

Safety Fair supplies knowledge

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

It's the one food college students thrive on: microwave noodles.

However, a lack of water can cause a cup of pasta to turn into a catastrophe.

Campus Security Officer Jody Habinck did a demonstration of what happens when a student puts mac and cheese in the microwave without water. Within a minute, yellow smoke poured out.

The microwave mishap was one of the common college accidents students witnessed at the Public Safety Fair on Thursday.

Student Events Team Educational Entertainment Chair Sophia Lee said she wanted to host the event after noticing several fire alarms went off in her dorm community.

"I thought it was really helpful to host, especially with people who come from home that haven't learned how to cook. They can learn fire safety so they can be safe in their kitchen without having to have the fire department come and rescue them," Lee said.

Another demonstration showed the consequences of pouring water on a grease fire.



EMMA JOHNSON • The Reporter

A Mankato firefighter demonstrates the danger a grease fire can cause from pouring water on it and why it is always necessary to always follow safety precautions.

By pouring water on a grease fire, not only does the temperature go from 400 to 1,500 degrees in seconds, but the flames spread quickly to surrounding objects and people. The best

solution is to put a lid or cookie sheet over the pot or pan to cut off the oxygen supply.

Habinck said events like these allow students to witness dangerous situations safely.

It also gives students who may have a poor perception of police a chance to engage with security officers in a positive, constructive way.

SAFETY on page 2▶

A.I. changes perspectives in education

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a relatively new and emerging tool that allows users to create various forms of content, including texts, visuals, and code. For academia, AI brought up questions about the way students and faculty may use the tool.

One Minnesota State faculty member who has been monitoring AI advances is Assistant Professor of Geology and Soil Science Beth Fisher. She attended a training in 2022 about AI to explore the tool's possibilities.

"As I learned more, I realized that I needed to make a decision about how I use this with my classes," said Fisher. "I'm a parent of teenagers and they use the internet in a massively different way than I do. And I figured there are ways to use these tools productively and there are ways to use them unproductively."

One of the most controversial ways to use AI is to have AI do the work students are supposed to do. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty are serious issues on a college campus.



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

Technological advances in A.I. such as ChatGPT have made it both easier and more difficult for professors to grade students' work.

And things got worse during the COVID pandemic.

According to National Public Radio News, there were 1,077 reports of academic misconduct at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2020-21 — triple the amount from the previous year. Cases of cheating doubled at the University of Georgia, with 228 cases in the fall of

2019 to more than 600 last fall. At Ohio State University, cheating incidents are up 50% over the year before.

Nevertheless, Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator for Data Science Rajeev Bukralia states that AI is not always as useful as many believe. He stated that ChatGPT provides confident responses to

users' prompts even when the response is incorrect.

"When students don't know the material, I can see it by how confident they are," said Bukralia. "But AI is very confident even if the information it is providing is not relevant."

Fisher is encouraging her students to explore and learn about emerging tools in a way that allows them to play with AI without violating class policies.

"Yes, students are going to cheat. They're using all sorts of things on the internet to cheat," said Fisher. "And I don't think it's a constructive productive job as a professor to prevent cheating. I think it's my job to teach in a way that it's not even a relevant task for students to go try to cheat."

Moreover, Fisher says she's even used AI to create part of her syllabus on using AI for class purposes. The statement reads, in part: "Feel free to discuss AI-generated ideas with your peers, encouraging collaborative learning. However, be cautious not to directly reproduce the generated content in your submissions."

TECH on page 2▶

Pinning Mavericks homes around the world

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

This week students and faculty will be able to pin where they call home on three large maps in the Centennial Student Union as part of the Pin Your Home Project, run by the Student Events Team.

The purpose of Pin Your Home Project is to show the variety of places Mavericks hail from.

Sophia Lee, chair of Educational Entertainment for the Student Events Team, said, "I think it's good to showcase how big our student body is and where people are from. Not everyone is from the Midwest."

Three large maps have been placed in the CSU by the food court, with pins provided on a rail below.

"One is more centralized on Minnesota and Wisconsin and the surrounding states. And then we also got a USA map and then we have a world map as well," said Lee.

According to Lee, even those who have multiple homes are still encouraged to participate.

"I want to open (this) up to military families if they want to pin multiple places, because those families really travel a lot. If they are from multiple places, they can choose where they feel at most home or pin everywhere they've been," said Lee.

Home can mean many different things to people.

"Home means anywhere you feel comfortable, confident," said Lee.

On Monday students had already started pinning their home locations on the maps.

Imke Meeuwis pinned the Netherlands as her home.

"I think now that I am here, I now really see that home is where your family is at, because I am trying to make it home here, but I still miss them," said Imke Meeuwis.

Gaomong Xiong calls both St. Paul and Maplewood home.

HOME on page 2▶

Earthquake robbed Moroccan villagers of almost everything



MOSA'AB ELSHAMY • The Associated Press

Child stands in rubble after catastrophic earthquakes take down homes of Moroccan citizens.

By SAM METZ and
MOSA'AB ELSHAMY
The Associated Press

His dead relatives have been dug out and buried, but the remnants of Musa Bouissirfane's former life are still trapped under rubble and dust in the ruins of the mud-brick Moroccan village of Tafeghaghte.

"It's incredibly challenging to lose your entire family and

all your possessions," Bouissirfane said as tears welled in his eyes in the community less than a two-hour drive from Marrakech. "We have lost everything — our homes, our livestock and all our possessions."

Less than a week ago, he was excited about his daughter starting second grade. Now he's mourning her death. Far from ambulances and authorities, villagers could not retrieve her body for more than 14 hours,

until Saturday afternoon. The earthquake also killed Bouissirfane's mother and father and a niece. His wife is hospitalized in an intensive care unit.

The toll of the massive earthquake that killed more than 2,800 people was on stark display Monday in remote villages such as Tafeghaghte, where more than half of the 160 inhabitants are thought to have died, including the four in Bouissirfane's family.

◀TECH from page 1

Same was discussed on faculty training by English professor Kelly Moreland. She explained that it would be smart to indicate the degree that teachers allow using AI ranging from "never use AI" to "always use AI".

"Both feel equally ridiculous to me to say that we can never use it or that we always have to use it. It's not that realistic in either capacity," said Moreland. "We were talking about how a syllabus statement should say something in between, where you use it to help get your writing started, but then you always tell your teacher how you used it and how you revise based on the initial suggestions that you got from AI."

Sophomore Aruzhan Betigenova, majoring in computer science, said AI was briefly mentioned during her time in classes.

"Usually it's not that we learn about it, but it gets mentioned, especially in my computer science classes. What usually is mentioned there is that we should not use AI for class purposes because it's plagiarism," said Betigenova. "But in my computer science classes, we usually talk about the industry and how it's changing and growing. So it just depends

on the class."

Changing industry is also a topic that is discussed among students in engineering classes. Professor for Integrated Engineering Rob Sleezer believes that his role is to prepare students for their future careers, which will involve the use of innovative tools such as AI.

"If my student engineers are not trying to use these tools to be more effective with their time I am disappointed. We have a duty to ensure that our graduates are well prepared for their futures," said Sleezer. "If we are going to be competitive in the future job market, the job market where these tools are adopted and have transformed society, we need to be well versed in them."

Sleezer agrees that students can be more productive in academia and future careers by using generative AI. However, he also believes that knowledge about

basic concepts are still required to obtain.

"For example, I'm going to teach my children how to do basic arithmetic, even though calculators have largely displaced the need for that," said Sleezer. "Do they have to be as good at it as a student in the 50s or the 60s? Probably not. Do they need to understand the core concept? I believe so. And

distilling those core concepts and sometimes making it clear where we're exercising those muscles versus exercising our broader capability to lift something is an analogy that I think about."

Moreland said that AI needs humans' contribution to do its job as it does right now. She highlights that there will never be a point when we don't need human intervention.

"The way that AI works is jumbling together writing based on texts that it has been fed," said Moreland. "Which means that somewhere along the line, texts still need to be produced by humans in order for AI to be smart enough to do what it does."

Bukralia said he believes the thin line between using AI as an assisting guide and violating academic honesty lies in communication and transparency with professors.

"Transparency means make sure you look at the syllabus of the course. Make sure you talk to the professor in advance about whether or not they think GPT use is allowed," said Bukralia. "As long as a student uses critical thinking, I am OK with that. If I tell students that for this work you can use GPT, but not for other types of work, then they should follow those guidelines."

◀SAFETY from page 1

"The reason we do events at this time of year is because some of the freshmen come from the cities where they have a negative view of law enforcement. We try to expose them and make them aware they can call on us in an emergency," Habinck said.

"We're approachable and it shows those students a more human side of security than what they're used to."

The Public Safety Fair didn't just apply to what students could encounter in the dorms. Minnesota Towards Zero Deaths (TZD), an organization aimed to reducing crashes, injuries and deaths on the roads, brought a seatbelt simulator to mimic a minimal crash and a few educational games to show the dangers of driving under the influence.

Blue Earth County Commissioner and TZD Coalition member Vance Stuehrenberg said TZD aims to raise students' awareness about safety.

"We want to make them more aware before they go out and take drugs or alcohol to have them understand 'Maybe I shouldn't get behind the wheel. Maybe I should have a sober driver,'" Stuehrenberg said.

Stuehrenberg had students participate in a bean bag game where students wore goggles

simulating vision at .07 and .25 blood-alcohol content.

A level of .07, he said, is when a student would feel "buzzed," but is still not illegally intoxicated. A level of .25 is considered extremely intoxicated.

Another game had students play Connect 4 with one student wearing goggles showing how THC and marijuana can affect how students perceive traffic lights to be the same color.

Stuehrenberg said while the games may be fun to participate in, they should give students an idea of how dangerous it can be if they get into a car while under the influence.

"Marijuana and alcohol affect all your daily aspects, so once they're using, they have a better understanding," Stuehrenberg said.

Lee said she hopes students learned about resources around campus and the community they can utilize.

"Besides the different first responders in Mankato, I hope the event let them know campus security is there for students if they need direct help," Lee said.

Students looking to get involved with campus security or campus EMTs can look under the security tab on mnsu.edu.

◀HOME from page 1

"Home is a safe place where I can go to and spend time with those I love and care for and who also love and care for me," said Xiong.

What constitutes home can elicit complicated feelings in many people. Mavericks are no exception.

Jeremiah Revere calls Miami, Florida home.

"I just know that ever since I've been here, it hasn't really felt like home," said Revere, "this past summer I went home and just the air smelled different. You can smell the saltwater in it."

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Google search dominance is at the center of US antitrust trial



PETER MORGAN • The Associated Press

The Google sign is shown over an entrance to the company's new building in New York on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023.

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
The Associated Press

The U.S. government is taking aim at what has been an indomitable empire: Google's ubiquitous search engine that has become the internet's main gateway.

The legal attack will swing into full force Tuesday in a Washington D.C. federal courtroom that will serve as the battleground for the biggest U.S. antitrust trial since regulators went after Microsoft and its dominance of personal computer software a quarter century ago.

The 10-week trial before U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta is expected to include potentially revelatory testimony from top executives at Google and its corporate parent Alphabet, as well as other powerful technology companies. Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, who succeeded Google co-founder Larry Page in 2019, will be among the most prominent witnesses likely to testify. Court documents also indicate one of Apple's highest-ranking executives, Eddy Cue, might be called to the stand.

The case against Google mirrors the one brought against Microsoft in many ways, including the existential threat it poses to a renowned tech giant whose products are relied on by billions of people.

The trial is scheduled to continue into late November before its first phase wraps, after which another round of court filings and arguments are expected. Mehta isn't expected to issue a ruling until early next year. If he decides Google has been breaking the law, it will trigger another trial to determine what measures should be taken to rein in the Mountain View, California, company.

Although Google products such as the Chrome web browser, Gmail, YouTube and online maps all are hugely popular, none have become as indispensable — or as valuable — as the internet search engine invented by Page and a fellow Stanford University graduate student, Sergey Brin, during the late 1990s.

The trial is beginning just a couple weeks after the 25th anniversary of the first invest-

The US marks 22 years since 9/11

By JENNIFER PELTZ and
KAREN MATHEWS
The Associated Press

Americans looked back Monday on 9/11 with moments of silence, tearful words and appeals to teach younger generations about the terror attacks 22 years ago.

"For those of us who lost people on that day, that day is still happening. Everybody else moves on. And you find a way to go forward, but that day is always happening for you," Edward Edelman said as he arrived at New York's World Trade Center to honor his slain brother-in-law, Daniel McGinley.

President Joe Biden, speaking at a military base in Anchorage, Alaska, urged Americans to rally around protecting democracy. His visit, en route to Washington from a trip to India and Vietnam, is a reminder that the impact of 9/11 was felt in every corner of the nation, however remote.

"We know that on this day, every American's heart was wounded," Biden said. "Yet every big city, small town, suburb, rural town, tribal community — American hands went up, ready to help where they could."

Nearly 3,000 people were killed when hijacked planes crashed into the trade center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field, in an attack that reshaped American foreign policy and domestic fears.

On that day, "we were one country, one nation, one people, just like it should be," Eddie Ferguson, the fire-rescue



YUKI IWAMURA • The Associated Press

Hagi Abucar puts flowers on the 9/11 Memorial during the commemoration ceremony on the 22nd anniversary of the September 11, 2001.

chief in Virginia's Goochland County, said by phone before the anniversary.

The predominantly rural county of 25,000 people has a Sept. 11 memorial and holds two anniversary commemorations, one focused on first responders and another honoring all the victims.

At ground zero, Vice President Kamala Harris joined other dignitaries at the ceremony on the National Sept. 11 Memorial plaza.

Instead of remarks from political figures, the event features victims reading the names of the dead and delivering brief personal messages.

Some included patriotic declarations about American values and thanked first responders and the military.

One lauded the Navy SEALs who killed al-Qaida leader and 9/11 plotter Osama bin Laden

in Pakistan in 2011.

Another appealed for peace and justice. One acknowledged the many lives lost in the post-9/11 "War on Terror." And many shared reflections on missing loved ones.

"Though we never met, I am honored to carry your name and legacy with me," said Manuel João DaMota Jr., who was born after his father and namesake died.

To Gabrielle Gabrielli, reading names "is the biggest honor of my life." She lost her uncle and godfather, Richard Gabrielle.

"We have to keep the memory of everybody who died alive. This is their legacy," Gabrielli said, heading into the ceremony.

Biden, a Democrat, became the first president to commemorate Sept. 11 in the western U.S.

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Look up from your phone

When we were young, many of us were told to stop and smell the roses. Metaphorically, this means to remember to take time to appreciate life's beauty.

Applying this phrase to adulthood, remembering to appreciate life's surroundings instead of gluing our eyes to technology is so important. Life is distracting in itself, but technology is our biggest obstruction from the flower field that is our environment.

We as students are in our prime years; we have the perfect balance of being excused from certain risky behaviors, but we are treated like adults in technical terms. It is an odd age, from the years of 18 through the early 20's. However, these ages are entirely a learning and growing experience, ones we could thrive better in without our frequent use of technology.

Of course, technology is useful. We have accessibility to the world's information at our fingertips. As students, we can thank our computers for allowing us to complete homework without a pen or pencil, attend classes online from a different location and communicate with professors and advisors via email. Because of today's advancements, we never have to worry about a dog snacking on our final essay, or a disastrous rainstorm wrecking a class project.

On the other hand, the majority of time we spend on our phones is not spent completing assignments. It is mostly spent checking up on social media, answering text messages and getting sucked into online threads.

When walking to in-person classes, I find that many of us are looking down at our phones rather than looking at what is in front of us, which could potentially be something important such as a speeding car or campus bus. The campus we have at Minnesota State is beautiful, and friendly faculty and students are present all around.

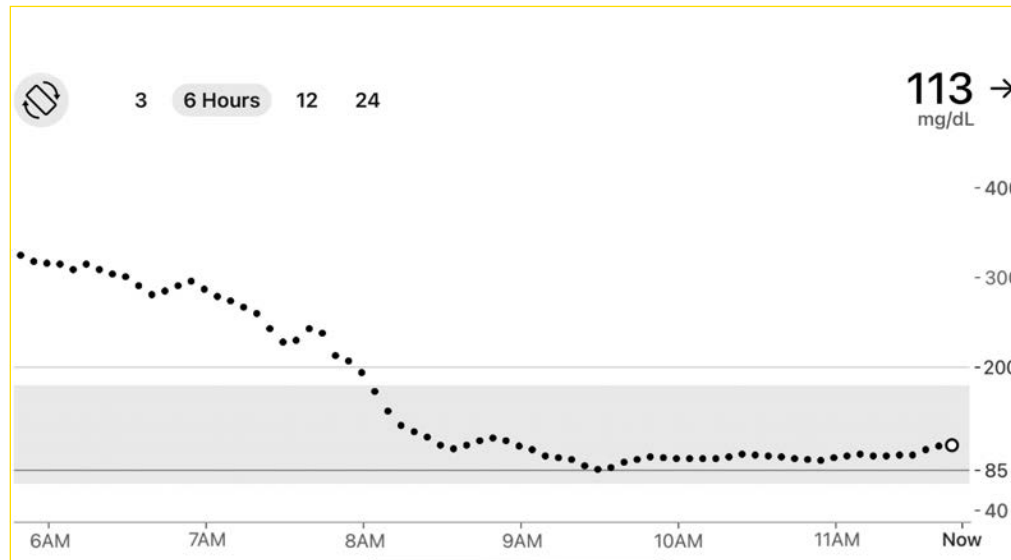
This isn't saying we need to stop and chat with every face we see, but it is saying that we should be aware of our surroundings. Showing in a pair of earbuds and taking in the view on a walk to class is time better spent than scrolling through Instagram.

Instead, dedicate certain hours of the day to phone time. This way, we can develop a habit of using this specific time to unwind and catch up on what we might have missed throughout the day, rather than checking our phones periodically.

Technology will only continue to develop and become more addicting, so staying on top of good habits now will help us stay on the right track for decades to come.

Perspectives

Living life between two lines



LUKE JACKSON • The Reporter

This is my Dexcom G7's six hour long graph showing how I woke up with high blood sugar and got it regulated by using insulin and exercising.

Today at the crack of dawn I woke up to my phone screaming at me to wake up.

Not because I was running late to class. It was because my Dexcom G7 sensor was alerting me that my blood glucose levels were dangerously high.

I didn't know what I was going to write for today's column but as I was in a foggy daze dialing up my insulin pen to the correct dosage to bring my blood sugar down, I knew this was the topic for today's column.

My life is simple ... but complex. I have one goal 24/7, 365 days a year for the rest of my life. Whether I am awake or asleep, my one goal is to live in between the lines.

As I wake up to my 300 mg/dl blood sugar at 6 a.m. on a Monday morning, I think of the two things that'll bring down those



Luke Jackson
Staff Writer

numbers; insulin and exercise. Today, I didn't feel motivated to get up and put in my insulin and, I can assure you, I didn't feel inclined to exercise. but I felt disciplined. I put a new needle on my pen, injected three units of insulin into my arm, laced up my shoes and went for a two-mile run in the crisp morning air.

As I was running I came up with my story and how my constant battle is living in between two lines.

My Dexcom screen shows a graph with three different zones separated

by two lines. The bottom zone is an indication of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar); the worst feeling in the world. If my blood sugar goes below 85 mg/dl my phone notifies me that I need to act on the low. Anything under that line means I need to eat or drink sugar to bring my glucose levels back into a safe zone.

Hypoglycemia is generally caused by injecting too much insulin and it can feel like the world is collapsing around me. My first indication of being in a state of low blood sugar is I'll start to feel very weak. My heart start to pound. My weakness makes it harder to stand or walk.

If my blood sugar keeps dropping to numbers around 60 mg/dl-50m g/dl, my mind will start turning to mush. Forming thoughts and talking sensibly will start to become difficult. I'll sweat profusely, get

COLUMN on page 5

Pulse

“What is your favorite place in Mankato?”

Compiled by Dalton Grubb



CALVIN SMITH,
FRESHMAN

“The Bike path along Monks Ave.”



ELLIE SONJU,
FRESHMAN

“Campus.”



EVA DURON,
SOPHOMORE

“Campus.”



OZIEL ZEFERINO-SANCHEZ,
FRESHMAN

“Campus.”



REGAN HAUSMANN,
FRESHMAN

“The waterfalls.”



KUDAKWASHE
SHERENI,
FRESHMAN

“Walmart.”

North Korea Leader Kim Jong Un is heading to Russia



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO • The Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un shake hands during their meeting in Vladivostok, Russia, Thursday, April 25, 2019

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
The Associated Press

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has departed for Russia, where he is expected to hold a rare meeting with President Vladimir Putin that has sparked Western concerns about a potential arms deal for Moscow's war in Ukraine.

North Korea's official news agency said Tuesday that Kim boarded his personal train from the capital, Pyongyang, on Sunday afternoon, and that he was accompanied by unspecified members of the country's ruling party, government and military.

State media showed photographs of Kim walking past honor guards and crowds of ci-

vilians holding the national flag and flowers, and also of him waving from his green-and-yellow armored train before it left the station.

Kim's delegation likely includes his foreign minister, Choe Sun Hui, and his top military officials, including Korean People's Army Marshals Ri Pyong Chol and Pak Jong Chon.

A group of senior officials were at the station to give the leader a "heartily send-off," according to the Korean Central News Agency, which did not specify whether the train had crossed the border.

Citing unidentified Russian regional officials, Japanese broadcaster TBS reported that Kim's train crossed the border

and arrived in the border town of Khasan.

A brief statement on the Kremlin's website on Monday said the visit is at Putin's invitation and would take place "in the coming days."

KCNA said the leaders would meet — without specifying when and where.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that Putin and Kim will lead their delegations in talks and could also meet "one-on-one if necessary."

He added that Putin will host an official dinner for Kim. The talks will focus on bilateral ties, Peskov said. "As with any of our neighbors, we feel obliged to develop good, mutually beneficial relations," he added.

◀ COLUMN from page 4

anxious and feel the need to eat everything around me. My hunger will not leave me alone.

If I drop below 40 mg/dl this becomes dangerous as I enter a state of severe hypoglycemia. My muscles and blood become void of necessary sugars. I could collapse causing severe issues — even death. If treated correctly, the state of severe hypoglycemia is very rare and should not occur. Most symptoms will be gone within 15-20 minutes from my experience.

Next, the majority of the graph indicates hyperglycemia (high blood sugars). If I get into this threshold my phone alerts me to inject insulin. High blood sugars are quite self explanatory; I simply have too much sugar in the system. This is caused by not putting enough insulin in

when eating carbohydrates. Although I can't feel extreme effects like I can with low blood sugars, it has all the long term effects I fear.

According to WebMD, long-term uncontrolled high blood sugar can bring upon heart disease, heart attacks, stroke, kidney disease, eye damage, skin problems and nerve damage which could result in amputation.

The sweet spot is in between the high and the low lines from 90 mg/dl-170 mg/dl. The sweet spot doesn't allow much room for error but this is the safe zone of blood sugar regulation.

This is the place I strive to be everyday for as long as possible. That's the name of the game — just stay in between those two dangerous lines and you should live a healthy life. It is certainly easier said than done but it is

something I try time and time again to do.

This is a struggle I face daily that I continue to learn from 24/7. The toll it takes on your body can get very exhausting but the other toll that goes unnoticed is on the mental side. That is a topic for another day.

For now, after dosing my insulin and going on a two-mile run, I have successfully brought my blood sugar to a consistent 100 mg/dl. No matter how frustrating a high or low blood sugar can be, I always try my best to learn, adapt and overcome that frustration. And if that doesn't work, tomorrow is always a new day.

This morning I did what I've learned over the years and it worked out perfectly as I am now right in between the lines.

Thailand's LGBTQ+ community draws tourists



DONNA EDWARDS • The Associated Press

People walk along a rainbow-colored walkway outside a Bangkok mall during Pride celebrations on Sunday, June 4, 2023.

By YUCHENG TANG
The Associated Press

Xinyu Wen traveled to Thailand in June, planning a two-week vacation around Bangkok's Pride parade.

Instead, the 28-year-old stayed a month and a half, as her experience at the parade gave rise to discussions and discoveries in the Thai capital's thriving LGBTQ+ community.

LGBTQ+ people from China, frequently scorned and ostracized at home, are coming to Thailand in droves, drawn by the freedom to be themselves. When Wen walked along the parade on the streets in Bangkok, "I felt like I was in a big party or a huge amusement park. We could forget all upsetting things and feel fulfilled," she said.

Bangkok is only a 5-hour flight from Beijing, and Thailand's tourism authorities actively promote its status as among the most open to LGBTQ+ people in the region.

Wen got interested in Thailand when her friend sent her a photo of rainbow-colored, Pride-themed ice cream being sold on the streets.

"I wanted to go to Thailand to take a look," she said.

Wen describes herself as queer, which she says means that her partners can be any gender and she can be any gender. At home, Wen said she regularly gets judgmental stares on the street for wearing her hair short like a man's, and was once asked by her barber: "What happened to your life?"

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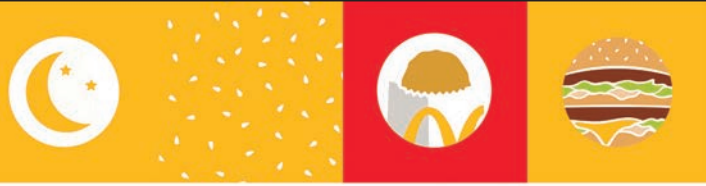
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SPORTS

Mavs take home “Saturday Night Lights” victory

By LUKE JACKSON
News Director

Running up the gut, goal line stops and jump balls propelled the Mavs to victory in their Saturday Night Lights home opener over Wayne State College.

The Mavericks gave 6,209 fans a show of pure offense as they held onto the ball for over 39 minutes — a full 18 more than the Wildcats saw.

MSU’s time of possession was the tale of how they came up with their dominating victory.

The Mavs predictable run up the gut scheme tired out the Wildcat’s defense while keeping the Mavs receivers with fresh legs when they were needed the most.

Their offense was easily noticeable but hard enough to stop which gave the Mavs the upper hand.

“We kept melting that clock,” Maverick head coach Todd Hoffner said. “We were run, run, pass. That is so predictable it’s not even funny but we had to keep that clock moving and everytime we kept getting a new series, Hayden kept on converting.”

The game started slow and sloppy. The Mavs started the game with a fumbled field goal attempt and soon after the Wildcats found themselves stopped to a fourth down on the goalline.

Opting to kick the field goal,



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

The Mavs have wasted no time revealing their secrets to success this season. Running the ball. Through two games, the Mavs have 691 rushing yards, for an average of 345.5 yards per game.

the Maverick pressure got to their special teams unit resulting in a shanked kick, keeping the score at 0.

The first score of the game didn’t come until the final minute of the first quarter. The Mavs

were stuffed deep on their 10 yard line for the first possession of their drive. The safe play would be to run the ball up the middle, instead Hayden Ekern unloaded to freshman Mason Perich who broke past his receiver on a deep slant. Perich

broke free after the catch and started a foot race to the endzone. He beat all defenders for his 90-yard receiving touchdown.

As the first quarter came to a close, Khai West gave the Mavs

LIGHTS on page 9»

Late heroics in weekend split for soccer

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State women’s soccer team was back at home Friday to take on the University of Central Missouri.

The Mavericks grabbed a late winner in the final minute of the match on their way to a 1-0 victory over the Jennies.

The match was physical and tightly contested.

In the second half, the Mavs were forced to be resolute at the back as the Jennies pressured them for long spells. Mavs goalkeeper Mackenzie Rath faced 17 shots and made three saves for her 25th career shutout.

“With all their speed they have up top we wanted to make sure they didn’t get behind us, and outside of maybe one or two times I thought we really did an excellent job of that today. We’ve got a great goalkeeper and felt like she’d be able to hold down the fort if we just didn’t allow anybody to get in behind us,” said head coach Brian Bahl.

Despite the Jennies dominating play and being on the front foot for most of the second half, the Mavs were able to flip the script in the



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

A weekend of firsts. MSU’s Avery Korsching with her first career game-winning goal and Grand Valley State’s Kacy Lauer’s first career penalty kick goal.

final minutes. The Mavs pinned the Jennies back a bit and created chances.

Shortly after a corner kick from the Mavs, Kiera Laney was on the ball and played it through to Avery Korsching who slotted it home with 34 seconds left. It was Korsching’s first career game-winning goal and third goal overall this season.

“Our game plan in the second half was to become a little more di-

rect and skip some lines. I think we were able to finally get on the end of some second ball late there and it opened things up for us to get some chances,” Bahl said. “We knew they were being really aggressive pushing for the goal to get the win and I thought we could catch them high and we did. It was a great effort by our kids though. Kind of a bend-but-don’t-break mentality. Fight and claw until we got an opportunity and we never gave up. We

found a way to get it done. So, huge win.”

Emotions spilled over for the Jennies head coach after the match and he received a red card for his complaints to the referee.

Things got heated between himself and the referee when the Jennies felt they should have had a penalty kick in the first half, but the referee was adamant it was a clean tackle in the penalty box.

“Obviously I’m on the opposing side. I can see why he’s asking for it but it was a clear great tackle, then she won the ball,” Bahl said.

The Mavs weren’t able to carry on the momentum from Friday’s game to Sunday, in a 1-0 home defeat to Grand Valley State.

This match was also scoreless well into the second half until the Lakers were awarded a penalty kick after a Maverick player was called for a handball in the 73rd minute. Kacy Lauer scored it to give the Lakers the lead.

It was her first career penalty kick goal and second goal of the season.

This was the Mavs’ first loss of the season, however, Bahl thought his team played well enough to win the game.

HEROICS on page 9»

Mavericks finish fifth and sixth at Augie Twilight

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

Minnesota State men’s and women’s cross country teams traveled to Yankton Trail Park in Sioux Falls Friday, picking up fifth and sixth place in the five-kilometer course.

Friday’s races were accompanied by breezy, humid conditions that inevitably delayed the competition until 9:10 p.m. as the Mavs competed under the lights for the eighth straight season.

The men placed fifth (190), behind first place South Dakota State with a score of 62, St. Thomas (68), Nebraska (83) and Augustana (94).

SDSU also had the top finisher of the night in freshman Carson Noecker with a time of 18:55.99, while MSU’s top man was senior Tanner Meier. The fifth-place time of 19:34.58 was second-best among Division II athletes.

Junior Ray Ure also finished under 20 minutes with a time of 19:59.58, good enough for 16th place.

Some other Mavericks made their mark at the race, as MSU had 9 of the top 100 runners.

Junior Jacob Bennett placed 62nd with a time of 20:50.65, Junior Adam Bohm placed 76th (21:02.51) and Junior Leif Larsen finished two places lower with a time of 21:05.56.

Two more MSU juniors in Nikolai Schmanski (79th, 21:06.02) and Caden Speikers (96th, 21:13.89) accompanied two sophomores, Tyler Lee (97th, 21:14.19) and Maquanet Collins (99th, 21:15.89) to round out the top 100.

“Tonight we really just wanted to test our fitness level,” said head coach Ben Held in a press release posted to the MSU Athletics Website. “The goal was to put ourselves in positions to cover moves, attack the back side of the race and finish strong. I think all of the men handled their jobs really well for the first race of the year. We still have some race strategy to work on but that will come with time. We set out to finish in the top five and I am happy we accomplished that.”

Finishing in sixth place is a solid start for the women’s team as well. Nebraska finished in first place with a score of 43 and four top-10 runners. SDSU (66), Augustana (105), St. Thomas (141), and Nebraska Omaha (154) were the only teams to top MSU.

Senior Makenna Thurston finished with a seventh-place

TWILIGHT on page 2»

Volleyball tears up the Tiger Classic



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Mavs currently sit at 5-3, one win short of their total from a season ago, and we are only eight games into the season. With two tournaments under their belt, the Mavs are ready to take on the rest of the season.

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

Moving to 5-3 on the year, Minnesota State's volleyball team picked up three wins and a loss at the Tiger Classic over the weekend.

Their three consecutive wins to begin the tournament extended their winning streak to five games at the time, but the Mavs could not extend it to six, with a loss in their last game Saturday afternoon.

In their first match against Cameron University Friday morning, they swept the Aggies 3-0.

The first and third sets were both won 25-15 by the Mavs, but the Aggies fought hard in the second, only to fall short 25-23 with a kill by senior Sophie Tietz.

Tietz was the team leader in kills with 10 and tied the team lead in service aces with junior Toryn Richards and sophomore Ellie Kline also each recording two. Richards and senior Emma Loveall both contributed eight kills, while Kline had a match-high 20 digs.

In their second match, the Mavs weathered the Crimson Storm, defeating Southern Nazarene 3-1. The Storm took the first set convincingly, 25-15, but the Mavs fought back, winning the

second 25-22 and the third 26-24. With a chance to clinch the win, the Mavs were beaten again, 25-22.

However, in the fifth and final set, the Mavs scored seven of the last 10 points to win 15-12.

Loveall led the way with 15 kills and two aces, while junior Brooke Bolwerk recorded 31 assists and three aces. Sophomore Emily Kern also had a match-high six blocks.

"Today was a good day for us," said head coach Corey Phelps in a press release posted to the MSU Athletics website. "We took care of business in the first match and cruised."

As for the second match... "It was ugly, grueling. We just found ways to stay in it. Sophie, Emma and Toryn did great things to fuel that five-set victory in the second match," Phelps said.

Following two wins on Friday, the Mavs split Saturday's matches against New Mexico Highlands and Fort Hays State.

Up first was another sweep against the Cowgirls. New Mexico Highlands stood no chance against a fired up Mavs team. The Mavs took the first set, 25-20, before dominating the Cowgirls in the second and third matches, 25-13 and 25-14.

Tietz and Richards both had

nine kills to lead the way offensively for the Mavs, while three players stood out defensively. Kline had a match-high 15 digs, while junior Kiya Durant and Kern both recorded six blocks.

Only the Tigers of Fort Hays State stood in the way of the Mavs' quest for a perfect weekend. Unfortunately, the Tigers had their way, defeating the Mavs in four sets, 3-1.

The Mavs did win the first set 25-14, but then went on to lose the last three, including the last two sets coming down to the wire, where the Tigers squeaked out two 25-23 wins to end the tournament.

Junior Abigail Wolfe recorded 12 kills and two blocks in the loss. Other contributors include Durant with three blocks, Kline with 16 digs and Tietz with four service aces.

"We had too many uncharacteristic hitting errors that haunted us in the last match," Phelps said. "Overall, we had a great weekend. We're still learning how to make things happen, but we are looking forward to starting our conference season next weekend."

The Mavs will now turn their attention to conference play, beginning with a road matchup with no. 11 Southwest Minnesota State Thursday.

◀TWILIGHT from page 8
individual time of 17:51.51, which also placed her second among Division II competitors. Junior Emily Cunningham also finished in the upper echelon of runners with a time of 18:20.77, good enough for 14th place overall.

Six other Mavericks finished inside the top 100, including senior Cassidy O'Meara (61st, 19:17.02) and sophomore Madison Matzek (66th, 19:21.26) finishing in the

top 70. Freshman Addison Peed (74th, 19:28.04), junior Makayla Bishop (77th, 19:28.73), sophomore Alexi MacDonald (78th, 19:29.77) and freshman Maria Selting (92nd, 19:48.41) also finished their first race strong.

"It was a good start," said head coach Jen Blue in a press release posted to the MSU Athletics Website. "We need to work on closing our spread. If we can do that, big things will happen. MaKenna and

Emily both had personal records and I felt Cassidy, Madison, Addison, and Alexi all ran a solid race with PR's to round out our top seven. Overall, I was pleased and excited to see what we can do this season."

Next up for both teams is Running of the Cows, in Northfield Minn. The men will race first at 10:30 a.m. and the women will follow at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16.

◀LIGHTS from page 8
even more momentum as he picked off Wayne St. on their own 36 yard line. Seven plays later in the second, Ekern threw a nine-yard touchdown to Aiden Ferguson which pushed the lead to 14-0.

Answering back, WSU immediately had a 68 yard rushing touchdown to keep the game close.

The last score of the half came after Shen Butler-Lawson's 60-yard rush which brought himself close enough to be able to punch the ball in for a one-yard touchdown.

To start the second half, West came up huge with a hit stick tackle on a third down inches away from the first down marker. This was the beginning of the end for the Wildcats.

"After that tackle those boys on the sideline were turned up," West said. "When my teammates and the fans get going, we get going."

That motivation carried over to another goalline stop that gave the Mavericks the biggest drive of the day.

Three yards away from the endzone on fourth down. MSU's defense had a massive stop that forced a turnover on downs voiding Wayne St. of an extra seven points to close in on the Maverick lead.

The Mavs then started on the

two yard line and stomped 98 yards downfield in 15 plays taking 8:14 off the clock.

Most plays were rushed up the middle but the biggest play of the drive was a 37-yard bomb downfield to a double covered TreShawn Watson who jumped over the top of both grabbing the ball and coming down with it as he fell to the ground.

This was his second contested jump ball, his other came in the endzone on a fade route in which he juggled the ball back and forth until he came down with it completed for the six extra points.

West ended the game how he started it with another interception, finishing with two interceptions and three tackles.

"We don't compare players, we compare ourselves," West said. "If the team has a big play on us we forget about it and we are on to the next play. It's in the past. All we look to do is just push forward to the next play and make that next step."


On offense Ekern passed for 288 yards with three touchdowns and Watson had four receptions for 111 yards and one touchdown. The running backs had 230 yards and one touchdown.

"TreShawn and Khai West have made huge impacts on offense and defense," Hoffner said. "They helped our team make big plays and helped in big moments. Both these men shined today and did some outstanding things."

◀HEROICS from page 8
"Hate this result for our ladies. They competed so hard, with so much heart today and executed what we wanted so well. To have it come down to a PK is really tough and super unfortunate. We created a lot of quality chances

and did a great job of limiting the quality looks they got. We were good enough to get the win, just didn't go our way," Bahl said.

Next up for the Mavs is a trip to Sioux Falls, South Dakota for their next game against Augustana Friday.



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VARIETY

Free fall food for all at campus market

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

To perk up Minnesota State students mourning the end of summer, the annual Free Fall Farmers Market took place 1-3 p.m. Monday in the Crossroads parking lot on campus.

With the team effort of the Community Engagement Office, the Campus Cupboard, and the Campus Kitchen, the farmers market had a line stretching down the street packed with hungry Mavericks.

"It's nice being able to come here and just have something to add to your meals back at your dorm," MSU student Emmah Dmytrasz said.

After checking in with a MAV Card, students were given a reusable purple tote to fill with goodies. The produce selection consisted of apples, green peppers, cucumbers, and potatoes freshly grown and donated locally.

"I appreciate it because I know a lot of us are broke, and grocery shopping is expensive," MSU student Taliyah West said.

The sponsors of the market were present and eager to socialize with students about where to find food resources affordably or free, or help direct them toward volunteer opportunities in the area.

MSU student Christian Ten-



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

MSU students were welcome to stop by the Fall 2023 Free Farmers Market to stock up on fresh produce and visit with people who help get food resources, help find places to volunteer, and help others who need help getting food.

tis shopped freely at the farmers markets alongside many of his classmates.

"It's important for the campus to take care of their stu-

dents and give them the proper resources they need," Tentis said. "It's also important for the university to advocate for locally grown food to help support

local farmers."

As many students navigate the transition from dorm life to off-campus housing, groceries are another task to add to an

already bulky to-do list. Not to mention, groceries are costly, and healthy options are not typically the quickest or most affordable.

"Not everybody has resources outside of school, so I think it's important we have those here, especially for like international students and stuff, everything is accessible to everyone," West said.

College students tend to be attracted to a lack of a price tag, and it is meaningful to have campus teams that make their students' lives a little easier.

"I think it's important, especially for people who aren't from Mankato to be able to feel like they're cared about and it's like more of a community," Dmytrasz said. "There's things here to help them rather than feeling isolated."

Although the Campus Kitchen is closing its doors, The Maverick Food Pantry and Campus Cupboard are always searching for volunteers with community service. Mavs in Action is involved in this process, and any student can find them inside the Student Activities Office for further information.

As for more free food feening students, the Campus Cupboard has free groceries every Tuesday from 11-3 p.m. in the lower level of Crossroads Church. There will also be a Free Spring Market to come in 2024.

Climbing to new heights with Maverick Adventures

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

Back in the 1980s, a Minnesota State professor wanted to create a rope course on the far south side of campus by the tree line. So they did. In 2023, it has become more than just a rope course. That rope course turned into Maverick Adventures and has dramatically changed in the last 41 years.

"It started in the 80s as a lab school to train facilitators how to teach leadership development and team building facilitation skills. We started providing these high ropes programs to the campus community and the Mankato community," said Sam Steiger, the Program Coordinator. "In the last eight or nine years, we have been trying to connect students with the outdoors and connect students with each other by doing a series of events."

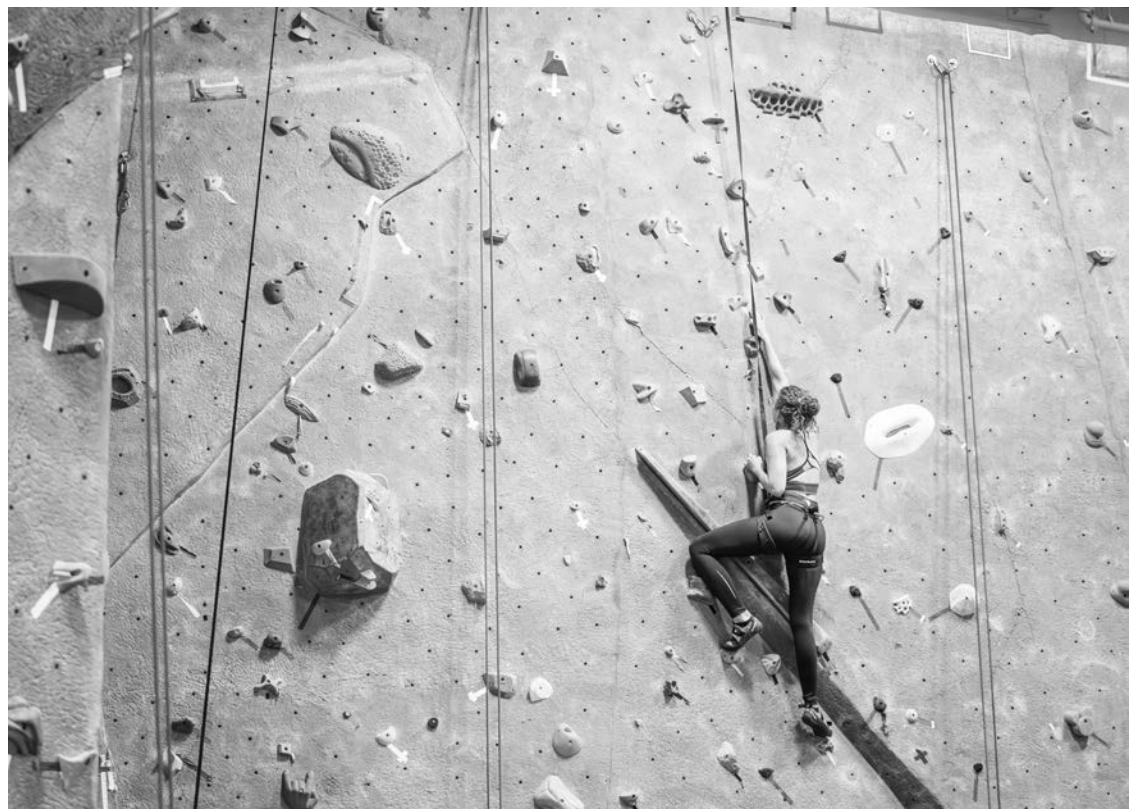
Steiger said he enjoys running the program and that there are many opportunities in the program for students and community members to do.

"I love working with students. That is what drives me. I love sharing Minnesota with people, and we've had an opportunity to create programs that really change lives," he said. "A lot of our rock climbers have never rock climbed before, and then they come to our facility just to see if they like it, but then they fall in love with it and stay around for a long time."

Steiger has said that these outdoor activities are an important part of the program. One of the outdoor activities that students can do in this program is ice fishing. Yes, ice fishing. (Ice fishing involves catching fish through holes augured into ice on a frozen lake while trying not to freeze your butt off.)

"We bring people out to a local lake about 20 minutes outside of town, and we have all the gear and all the equipment to show them that ice fishing is fun but also that you can do it comfortably," said Steiger. "Last year, we even caught a couple of fish, which is a bonus. The first

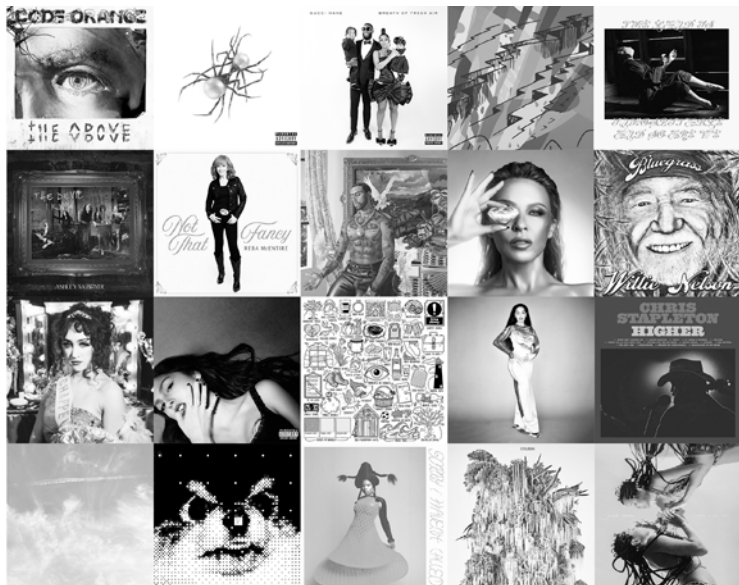
ADVENTURES on page 11▶



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Maverick Adventures at Minnesota State University, Mankato offers innovative challenges and the use of adventure-based activities for leadership development and team building skills promoting positive growth and learning.

Fall music releases: Pop powerhouses and country classics



The Associated Press

This combination of album covers shows albums from artists such as Doja Cat, Gucci Mane, Kid Cudi, Olivia Rodrigo, Ed Sheeran and more.

By MARIA SHERMAN
The Associated Press

Music fans, it is time to bid adieu to the sunny, slow summer months, and welcome fall — historically, one of the busiest times in the calendar year for new albums, EPs, and mixtapes.

Trends have already begun to reveal themselves: Some of the biggest names in pop (and in pop's future) are gearing up for back-to-school releases. A-listers are returning after years. Country legends are taking on new genres. And hip-hop heavyweights are back in full force.

Others defy categorization — like a new Pretenders record (“Relentless”), the swoon-worthy “Live for Me” EP from Omar Apollo, and Steve Aoki’s “HiROQUEST: Double Helix” — and even more have yet to be announced. Take a look at what’s in store with The Associated Press’ 2023 fall music preview — a collection of releases scheduled to arrive between September and November.

Pop powerhouses
After a summer full of superstar tours — Taylor Swift, Be-

yoncé, and Drake among them — surely, it’s time to dive deep into a new hook or two. The season is stacked: Olivia Rodrigo will drop her highly anticipated sophomore album. Kylie Minogue’s more than “Padam Padam,” with her new athletic-pop album “Tension.” Doja Cat’s “Scarlet” arrives.

Ed Sheeran has seemingly run out of mathematical symbols to name albums after and will return with an autumnal release. After HBO’s “The Idol,” Troye Sivan gears up to release his third full-length album. If the rest of the tracks contain songs half as sexy as the football chant homoeroticism of the lead single “Rush,” listeners are in for a treat.

BTS member V will release his debut solo album; Korean American popstar Eric Nam will drop another self-released record, centered on a pandemic-induced existential crisis.

Demi Lovato is reimagining some of her pop tune as rock anthems; Taylor Swift’s re-recording series continues with “1989 (Taylor’s Version.)”

ADVENTURES from page 10

year, we got skunked, but after everyone left, I started catching fish. That wasn’t very fair.”

Located on the South side of campus by the fitness trail and the observatory, teiger says it is a mystical hidden gem of campus.

“The challenge course is steel telephone poles that are 33 feet in height. We use that challenge course for educational programming and with groups that want to learn essential team skills,” said Steiger. “Student groups often use it, but we also serve the outside community. We have sports teams, businesses and local leadership development seminars.”

People can also learn how to use belay equipment, the rope system used to prevent fellow climbers from falling. Once someone learns how to use that rope and “belay” someone, Steiger says the rock wall opens up a little more for them.

“We have these things called auto belays. They’re these devices that hang in the ceiling, and you just clip into it. As you climb, it sucks the slack. When you let go, it lowers you to the ground,” said Steiger. “When you’re on a rope, that’s not the case. You need someone to be on the other end of your rope. If a student wants to sign up for a clinic, they can take a clinic where we teach them how to belay, and then they’re able to belay at our facility.”

For more information on how to participate in this program, students can find them on Instagram at @mnsuadventure or on the campus recreation app.

“A great way for students to be in touch about our programming is through the Campus Rec app, and if they download the Campus Rec app, all that stuff is right at your fingertips,” said Steiger.

‘Dumb Money’ goes all in on GameStop stock frenzy

By JACK COYLE
The Associated Press

Think of movies about the financial system and your mind is almost sure to go to Gordon Gekko and “Wall Street” or Leonardo DiCaprio’s gyrating Jordan Belfort in “The Wolf of Wall Street.”

When Hollywood takes on Wall Street, it usually heads straight to the C-suite.

The protagonist of “Dumb Money,” though, is an amateur investor who trades out of his basement in Brockton, Massachusetts, with a bandana tied around his head and a Belgian beer in his hand.

This is Keith Gill (played in the film by Paul Dano), also known as Roaring Kitty.

In 2021, Gill’s enthusiastic endorsement of GameStop stock helped fuel a viral trading frenzy that rocked Wall Street and humbled the hedge funds that has shorted the brick-and-mortar video game company.

Now, Sony Pictures is betting that a David vs. Goliath story that played out on Reddit message boards can be a big-screen attraction, too.

Like any investment, it carries some degree of risk.

“Dumb Money,” made for about \$30 million, is charging into a still-fresh wound for some Wall Street power players.

At least one executive portrayed in the film has reportedly threatened to sue.

The film, which opens in limited release Friday and expands in the next several weeks, will also have to sell itself without its colorful ensemble cast.

This includes Pete Davidson, Seth Rogen, America Ferrara, Anthony Ramos and Shailene



CLAIRE FOLGER • The Associated Press

This image released by Sony Pictures shows actress Shailene Woodley, left, and actor Paul Dano in a scene from “Dumb Money,” which opens Friday.

Woodley, due to the actors strike.

And then there’s the inherent challenge of making a dramatic narrative out of a revolution that occurred mainly on computer screens and smartphones.

Yet Craig Gillespie, director of the Tonya Harding black comedy “I, Tonya,” managed to corral a brash online movement into a remarkably rollicking and crowd-pleasing entertainment that’s already stoking some of the same energy that sent GameStop soaring.

Ticket prices to the movie’s Toronto International Film Festival were driven past \$900 on secondary seller websites.

“As much as it’s a really fun ride, ultimately I wanted to respect the frustration and the outrage that was happening,” says Gillespie.

There are many ironies surrounding “Dumb Money.” It will play in AMC Theaters,

which followed GameStop as a meme stock, pumping up its share price at a time when movie theaters were reeling from the pandemic.

“I think we should go to AMC Theaters and we should bring stuff from Bed Bath and Beyond and carry Blackberries,” says Ben Mezrich, author of the book the film’s adapted from, “The Antisocial Network: The GameStop Short Squeeze and the Ragtag Group of Amateur Traders That Brought Wall Street to Its Knees.”

Mezrich, whose 2009 book about Mark Zuckerberg, “The Accidental Billionaire,” served as fodder for David Fincher’s “The Social Network,” immediately recognized the potential drama in the GameStop phenomenon.

On the day the company’s stock surpassed \$300 a share, he began plotting a book that could adapted into a movie.

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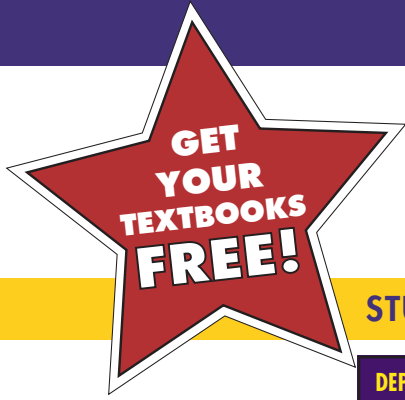
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