found success on the defensive end, forcing countless turnovers and starting fast breaks that led to Maverick points.

As for Kramer, his impact may not have shown up on the stat sheet, but his sheer presence in the paint gave the Golden Gusties fits as they tried to run their offense through the post.

He and M. Willingham also brought Lob City to the Taylor Center, with Kramer finishing off some greatly placed lobbs from Willingham with two dunks.

In the exhibition match, 15 players took the court for the Mavericks and made the most of their minutes. A pair

of sophomores in guard Harrison Braudis and forward Tyrell Stuttley added 8 points each and look forward to bigger roles this season. The freshmen duo of Malcolm Jones and Hamahrie Bowers brought energy and excitement to the arena with some highlight plays. The 6’8” Jones knocked down a pair of threes and blocked two Golden Gustie shot attempts. Meanwhile, Bowers capped off the win with a steal and an exclamation point of a dunk to put the Mavericks in triple figures for the night.

Regarding their performance, head coach Matthew Margenthaler was impressed by their ability to play as a team.

“One stat that stuck out in my mind was that we had 26 assists to 8 turnovers,” said

Margenthaler. “That’s team basketball and that’s how we have to play. We have to be selfless, and if we do that, we are going to be okay.”

With an entertaining, action-packed night in the Taylor Center, basketball is officially back.

The Mavericks look ahead to five straight road games, with the next one coming in Kansas City, Missouri, where they will take on the Missouri Southern Lions.

Game time for the Mavericks and Lions is set for 1 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11.

“It was great to be back in the Taylor Center, for us to have an exhibition before the regular season gets going is big,” said Margenthaler. “We aren’t there yet, but we’re getting there.”

◀**WHOCKEY** from page 11

ty box. The team found itself on the penalty kill nine times in two games against Sacred Heart.

However, MSU thrived on the penalty kill going nine for nine while one skater down.

As a member of the penalty kill unit, Nelson could only

thank the team’s mentality for its success.

“We pressured. We didn’t act like we were down a man and we were still fast to the puck. We would go into the corners and battle when it was 50-50. So it was the mentality that we can win battles even though we had one last person

on the ice,” Nelson said.

The Mavericks will play an exhibition match against the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire 6 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center in downtown Mankato.

Vikings come back to beat Commanders for win streak of 6

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
Associated Press

on and keep trying to pull them out in the end here.”

Kirk Cousins got the game ball after leading the Minnesota Vikings to a comeback victory against the team he started his NFL career with, and the first thought that came to his mind was starting a chant with the most famous words from his time with Washington.

“You like that?! You like that?” he and his teammates shouted in the visiting locker room. Cousins and the Vikings are off to their best start since 2009 after rallying to beat the Commanders 20-17 Sunday.

“We’re finding ways to win,” Cousins said. “We grind

Minnesota pulled out this win thanks to two touchdown passes by Cousins, Harrison Smith’s interception of Taylor Heinicke and a go-ahead 28-yard field goal by Greg Joseph with 12 seconds left. He led three fourth-quarter scoring drives to cap off an emotional return that started with pulling into a familiar stadium in an unfamiliar role and ended with smiles.

“It feels great to win in this league,” Cousins said. “I had so many warm memories coming in, and so on the way out, to be able to remember those as well with a win is so much better than after a loss.”

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VARIETY

'The Price is Right' wins over crowd with prizes



By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

"Come on down!" is the catchphrase in one of the most popular game shows on TV, 'The Price is Right.' At MSU Saturday, students and families had the opportunity to play the game themselves.

The game, which was held in Ostrander Auditorium in the CSU, features board games, video games and printed materials. By estimating the cost of the items, contestants compete for cash and prizes.

The set closely matched the well-known TV set, right down to the props that were utilized in the program.

The most recognizable was the huge wheel, spun after the bidding rounds. There were two different showings: one at 7 p.m. and one at 8:30 p.m.

Jaxson Karline, the organizer of this event, is in charge of spirits and traditions for Maverick Traditions at MSU. Karline was responsible for other notable events this semester.

"I did the homecoming bonfire. I'm doing The Price is Right, the ice statue," said Karline.

"Next semester, I am helping with the after-party for the dance marathon put on by



Photos by LILLY ANDERSON

Students had the opportunity to participate in one of two shows resembling 'The Price is Right' over family weekend. Over \$1500 in prizes were given away, the largest one being a brand new TV.

Greek Life."

This was the seventh time this event was held. It did not happen in 2020 due to COVID-19, but returned in 2021 and will likely continue since many gen-

erations are familiar with the game show.

"It happened during family weekend. So, that's why the game show lots of generations grew up on and loved is definite-

ly a good start," said Karline. "When I was a certified nursing assistant, a lot of older people watched the show on their TV. I know I grew up with it, so it connects with students and their

families."

Participants played games on the replica set, including Hole in One, Cliff Hangers and others.

Over \$1500 in prizes were available, ranging from basic household gifts to electronics.

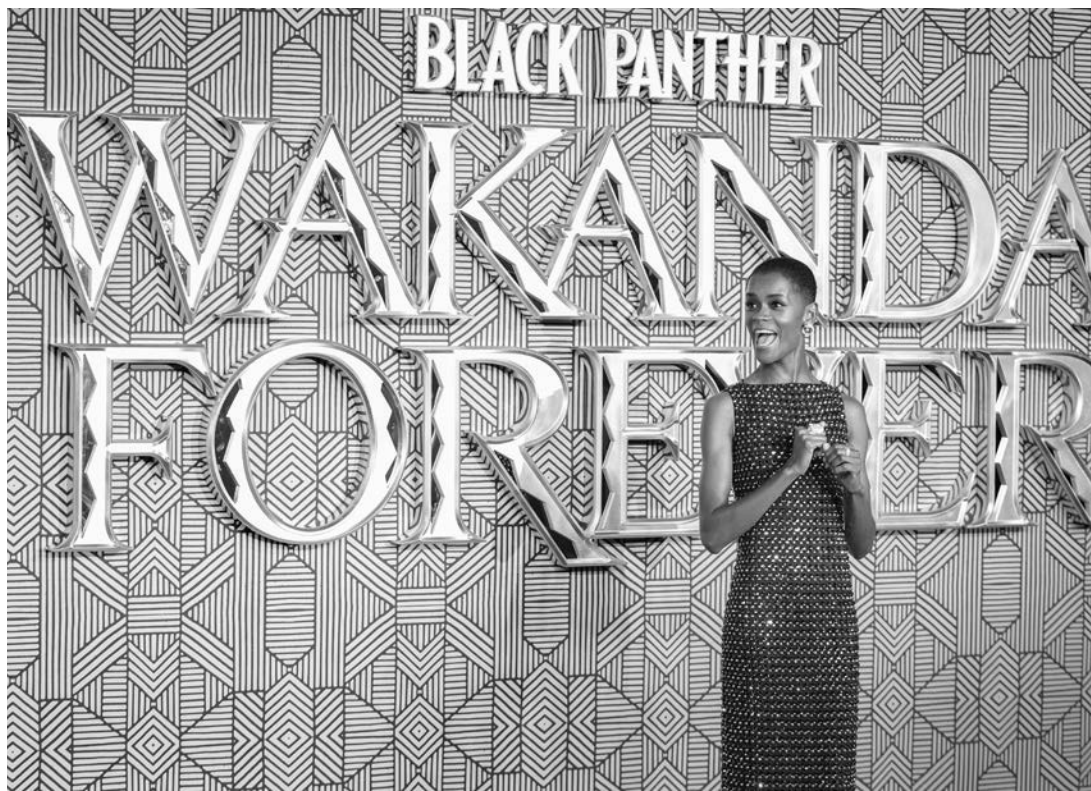
"Some of the prizes that we had was a TV, and then some of the bigger ones was an air fryer. There were also headphones, gift cards and other basic household supplies," said Karline. "We also had about 36 other smaller items, 12 medium items and then like five or six larger items for students and their families to win."

Contestants put their names down while in line for the chance to have their names called instead of being chosen at random, as the TV show does.

"There was a table right at the entrance that they could put their name in because some people wanted to just watch the show while others wanted to play," said Karline. "It closed about 15 minutes before the show started. Before the show started, we pulled out five names from the poll."

Both shows sold out, and there was a standby line for standing-room-only tickets before the shows started.

'Black Panther' cast honors Wakanda forward after Boseman



SCOTT GARFITT • Associated Press

Letitia Wright poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' in London. Wright's character takes center stage after the death of Chadwick Boseman in 2020.

By JONATHAN LANDRUM
Associated Press

Letitia Wright hit the Marvel Cinematic Universe scene as King T'Challa's joyfully witty younger sister in 2018's blockbuster "Black Panther." But in the new sequel, the actor's usual easygoing character delivers a more serious tone while dealing with grief.

Wright's character takes center stage as Shuri who ventures into womanhood after the death of T'Challa. She'll be looked upon to take the iconic Black Panther mantle in "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," which releases in theaters Friday. Chadwick Boseman, who played T'Challa died in August 2020.

In between "Panther" films, Wright took on a few movie projects that exercised her dramatic acting chops.

"I always try to do things that are outside the box and what people wouldn't expect," said Wright, who starred in dramas "The Silent Twins" and "Aisha."

She also stars in "Surrounded," which releases next year. The actor said each of those projects challenged her enough to "stretch me as an artist."

"That naturally helped me grow a lot more," said the actor, whose Shuri character also appeared in "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Avengers: Endgame" as Wakanda's princess and chief scientist. "We know Shuri as the fun, vibrant sister of the first film. ... But in the film, we really followed that journey of womanhood for her."

Wright credits director Ryan Coogler for ushering Shuri's maturation along in his rewritten script following Boseman's unexpected death from colon

cancer. The director carried an even heavier burden to deliver a strong script — especially after "Black Panther" broke box office records, earned \$700 million domestically during its theatrical run and became the first superhero film nominated for best picture at the Academy Awards.

For the "Black Panther" follow, Coogler had developed a screenplay centered around T'Challa grieving lost time following Thanos' snap in "Avengers: Infinity War," which caused a five-year "blip."

But after Boseman's death, Coogler and filmmaker Joe Robert Cole went back to the drawing board. They worked up a script that delved more into the concept of Wakanda's grief in the wake of T'Challa's death.

Coogler said Boseman's family signed off on his character's "respectful" death in "Wakanda Forever."

In the new film, the Wakandans are put in a peculiar spot to protect their nation without T'Challa against a new nemesis, Namor, a sub-marine Talocan leader who has extraordinary mutant-like abilities and can fly with the aid of tiny wings on his ankles. Namor is played by Tenoch Huerta.

"This script was born of the truth in our lives that we had lost Chadwick Boseman," said Lupita Nyong'o, who plays Nakia, a war spy and T'Challa's lover. She said the characters dealt with T'Challa's loss differently in the film.

"For me personally, I was relieved that we got to speak our truth," Nyong'o said. "We got to express the grief that we were feeling and put it to good use."

Wright and Nyong'o said they used their grief over Bose-

man to fuel their performances, while Coogler said his mournful remembrance of the late actor helped motivate him through his writing and directing process.

The director said several photos of Boseman were posted on set, and a prop master put inside Coogler's trailer a shield and spear that T'Challa held during a duel with Michael B. Jordan's Killmonger at Warrior Falls in "Black Panther."

Before filming the project, the entire cast — including the newcomers — visited Boseman's burial site. It turned into a bonding moment.

"We tried to make a movie to honor the legacy of Chadwick," Huerta said. "The movie is about grieving. It was happening at the same time as reality. They were able to integrate what was happening in real life into fiction. Art is kind of therapy. It helped us deal with the reality and things we can't understand."

The cast leaned on each other during the filming process, which had several setbacks and obstacles. Production took longer than expected after Wright was injured while filming a stunt, and several cast and crew members tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

Wright was attacked for sharing an anti-vaccination video, and Coogler was briefly handcuffed by Atlanta police after being mistaken for a bank robber earlier this year.

"We certainly had bumps in the road, but people pulled together," said Nate Moore, the vice president of production and development at Marvel Studios. He was a producer on the "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," "Eternals" and executive producer on "Black Panther."

Singer-rapper Aaron Carter dies in California at age 34



RICH FURY • Associated Press

Singer Aaron Carter the singer-rapper who began performing as a child and had hit albums starting in his teen years, was found dead Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, at his home in Southern California. He was 34.

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER
and ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

Aaron Carter, the singer-rapper who began performing as a child and had hit albums starting in his teen years, was found dead Saturday at his home in Southern California. He was 34.

Representatives for Carter's family confirmed the singer's death. His fiancée, Melanie Martin, asked for privacy as the family grieves.

"We are still in the process of accepting this unfortunate reality," Martin said in a statement Saturday. "Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated."

Carter, the younger brother of Nick Carter of the Backstreet Boys, performed as an opening act for Britney Spears as well as his brother's boy band, and recorded several hits including "Aaron's Party (Come Get It)" and "I Want Candy."

Deputies responded around 11 a.m. following reports of a medical emergency at the home in Lancaster, a desert city about 70 miles (112 kilometers) north of downtown Los Angeles, said Deputy Alejandra Parra with the LA County Sheriff's Department.

Parra said the deputies found a deceased person at the residence, but she could not immediately confirm it was Carter. Authorities later said

a house sitter found a man in the bathtub in the home and resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.

Carter opened for the Backstreet Boys tour in 1997 — the same year his gold-selling debut self-titled album released. He reached triple-platinum status with his sophomore album, 2000's "Aaron's Party (Come Get It)," which produced hit singles including the title song and "I Want Candy." His videos received regular airplay on Disney and Nickelodeon.

The singer earned acting credits through his appearance on television shows including "Lizzie McGuire." He starred alongside his brother, Nick, and their siblings B.J., Leslie and Angel Carter on the E! unscripted series "House of Carters" in 2006.

Carter made his Broadway debut in 2001 as JoJo in the musical "Seussical." In 2009, he appeared on the ABC competition show "Dancing with the Stars," finishing in fifth place with partner Karina Smirnoff.

He was featured on the Food Network cooking show "Rachel vs. Guy: Celebrity Cook-Off" in 2012.

In 2017, Carter opened up about his substance abuse on an episode of "The Doctors." He was in rehab that same year after he was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence and marijuana charges.

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