

Banned Books are discussed in a new club

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

According to PEN America, last year an escalation of book censorship in schools was recorded in the United States. Thousands of books were removed from classrooms and libraries for a variety of reasons, such as controversial topics, offensive language and sexually explicit material.

Banned Books Book Club is a new opportunity for students at Minnesota State to read and engage in discussions about banned books. Students will receive a free copy of a book discussed on the meeting day along with the reading guide that will help them focus on important topics. The club was initiated by Maverick Diversity Institute, Women's Center and African American Affairs.

Interim Director of African American Affairs BalenciaSariah Crosby said they plan to meet several times in an academic year and engage in discussions with different speakers at every meeting.

"We do not presently have a set schedule, however, we want to hold two to three group sessions per academic year. Speakers will vary," said Crosby.

Crosby said the discussions will cover the contents of the book, its authors and parallels between the written world and our shared realities.



AMALIA SHARAF • The Reporter

Banned Books Book Club is a new opportunity for students at Minnesota State to read and engage in discussions about banned books. Students will receive a free copy of a book discussed on the meeting day.

During the first meeting of the club held on September 27th, students discussed "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison, which was banned for controversial content. The meeting was facilitated by Zara Houston, founder of Read a F-king Book: Promoting Black Liberation Through Book Discussions and

Discoveries.

Students who have registered for the first meeting received a detailed reading guide by Houston, which helped them reflect on the material in the book. The Women's Center posted a video of Houston talking about "The Bluest Eye" and points for reflection she assigned

to participants of the club to think about.

"Many parents feel like they can protect their children by restricting access to informational resources," said Houston. "There are many books that end up on this banned book list simply because there are

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Students United visits Student Government

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

Members from Students United paid a visit to Student Government Wednesday to talk about the organization and how students can get involved.

Founded in 1967, Students United is a non-profit coalition that advocates for the seven universities in the Minnesota State system. Members of the board are tasked with advocating for students' needs on both local, state and federal levels.

Treasurer Kendra Draeger shared the vision of Students United which includes the inclusiveness of policies and leadership in higher education. Draeger said it's important for student leaders to be at decision-making tables.

"We make that possible by having students testify to the Board of Trustees, having our officers at the Chancellor's meeting and trying to represent you all by coming to your campus," Draeger said. "This helps strengthen student advocacy which creates a more robust higher education system and community."

State Chair Marwah Asif said the values of Students United, which include diversity, student leadership and next-level thinking, help the group achieve its goals in an equitable manner.

"Your college should be more than a piece of paper. We should offer you professional development and offer you skills to help you, not just in your workplace, but on an everyday basis," Asif said.

Some of the accomplishments Students United has achieved in the last few years include free menstrual products on campus, aiding in voter registration and the Hunger Free Campus Grant, an initiative to increase access to campus food pantries.

While no priorities have been set for the upcoming year, members are observing trends on other campuses such as getting resources and financial help for student-parents.

Students looking to get involved with Students United can contact Student Government President Sierra Roiger or go online to studentsunited.org/students.

New state law prompts SRO's removal

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

A new state law designed to restrict the use of force on the part of school resource officers prompted multiple law enforcement agencies to pull their resource officers from campuses. According to the new statute, SROs are unable to place students in prone restraint or restrict a student's ability to communicate distress, among multiple other use-of-force restrictions.

A statement issued last week from Attorney General Keith Ellison said SROs could use force so long as it was deemed reasonable which caused some agencies to allow SROs to return to schools. Many still have to announce if they will be returning their SROs.

The Mankato area school district is among those who have not yet decided if they will return SROs after Ellison's statement, according to the Free Press.

While the language in the law in question does state that it does not preclude the use of reasonable force, many heads of law enforcement agencies felt that the law was ambiguous.



Flickr

A new state law designed to restrict the use of force on the part of school resource officers prompted multiple law enforcement agencies to pull their resource officers from campuses.

"It [the law] needed clarification because it contradicted use of force statutes that all of us use right now, that officers have been trained to use, that has been used for years," said Blue Earth County Sheriff Jeff Wersal.

The ambiguity in the law prompted many Republicans and law enforcement groups to call for

a special session to clarify the language.

When asked about the law and calls for a special session, Minnesota State Senator Nick Frentz said "In my opinion, the ambiguity warrants clarification."

However, Democratic governor Tim Walz stated a special session on the law is not necessary.

A school fight at Mankato West involving 10 students prompted calls for SROs to return to school and added further urgency to the controversy.

Nashawn Williams' son was badly injured in said fight.

"Once you take that presence out of the school, everybody feels like they can run around because they know the teachers can't do anything," Nashawn Williams is quoted as saying to KTSP news.

Safety is one reason SROs are seen as important to have in schools.

"People that are going to cause harm in a school do not target schools that have an armed trained law enforcement professional in it. Not that it's never happened, but if you're going to cause harm to a school, you're going to look for one that does not have a cop in it versus one that does," said Wersal.

The law in question was passed over concerns about inappropriate use of force by SROs, as well as general concerns regarding controversial incidents of police misconduct.

"I think the legislation is in re-

REMOVAL on page 2

Judge rules Donald Trump committed fraud for years



ARTIE WALKER JR. • The Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump pauses before ending his remarks at a rally in Summerville, S.C., Sept. 25, 2023.

By MICHAEL R. SISAK
The Associated Press

A judge ruled Tuesday that Donald Trump committed fraud for years while building the real estate empire that catapulted him to fame and the White House, and he ordered some of the former president's companies removed from his control and dissolved.

Judge Arthur Engoron, ruling in a civil lawsuit brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James, found that Trump and his company deceived banks, insurers and others by massively overvaluing his assets and exaggerating his net worth on paperwork used in making deals and securing loans.

Engoron ordered that some of Trump's business licenses be rescinded as punishment, making it difficult or impossible for them to do business in New York, and said he would continue to have an independent monitor oversee Trump Organization operations.

If not successfully appealed, the order would strip Trump of his authority to make strategic and financial decisions over some of his key properties in the state.

Trump, in a series of statements, railed against the decision, calling it "un-American" and part of an ongoing plot to damage his campaign to return to the White House.

"My Civil rights have been violated, and some Appellate Court, whether federal or state, must reverse this horrible, un-American decision," he wrote on his Truth Social site. He insisted his company had "done a magnificent job for New York State" and "done business perfectly," calling it "A very sad Day for the New York State System of Justice!"

Trump's lawyer, Christopher Kise, said they would appeal, calling the decision "completely

disconnected from the facts and governing law."

Engoron's ruling, days before the start of a non-jury trial in James' lawsuit, is the strongest repudiation yet of Trump's carefully coiffed image as a wealthy and shrewd real estate mogul turned political powerhouse.

Beyond mere bragging about his riches, Trump, his company and key executives repeatedly lied about them on his annual financial statements, reaping rewards such as favorable loan terms and lower insurance costs, Engoron found.

Those tactics crossed a line and violated the law, the judge said, rejecting Trump's contention that a disclaimer on the financial statements absolved him of any wrongdoing.

"In defendants' world: rent regulated apartments are worth the same as unregulated apartments; restricted land is worth the same as unrestricted land; restrictions can evaporate into thin air; a disclaimer by one party casting responsibility on another party exonerates the other party's lies," Engoron wrote in his 35-page ruling. "That is a fantasy world, not the real world."

Manhattan prosecutors had looked into bringing criminal charges over the same conduct but declined to do so, leaving James to sue Trump and seek penalties that aim to disrupt his and his family's ability to do business.

Engoron's ruling, in a phase of the case known as summary judgment, resolves the key claim in James' lawsuit, but several others remain.

He'll decide on those claims and James' request for \$250 million in penalties at a trial starting Oct. 2. Trump's lawyers have asked an appeals court for a delay.

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people in this country who do not want their children to know the reality, the truth of how this country became what it is today."

Houston encouraged students to share literature and bravely talk about it.

"Your homework is to go out and be revolutionary," said Hous-

ton. "Talk about things that might not always be comfortable talking about. All that matters is that your message comes along even if your voice shakes a little."

The club is open for everyone to visit and engage. Meeting times and locations can be clarified at the Women's Center or the Multicultural Center.

Israeli citizens can travel to US visa-free

REBECCA SANTANA
The Associated Press

The Biden administration is admitting Israel into a select group of countries whose citizens are allowed to travel to the United States without getting a visa in advance.

The decision announced Wednesday comes despite Washington's concerns about the Israeli government's treatment of Palestinian Americans and marks a major accomplishment for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has sparred frequently with the Biden administration.

Under the waiver program, as of Nov. 30, Israelis will be able to travel to the U.S. for business or leisure purposes for up to 90 days without a visa simply by registering with the Electronic System for Travel Authorization. But even if they are authorized to travel under that system, U.S. officials at the airport can still bar them from entering the country.

Israel had been facing a Saturday deadline, the end of the U.S. government's budget year, to gain admission to the program without having to requalify for eligibility next year.

The Department of Homeland Security administers the program, which currently allows citizens of 40 mostly European and Asian countries to travel to the U.S. for three months without visas.

Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said the agreement, after more than a decade of work, "will en-



SUSAN WALSH • The Associated Press

President Joe Biden meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023.

hance our two nations' collaboration on counterterrorism, law enforcement and our other common priorities" and make the allies more secure.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a joint statement with Mayorkas, cited enhanced "freedom of movement for U.S. citizens, including those living in the Palestinian Territories or traveling to and from them."

Israel's admission has been a priority for successive Israeli leaders. It comes as Netanyahu is facing months of mass protests against his proposed remake of Israel's judicial system that critics say will make the country less democratic.

"Today we mark an important and joyful moment for all citizens

of Israel," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement. "This will save you, citizens of Israel a lot of time, a lot of trouble and a lot of money."

He described the decision as "further evidence of the strong ties between Israel and the United States" and thanked President Joe Biden and other officials who helped make it possible.

Palestinian diplomats complained that the U.S. had allowed Israel into the program without the country fulfilling its commitments of equal treatment for Palestinian Americans.

Palestinian advocacy groups have reported that even during the test phase of the visa waiver agreement.

◀REMOVAL from page 1

sponse to the last few years of situations in Minnesota where peace officers had used unreasonable force in general. The George Floyd incident comes to mind," said Dr. Carl Lafata.

Lafata said SROs in schools haven't always had good histories.

"I could tell you story after story, a quick Google search will bring them up, of school resource officers that have assaulted students unnecessarily or school resource officers who had illicit affairs with students at the school. One of my former departments in Michigan had a school resource

officer who pointed their firearm at a high school student as a joke and wound up being convicted of a misdemeanor," said Lafata.

When asked about the issue, Wersal challenged the perception that the use of force on students by SROs was a frequent occurrence.

"A legislature asked how many times a week the deputy was using force on students at the school. That's how often they think it happens. Maybe in some parts of the state, but not here. I asked the deputy [assigned to St. Claire] and he said he has not yet used what he would consider force in seven years at the school," said Wersal.

Both Wersal and Lafata agreed

there are benefits to having SROs in addition to preventing violence

"The biggest benefit would be the relationship that kids develop with law enforcement, and vice versa, the relationship law enforcement develops with kids," said Wersal.

"School resource officers in a perfect world would humanize the police, they would be a resource for students, faculty and staff. They would free up resources in the field so that they would handle all the calls on school grounds," said Lafata. "I say that in a perfect world. When school resource officers work well, they work very well. When they don't, they don't."

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TV shows plan their return after strike ends

By MARK KENNEDY and ANDREW DAULTON
The Associated Press

TV's late-night hosts planned to return to their evening sketches and monologues by next week, reinstating the flow of topical humor silenced for five months by the newly ended Hollywood's writers strike.

Bill Maher led the charge back to work by announcing early Wednesday that his HBO show "Real Time with Bill Maher" would be back on the air Friday. By mid-morning, the hosts of NBC's "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" and "Late Night with Seth Meyers," ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live," and "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" on CBS had announced they'd also return, all by Monday. "Last Week Tonight" with John Oliver was slated to return to the air Sunday.

Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," which had been using guest hosts when the strike hit, announced Wednesday that it would return Oct. 16 "with an all-star roster of guest hosts for the remainder of 2023." The plans for "Saturday Night Live" were not immediately clear.

The strikes have had a "catastrophic" impact on late-night television viewing, according to the research firm Samba TV.

Without Colbert, Fallon and



CHRIS PIZZELLO • The Associated Press

SAG-AFTRA member John Schmitt, second from right, and others carry signs on the picket line outside Netflix on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Kimmel proving fresh, topical material, the broadcast networks have seen late-night viewership declines of between 40% and 50%, Ashwin Navin, Samba TV co-founder.

"It remains to be seen how late night will rebound to its previous relevance," he said.

Fallon, Meyers, Kimmel, Col-

bert and Oliver spent the latter part of the strike teaming up for a popular podcast called "Strike Force Five" — named after their personal text chain and with all proceeds benefiting their out-of-work writers.

On Instagram on Wednesday, they announced "their mission

complete."

Scripted shows will take longer to return, with actors still on strike and no negotiations yet on the horizon.

On Tuesday night, board members from the writers union approved a contract agreement with studios, bringing the industry at

least partly back from a historic halt in production that stretched nearly five months.

Maher had delayed returning to his talk show during the ongoing strike by writers and actors, a decision that followed similar pauses by "The Drew Barrymore Show," "The Talk" and "The Jennifer Hudson Show."

The three-year agreement with studios, producers and streaming services includes significant wins in the main areas writers had fought for — compensation, length of employment, size of staffs and control of artificial intelligence — matching or nearly equaling what they had sought at the outset of the strike.

The union had sought minimum increases in pay and future residual earnings from shows and will get a raise of between 3.5% and 5% in those areas — more than the studios had initially offered.

The guild also negotiated new residual payments based on the popularity of streaming shows, where writers will get bonuses for being a part of the most popular shows on Netflix, Max and other services, a proposal studios initially rejected. Many writers on picket lines had complained that they weren't properly paid for helping create heavily watched properties.

On artificial intelligence, the writers got the regulation and control of the emerging technology they had sought.

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The importance of staying true to yourself

In college, we are faced with a lot of different people from different places, cultures, ethnicities, religions, social groups. The differences in people we meet, befriend or work with can be completely different than what we are used to.

But even with all of the changes happening around us, it is crucial that we stay true to ourselves and our core values.

Part of the reason college is such an exciting opportunity is to see what else is out there in the world. Some of us are used to seeing all of these differences, and some of us aren't.

While you embark on this journey, take in all of the new experiences and opportunities, but don't lose sight of your goals and things you hold close.

No one knows you better than you. Being true to yourself will become your guide to living a life for yourself. Taking in the opinions of others can be beneficial, but when it comes down to it, your opinion is the most important.

If you are struggling to make a big decision, the opinions of others may sway you one way or another, but the only way you will look back on that decision without regret is if you feel strongly about it or make the decision yourself. Good or bad, you made the choice, and you knew in that moment that you were taking the risk or making that your reality.

No one can be you, better than you. Being your true self, whatever that is will lead you to live a happier life, surrounded by people that you have earned. You will attract people who make a positive difference in your life, and more than likely, your minds will be similar and your aspirations will line up.

Your purpose will become clear. A lot of times, we come into college with so many questions and so much fog clouding our vision for the future. But to understand that it's a marathon and not a sprint and that the only way to finish is to go at your own pace will lead you to that finish line, no matter how long it takes.

The more you listen to yourself, the more you will be naturally guided to where you are meant to be in life. Trust in yourself and all the things you have been through, and you will fully live every step along the way of your life's mission.

No matter who you are or where you come from, you are accepted and you are welcome.

To fully trust and believe in yourself is to truly embrace the life you are living in. Let life run its course, and you will end up where you were meant to be.

Perspectives

Tales from the Fountain: The Bystander Fountain



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

Most of us have probably, at one point or another, enjoyed time in the soothing presence of the fountain between the Memorial Library and the Centennial Student Union.

This fountain that so many of us have enjoyed has an interesting history. It was originally installed at the 1964/1965 World's Fair held in New York City. The angular metal sculpture that now sits in the middle of the fountain was created in 1975 by former faculty member Roger Johnson.

When I was researching the 1964/1965 World's Fair held in New York City, it struck me as the most quintessential American World's Fair ever. First, the organizers' bid to have the fair recognized by the Bureau of International Expositions was rejected, leading them to decide to hold the fair without the endorsement of the BIE.



Jeremy Redlien
Staff Writer

Furthermore, the 1964/1965 NYC World's Fair's motto was "Peace Through Understanding," but it was seen as anything but peaceful by the Congress of Racial Equality, which organized multiple protests of the racial injustices they felt the fair was promoting.

According to a flier distributed by CORE, "the ugly specter of bigotry and discrimination throughout this nation, makes this world's fair both ludicrous and hypocritical. The millions of dol-

lars it cost must be measured against the 22 million American negroes living in the agony of fifth-class citizenship."

The 1964/1965 World's Fair also played an indirect but significant role in LGBTQ history. In order to clean up the city in preparation for the fair, then Mayor Robert F. Wagner ordered a crackdown on gay bars and increased other efforts to persecute gender and sexual minorities.

At the time the NYC World's Fair was taking place, it was illegal in New York State to serve those known to be homosexual. There were also laws in place to prevent people from dressing against the gender society had labeled them with.

This increased persecution by the city in advance of the World's Fair continued until June 28, 1969, when the patrons of the Stonewall Inn started what would become

COLUMN on page 5▶

Pulse

"What is your favorite part of fall?"

Compiled by Dalton Grubb



JACKSON SCHILD,
FRESHMAN

"Football games."



PAIGE BURKSTRAND,
FRESHMAN

"Carving pumpkins."



KOLEMAN LUND,
SOPHOMORE

"The weather."



JACKSON LEPAGE,
SOPHOMORE

"Hiking when the trees change colors."



RUDY BOWEN,
SOPHOMORE

"The different colored trees."



TAYLOR BURKLE,
FRESHMAN

"Pumpkin patches, leaves changing colors and halloween."

Over 50 arrested after mobs ransacked Philadelphia stores



MATT ROURKE • The Associated Press

Shown is the aftermath of ransacked liquor store in Philadelphia, Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023. Police say groups of teenagers swarmed into stores across Philadelphia in an apparently coordinated effort, stuffed bags with merchandise and fled.

The Associated Press

Dozens of people faced criminal charges Wednesday after a night of social media-fueled mayhem in which groups of thieves, apparently working together, smashed their way into stores in several areas of Philadelphia, stuffing plastic bags with merchandise and fleeing, authorities said.

Police said they made at least 52 arrests. Burglary, theft and other counts have been filed so far against at least 30 people, all but three of them adults, according to Jane Roh, spokesperson for the Philadelphia district attorney's office.

The flash mob-style ransacking Tuesday night at dozens of stores including Foot Locker, Lululemon and Apple came after a peaceful protest over a judge's decision to dismiss murder and other charges against a Philadelphia police officer who shot and killed a driver, Eddie Irizarry, through a rolled-up window.

Those doing the ransacking were not affiliated with the protest, Interim Police Commissioner John Stanford said at a news conference, calling the group "a bunch of criminal opportunists."

At least 18 state-run liquor stores were broken into, leading the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to close all 48 of its Philadelphia retail locations and one in suburban Cheltenham on Wednesday.

No employees were hurt Tuesday night, but "some were understandably shaken," said liquor board spokesperson Shawn Kelly.

The stores were "closed in the interest of employee safety and while we assess the damage and loss that occurred.

We will reopen stores when it is safe to do so and when the damage is repaired," Kelly said.

Video on social media showed

masked people in hoodies running out of Lululemon with merchandise and police officers grabbing several and tackling them to the sidewalk.

Photos of a sporting goods store at a mall showed mannequins and sneakers scattered on the sidewalk.

The thefts and unrest stretched from downtown to northeast and west Philadelphia, leaving smashed display windows and broken storefront coverings.

Police said seven cars were stolen from a lot in the northeast.

One of the cars had been recovered as of Wednesday afternoon.

Six businesses in a single retail corridor of North Philadelphia were looted, including three pharmacies, a hair salon, a tax preparation company and a cellphone store, according to the North 22nd Street Business Corridor, a business group.

Benjamin Nochum, the pharmacist and store manager at Patriot Pharmacy, said it was the third time since 2020 his business had been hit.

"When looters steal from us, what they don't seem to understand is that they are also stealing from our neighbors," Nochum said in a statement. "It makes you question how much longer you can hang on."

People appeared to have organized efforts on social media, according to Stanford, the interim police commissioner.

Police are investigating "that there was possibly a caravan of a number of different vehicles that were going from location to location."

Video posted to social media showed people hanging out of cars in a shopping center parking lot, appearing to yell directions to one another.

"This destructive and illegal behavior cannot and will not be tolerated in our city," said Mayor

Jim Kenney, a Democrat, calling it a "sickening display of opportunistic criminal activity."

His administration is working with police to assess "which areas of the city may need increased coverage or additional resources," he said.

The chaos in Philadelphia was reminiscent of similarly brazen smash-and-grab thefts elsewhere, particularly in the San Francisco Bay Area, where organized groups of thieves, some carrying crowbars and hammers, have systematically targeted high-end stores.

There were a large number of young people in Philadelphia's downtown business corridor, called Center City, shortly before 8 p.m., and some officers stopped a group of males "dressed in black attire and wearing masks," according to a police news release.

At that time, reports and 911 calls came in about the Foot Locker store.

When police arrived, they found it had been "ransacked in a coordinated attack," the news release said.

By 8:12 p.m., police responded to similar calls at Lululemon, where police wrestled a few suspects to the ground as people streamed out of the store.

Some of the suspected thieves slipped past police and got away, according to video posted to social media.

Shortly afterward, calls directed police to the Apple Store, where thieves had forced their way in and made off with phones and tablets — then smashed them on the ground when they realized the devices were disabled and their alarms were going off, social media video showed.

Some of the merchandise was recovered, according to a police news release.

Gender-affirming medical care blocked blocked for now



THOM BRIDGE • The Associated Press

A Montana state judge Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023, has blocked enforcement of a law to ban gender-affirming medical care for minors.

By AMY BETH HANSON
The Associated Press

A Montana law banning gender-affirming medical care for transgender minors is temporarily blocked, a state judge ruled Wednesday, just four days before it was to take effect.

Legislative debate over Montana's bill drew national attention this spring after Republicans

punished Democratic Rep. Zooney Zephyr — the first transgender woman elected to the state's Legislature — for admonishing lawmakers who supported the bill.

District Court Judge Jason Marks agreed with transgender youth, their families and health care providers that the law passed by the 2023 Montana Legislature is likely unconstitutional.

◀COLUMN from page 5

known as the Stonewall Riots during a police raid on the bar.

The Stonewall Riots that started that fateful night lasted six days and gave birth to what is considered the contemporary LGBTQ civil rights movement. Today, LGBTQ pride celebrations are held across the country

and around the world in June to commemorate the patrons of the Stonewall Inn fighting back against the police.

Tune in next week to Tales of the fountain: Part 2: The bystander fountain or everything your psychology professor got wrong about the murder of Kitty Genovese.



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US secures soldier who crossed into North Korea

By MATTHEW LEE
KIM TONG-HYUNG
LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

The U.S. has secured the release of a U.S. soldier who sprinted across a heavily fortified border into North Korea more than two months ago, and he is on his way back to America, officials announced Wednesday. U.S. ally Sweden and rival China helped with the transfer.

Left unanswered were questions of why Pyongyang—which has tense relations with Washington over the North's nuclear program, support for Russia's war in Ukraine and other issues—had agreed to turn him over and why the soldier had fled in the first place. North Korea had abruptly announced earlier Wednesday that it would expel Pvt. Travis King — though some had expected the North to drag out his detention in hopes of squeezing concessions from Washington at a time of high tensions between the two countries.

"U.S. officials have secured the return of Private Travis King from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea," White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said in a statement. "We appreciate the dedication of the interagency team that has worked tirelessly out of concern for Private King's wellbeing."

Officials said they did not know exactly why North Korea decided to expel King, but suspected Pyongyang determined that as a low-ranking serviceman he had no real value in terms of either leverage or information.

One official, who was not authorized to comment and requested anonymity, said the North Ko-



MORRY GASH • The Associated Press

North Korea says on Wednesday, Sept. 27, it has decided to expel a U.S. soldier who crossed into the country through the heavily armed inter-Korean border in July.

reans may have decided that King, 23, was more trouble to keep than to simply release him.

Swedish officials took King to the Chinese border, where he was met by the U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns, the Swedish ambassador to China, and at least one U.S. Defense Department official. Biden administration officials insisted they provided no concessions to North Korea to secure the soldier's release.

"We thank the government of Sweden for its diplomatic role serving as the protecting power for the United States in the DPRK and the government of the People's Republic of China for its assistance

in facilitating the transit of Private King," Sullivan added.

King was flown to a U.S. military base in South Korea before being returned to the U.S.

His expulsion almost certainly does not end his troubles or ensure the sort of celebratory homecoming that has accompanied the releases of other detained Americans.

He has been declared AWOL from the Army, which can mean punishment military jail, forfeiture of pay or a dishonorable discharge.

In the near term, officials said that their focus would be on helping King reintegrate into U.S. society, including helping him address mental and emotional concerns,

according to a senior Biden administration officials who briefed reporters on the transfer.

The soldier was in "good spirits and good health" upon his release, according to one senior administration official.

He was to be taken to Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, and was expected to arrive overnight, officials said.

King, who had served in South Korea, ran into North Korea while on a civilian tour of a border village on July 18, becoming the first American confirmed to be detained in the North in nearly five years.

At the time he crossed the bor-

der, King was supposed to be heading to Fort Bliss, Texas, following his release from prison in South Korea on an assault conviction.

After arriving on the Texas military installation, King is expected to undergo psychological assessments and debriefings. He will also get a chance to meet with family. King's legal situation remains complicated because he willingly bolted into enemy hands, so legally he would be in military custody throughout the process.

Sweden was the chief interlocutor with North Korea on the transfer, while China helped facilitate his transfer, administration officials said.

Biden administration officials expressed gratitude for China's assistance with the transfer but underscored that Beijing did not play a mediating role in securing King's release. The U.S. first learned through Swedish officials earlier this month that North Korea was looking to expel King. That information accelerated the effort to release King with Sweden acting on the United States' behalf in its talks with the North, an official said.

On Wednesday, the North's official Korean Central News Agency reported that authorities had finished their questioning of King. It said that he confessed to illegally entering the North because he harbored "ill feeling against inhuman maltreatment and racial discrimination" within the U.S. Army and was "disillusioned about the unequal U.S. society."

It had attributed similar comments to King before, and verifying their authenticity is impossible. Some previous foreign detainees have said after their releases that declarations of guilt while in North Korean custody were made under coercion.

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SPORTS

CLASH OF THE TITANS

#4 Mavericks to take on #9 Beavers in NSIC football showdown

By LUKE JACKSON
News Editor

Saturday's 'clash of the titans' matchup will decide what team is best in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference as no. 4 Mavericks head to Chet Anderson Stadium to take on no. 9 Bemidji State Beavers at their homecoming game.

The winner will be crowned king of the conference and keep their undefeated record.

Both teams are currently on a four-game win streak and have blown out each opponent they've faced. The Beavers currently hold an average win margin of 28.25 while the Mavericks have an average of 26.

The Beavers strength is defense. On average, they've been holding opponents to 11.7 points per game. This is done by holding teams to 69.8 rushing yards and 244 yards through the air.

"We hear a lot of talk about them," MSU running back Shen Butler-Lawson said. "I don't really look into all that, I just try and worry about what we are doing. We are just going to go in there with our heads up, see what they throw at us, adapt and do what we can to win."

Max Burdis leads the Beavers with 24 tackles on the season. Marcus Hansen has 18 tackles in-



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

What happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object? The Beavers have held teams to 69.8 rushing yards per game, but the Mavs are averaging 283 rushing yards per game. Which will give?

cluding 10.5 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks.

Their last defensive leader is Stephen Hoffman, who has 12 tackles and 4.5 of them are for loss.

The Beavers also average 40

points a game on the offensive side. Quarterback Brandon Alt has thrown for 12 touchdowns on 956 passing yards.

His main target is Dhel Duncan-Busby, who has six touch-

downs on the season. Ali Mohamed leads BSU's running back core with three touchdowns and 260 yards.

"We are just going to go out there and play Maverick football,

that's all that matters," defensive back Trey Vaval said.

The Mavericks main focus is to work towards their "five star ranking system," as head coach Todd Hoffner calls it.

"We have a five star ranking system, we want to rush for 200, stop our opponents from 400 yards, we want to win the turnover battle, we want to score 31 points, we want to hold our opponent to 19," Hoffner said.

The Mavericks have been successful at this goal. On average, the Mavericks their defense stops teams to 18.7 ppg and 289 ypg. Offensively, MSU averages 44.7 ppg on 230 rushing yards and 208 passing.

The Mavericks offensive line has only allowed one sack and has helped Butler-Lawson become the leading rusher in Division II football as he has 667 yards with 10 touchdowns.

Hayden Ekern has thrown for 800 yards and his lead target TreShawn Watson has 217 yards and two touchdowns.

Coach Hoffner currently is undefeated on the road versus Bemidji with a record of 4-0, and an overall record of 6-1.

Last year, the Mavs defeated BSU 37-34, which extended their win streak against the Beavers to three straight.

FINDING SUCCESS?

Volleyball heads to North Dakota

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

Here we are, 12 games into the season and the Minnesota State volleyball team has still not won a game in Minnesota.

Despite the outcome of this weekend's games, this fact will remain true.

Including their final loss in the Tiger Classic tournament, the Mavs have lost five straight, including four conference losses. Coming up this weekend are two more conference opponents, and the Mavs will look to break their losing streak and finally pick up a win in the NSIC.

Conveniently enough, the Mavs will play both of their games in North Dakota this weekend. First heading to Bismarck, then to Minot, the two cities are only one hour and 50 minutes apart.

Their first game in Bismarck will be Friday night against the University of Mary. The Marauders are the only team currently ranked below the Mavs in the NSIC standings, with a 4-8 record (also 0-4 in conference play).

They are led by Ally Gruber and Nehkyah Ellis, who have combined for nearly 220 kills on the season. Comparatively, the Mavs' duo of Sophie Tietz and Kiya Durant have combined for exactly 200.

A stat that favors the Mavs this weekend is the history that these two teams have. In 20 matchups, the Marauders have never defeated the Mavs.

In their 21st meeting, the Mavs will have to find the offense to take away from the Marauders' defense that features five players with over 100 digs on the year.

The next morning, the Mavs will be up for another duel with a struggling opponent. Minot State, while having a 2-10 record, has won a conference game against Minnesota-Crookston and slots in two spots ahead of the Mavericks in the NSIC standings.

While only having two wins on the year, this Beavers team is led by a do-it-all player in Maggie Machado. Machado has 80 kills, 10 blocks, nine service aces and 101 digs on the season.

They also have a capable no. 2 option in Bailee Brommenschen-



DALTON GRUBB • The Reporter

The Mavs are 20-0 all-time against the Marauders and 13-1 against the Beavers in 14 games. The Mavs have been dominant in North Dakota, and they hope to continue their hot streak this weekend.

kel, who leads the team in blocks (23) and also has 72 kills. Other team leaders include Kendall Braun in aces and digs, with 17 and 174, respectively, and Jaina McCauley in assists with 191.

The Beavers and Mavs have played 14 times in their 11-year history and the Mavs have won 13 of them, including 12 straight wins. So if history is to repeat itself, the Mavs should get the best of their

opponents this weekend in their first meeting of the year.

Friday's battle in Bismarck will begin at 6 p.m. before a quick turnaround to play in Minot at 10 in the morning.

Sports Management Career Fair to be held October 31

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

If you have ever dreamed of working with top-tier athletes, leading sports organizations, or driving innovation in sports technology, pay close attention. On October 31, from 12:00-2:30 p.m. members of the HP 469 Event Management in Sport class will be putting on the Sports Management Career Fair.

The event has been described as “a premier event designed to connect talented students with opportunities in the dynamic world of sports management”

Hosted in the Centennial Student Union Ballroom (CSU253), the event brings opportunities to

expand your horizons within the Sport Management major for anyone seeking a fulfilling career in the sports or business industries. Working with top-tier athletes, leading sports organizations, or driving innovation in sports technology are all common career paths within the major and will be accounted for at the fair.

Additionally, this career fair will bring you face-to-face with industry leaders and decision-makers.

All are welcome to attend the career fair, whether you are a Sport Management major or not, and this opportunity is exclusively being put on for one day this semester.

Among those attending will

be employers from the Minnesota Twins, Mankato Moondogs, Minnesota Aurora and JP Fitness.

From the team:

“Join us on October 31st from 12:00 to 2:30 for a day filled with networking, insightful panels, and the chance to explore various career paths within sports management. Don't miss out on your chance to connect with the world of sports and business - mark your calendars and join us at the Sports Management Career Fair!”

To learn more about the Sports Management Career Fair, look out for their poster including a QR code that is to be posted on social media, or follow their Instagram @mnsu.smcareerfair23 or Twitter @mnsusmcareerfair23.

Turning back the clock to save these quarterbacks



JAY LAPRETE • The Associated Press

Justin Fields has to be one of the greatest what-ifs in recent memory. With the amount of potential and ability he had at Ohio State, it is not hard to see why so many people still believe in him and so sad to see what he has become.

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Staff Writer

The 2021 NFL Draft saw five quarterbacks taken in the first round. This discourse surrounding this quarterback class leading up to the draft was like nothing I had witnessed before. Fast-forward to today and it is laughable to think about the hope that people had for most of those players. That quarterback class reminds us all once again just how unpredictable the draft is, and how most first-round quarterbacks don't pan out.

Welcome to a redraft of the first three picks. This is how I believe the draft should have gone in hindsight for the benefit of both the players and teams.

Pick 1: Jacksonville Jaguars: Quarterback Trevor Lawrence

This was a no-brainer. Just like how it went in real life, the Jaguars should draft Trevor Lawrence. This is a generational talent that we're talking about here. From the

moment that Clemson dismantled Alabama in the 2019 National Championship game 44-16, and Lawrence threw for 347 yards and three touchdowns as a freshman, I think everyone realized the kind of talent that was potentially about to grace the NFL. Despite the obvious talent that he has, his rookie year was mostly a forgettable one. It turns out that even a talent like Lawrence couldn't overcome the incompetence of Urban Meyer, who was fired after just 13 games. Year two went much more like most people expected when Lawrence was drafted. The Jags got him a good head coach in Doug Pederson and some offensive weapons and we saw what Lawrence is capable of. The highlight of his young career thus far being the 27-point comeback against the Chargers in the 2022 Wild Card Round.

Pick 2: New York Jets: Quarterback Justin Fields

Writing this now seems utter-

ly insane. However, coming into the draft this was not crazy at all. In fact, Justin Fields was viewed by many as the second best quarterback in that class. Fields' talent was recognized for being special even before his college days. In 2018, he was ranked second in the top 247 high school recruiting class. The only guy ranked ahead of him was, you guessed it, Trevor Lawrence. Since joining the league, Fields has had a rough time and it looks like his time in Chicago as the starting quarterback is waning. While he must take a lot of the blame for that, I'm not sure he could have gone to a worse location for a young quarterback to succeed. He went to a team with Matt Nagy on the hot seat as a head coach. After he was fired, the Bears hired Matt Eberflus. He hasn't been much better. Eberflus' specialty is defense and the Bears' defense has been atrocious since he's been there. On of-

SAVING on page 9

No. 12 Minnesota State returns home to face familiar foes



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

Despite not losing last week, the Mavs slid seven spots from no. 5 to no. 12 in the latest United Soccer Coaches Top 25 poll.

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

The no. 12 ranked Mavs women's soccer team looks to add two wins to their total this weekend back at the Pitch.

After defeating the University of Mary and settling for a draw against Minot State, Minnesota State slid to no. 12 in the United Soccer Coaches Top 25 poll. They slid seven spots from their rank in last week's poll.

First up for the Mavs will be an opponent that they have dominated in recent years; St. Cloud State.

The Huskies and Mavs have played 36 times, dating back to 1995. In those games, the Mavs lead the all-time series 37-7-2 and have won 16 of the last 20 times the teams have gone head to head.

This season, the Huskies are 6-2 and are coming off of a weekend in which they defeated Augustana and Wayne State at home. They are led by fifth-year forward Jenna Dominguez, who was named NSIC Offensive Player of the Week after her two game-winning goals in early Sep-

tember.

Following their battle with the Huskies Friday, the Bulldogs will come down to take the pitch the next day.

Similar to their history with the Huskies, the Mavs have won the majority of games against the Bulldogs, owning the all-time series lead, 23-8-5. However, they have only won 13 of their last 20 matchups, including a match that went to 2OT and two that went to shootouts.

The Bulldogs have had an up-and-down season to this point. Sitting at 2-3-3, the Bulldogs will be looking to get back above .500 this weekend. Anna Tobias leads the Bulldogs and the NSIC in goals with five, which included a hat trick against Minnesota-Crookston earlier in the year.

There is also history to be made this weekend. Mavs goalkeeper Mackenzie Rath is currently tied for second in MSU all-time shutouts and tied for third in all-time wins.

Friday's game will begin at 3 p.m. and Saturday's showdown will start at 1 p.m.

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“How to Survive the Coming Tribulation”	<i>Additional topics will include...</i>
SESSION 7	“Spiritualism and the State of the Dead”
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 **MANKATO SDA CHURCH**

Pro Picks: Lions get another win in Lambeau after ending Rodgers era



AL GOLDIS • The Associated Press

Detroit Lions quarterback Jared Goff scores a touchdown against the Atlanta Falcons in the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023.

By ROB MAADDI
The Associated Press

Pro Picks is a weekly column where AP Pro Football Writer Rob Maaddi shares his picks for upcoming games. For all previous Pro Picks, head here.

The Detroit Lions are going back to Lambeau Field for the first time since ending Aaron Rodgers' career in Green Bay.

The Packers look just fine with Jordan Love.

The two 2-1 teams meet Thursday night in an early season battle for first place in the NFC North.

Love, who led an impressive comeback win over the Saints last week, watched from sideline when the Lions knocked the Packers out of the playoffs with a win in the fi-

nal regular-season game in 2022.

"We know we can win out there, we've done it before. But you've got to go earn it," Lions coach Dan Campbell said. "It's not going to be given. It'll be loud, it'll be a tough environment. They're playing good, so here we go."

The Packers haven't had running back Aaron Jones and wide receiver Christian Watson the past couple of games because of hamstring injuries. If they can return on a short week, that'll boost an offense that has played well behind Love.

The Lions are 1 1/2-point favorites on the road, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. It's one of 11 games this week with odds under four points.

Pro Picks likes the road team.
LIONS, 27-20
WASHINGTON AT PHILADELPHIA

Line: Eagles minus 8 1/2
The Eagles (3-0) are undefeated despite playing spotty and sluggish over the first three weeks. The Commanders (2-1) present an opportunity for Philly to put together a complete game.

BEST BET: EAGLES, 30-13
BALTIMORE AT CLEVELAND

Line: Browns minus 2 1/2
Deshaun Watson had his best game with the Browns (2-1) and Jim Schwartz's defense led by Myles Garrett is dominating. Facing the injury-depleted Ravens (2-1), the line should be higher.

UPSET SPECIAL: RAVENS, 23-22

ATLANTA AT JACKSONVILLE

Line: Jaguars minus 3
The Jaguars (1-2) have to get back on track across the pond in the first of two straight games in London. Trevor Lawrence and the offense have scored just 26 points combined in two losses. Jacksonville's strong run defense gets a big test against Bijan Robinson, Tyler Allgeier and the Falcons (2-1).

JAGUARS, 24-20
MIAMI AT BUFFALO

Line: Bills minus 3
Tua Tagovailoa, Tyreek Hill, Raheem Mostert and DeVon Achane were unstoppable in a 70-point outburst vs. Denver. If the Dolphins (3-0) are going to uncrown the Bills (2-1) in the AFC East, they'll need to beat them.

SAVING from page 8

fense, Fields was handed a terrible offensive line and receiving group. Even when the Bears try to make good decisions like trading for D.J. Moore during the off-season, they still make eye-raising decisions like trading a second-round pick for Chase Claypool. Had Fields been drafted by the Jets, I believe he would have had a much better chance to succeed. By no means have the Jets been looked at as a well-run franchise for years. However, seeing the way that general manager Joe Douglas has drafted since he got there, and the way head coach Robert Saleh has changed the culture and turned that young defense into one of the league's best, makes me wonder how Fields would have fared in New York. He even would have had a Kyle Shanahan disciple as his offensive coordinator at the time in Mike LaFleur. I believe that the former Buckeye could have looked much more like the guy we saw throw for 385 yards and six touchdowns in the Sugar Bowl against Clemson mere months before the draft had he been taken by the Jets.

Pick 3: San Francisco 49ers: Mac Jones

It became apparent long before the draft that the third pick was where the draft was really starting. Everyone knew that the Jags were taking Lawrence and it was heavily reported that the Jets made



RON JENKINS • The Associated Press

up their mind on drafting Zach Wilson. The 49ers threw a wrench into things when they traded up from the 12th pick with the Miami Dolphins to the third pick by trading three first-round picks and a third-round pick. When the initial trade happened, people were salivating at the idea of Kyle Shanahan getting his hands on a prospect like Fields or Trey Lance. The conversation then shifted to Mac Jones when guys like long-time friend of Shanahan, Chris Simms were saying they believed that they would pick Jones. Since then, there has been a lot of speculation that Shanahan wanted

Jones and that he was talked out of it. In June 2023, Adam

Shefter said on "The Pat McAfee Show" that "the 49ers traded up with the idea that they were going to draft Mac Jones. While they looked at other prospects, they fell in love with Trey Lance." With the success that Brock Purdy is having, are you telling me that couldn't have been Jones? The 49ers have the best skill position players in the league and they have a wizard calling the plays with Shanahan.

Their quarterback just needs to be a true point guard and get the ball to their playmakers and let them make things happen. We saw Jones do that at Alabama, and he would've for the 49ers had they drafted him.

Damian Lillard traded from the Trail Blazers to the Bucks



CRAIG MITCHELLDYER • The Associated Press

Lillard is being traded by Portland to play alongside Giannis Antetokounmpo in Milwaukee, a move that ends his 11-year run with the Trail Blazers.

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

Damian Lillard is being traded by Portland to play alongside Giannis Antetokounmpo in Milwaukee, a person with knowledge of the agreement said Wednesday, a deal that ends his 11-year run with the Trail Blazers and a three-month saga surrounding his wish to be moved elsewhere in hopes of winning an NBA title.

The seven-time All-Star — a player so elite that he was selected to the NBA's 75th anniversary team — goes from the Trail Blazers to the Bucks in a three-team deal that sends Jrue Holiday from the Bucks to Portland, Deandre Ayton from Phoenix to Portland and Jusuf Nurkic from the Blazers to the Suns, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because none of the involved teams had announced the agree-

ment.

As with all trades, it cannot be finalized until NBA attorneys review the terms and approve the deal.

It became known on July 1 that Lillard asked the Trail Blazers for a trade, which he was long speculated to be considering given his desire to play for a contender and Portland not seeming to have much of a chance with its current roster.

He wanted to go to Miami and made that clear. Portland decided not to accommodate that request, and instead, it's the Bucks who now have an incredibly strong 1-2 punch of Lillard and Antetokounmpo heading into the new season.

The trade continues the Bucks' dramatic offseason makeover in response to their surprising first-round playoff loss to Miami.

They followed up that playoff

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VARIETY

RENT captures epidemic through rock music

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

Minnesota State Theater and Dance is putting on the musical, “RENT,” which talks about one of the most significant moments in LGBT+ history: the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The show will run at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 28-30 and Oct. 5-7, and at 2 p.m. Oct. 7 and 8.

“RENT” follows a group of friends trying to escape poverty, homelessness, and the threat of HIV/AIDS in the 1990s East Village of New York City. By tackling the issues head-on, individuals come to their own personal realizations and determine what is truly important in life.

Davis Jensen plays Mark Cohen, a videographer who captures what is happening as the musical goes on as he works on his film. Jensen said he thinks this issue is important in today’s society because of the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Students can relate to how the characters are feeling. He also said it is “good to spread awareness of both that and the LGBT side of the show.”

“He is capturing moments between his friend group and is trying his hardest to cheer everyone up and make every day special because it could always be the last day,” said Jensen. “I like how he’s just kind of like he tries to help connect everyone he tries to help and have a good time, and I can relate to that on a personal level.”

Garmunee Phillips plays Tom Collins in “RENT” and auditioned for the role of Roger. He said he wanted to do something different



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Set in New York City’s gritty East Village, RENT tells the story of a group of bohemians struggling to live and pay their rent.

from the characters he’s been in the past.

“Rogers’s role is much different from what I’m used to. I’m usually like the comedic relief or like the funny best friend, you know, something of that manner, but I like my role,” said Phillips. “I can relate to Collins a lot because of the carefree entity. His demeanor resembles my demeanor in the sense of walking in a room and just being all smiles,

laughter, and joy.”

Phillips said that this musical is important in 2023 because of the themes discussed with the LGBT+ community in the show. He said that everyone can learn something by coming to the show.

“It’s hitting a lot on LGBT+ topics and the AIDS epidemic back then. Anybody can relate to that; it doesn’t have to be AIDS. It can be any type of disease or medical

thing,” said Phillips. “I think the show shows that you’re not the only person going through this, and there’s always a space, a community and a safe space for you.”

Auditions for the musical happened last spring, and callbacks happened on the first day of classes. The turnaround for this show was quick, and the Director of the show, Vladimir Rovinsky, said

RENT on page 11

All Paws on Deck: Emotional Support Animals

By GRACE ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Getting through college and securing a degree is by no means an easy task. It often brings an abundance of stress onto students regardless of their major or program. In many ways, students look for helpful methods to relieve stress through therapy and numerous different activities, but there is another way that students decompress after classes and work. It is common for students to adopt Emotional Support Animals (ESAs) to help them cope with daily stressors.

ESAs are animals that serve the purpose of helping individuals who are struggling with their mental health. This often takes the form of comforting their owners and supporting them in times of distress as a faithful and loving companion. However, these animals are not officially recognized as service animals and are treated as ordinary pets. In some cases regarding living situations, pet fees will be waived with a doctor’s or therapist’s note stating that the individual needs this animal to live with them as a form of treatment.

One student, Carly Kuhlman, has found consolation in her own ESA named Kitty, a female black cat that has been a big part of her life since she was just a child. Kuhlman is a psychology student here at Minnesota State who is living off-campus in an apartment with her ESA.

When the two first met, Kitty was a bit aggressive and shy, but eventually started warming up to Kuhlman once she started reading to the cat. The two have been inseparable ever since. Kitty gives Kuhlman a sense of purpose, which helps her have the motivation to do her best every day.

“I get stressed out a lot and it’s nice to take a break,” Kuhlman said. “I struggle with severe depression and so even taking care of myself is hard, but then I have to take care of my cat so that at least gets me up and out of my bed.”

While many view owning a pet as a challenging responsibility, Kuhlman expressed that owning a cat is fairly easy.

“I have classes once a day,” said Kuhlman. “I come home and she has an automatic feeder, and then I give her her wet food at about 3 p.m., and then I clean her litter box every other day. It’s not too hard.”

School of Nursing student, Meghan Botsford, also has an ESA named Luna, a female yorkie/poodle/terrier mix, who has also been part of her life for many years. The Botsford Family adopted her as a rescue, and her love and devotion toward her forever family has been unwavering ever since. Luna is about 13-years-old but is as lively as a puppy. Botsford has a close bond

ESA on page 11

Superb study habits to crush midterms week

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

Studying can be tricky, and sitting down to do the work is a task in itself. With midterms on the horizon, developing good study habits is a useful tool to ensure student success.

However, it is important to note that every person is different, and it may take time to master studying in a way that works best for you.

1. Find your place

The world is full of distractions. Some people may thrive in busier settings such as the Centennial Student Union, while others might work better in a silent Mav Pod. Find a place that you work well in and make that area your designated study area. As you visit this place more, it’ll become habitual to enter work mode as soon as you walk through the doors.

2. To-do lists

With multiple classes to balance, putting every due date in writing will help you stay on top of the workload. Look for important dates ahead of time and write them down somewhere you look often.



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

There are many areas within MSU’s campus that offer great studying areas for students such as the Memorial Library, Centennial Student Union, or a MAV POD.

This could be a sticky note on your computer, a real-life sticky note, a planner, etc. To-do lists are your best friend.

3. Practice makes perfect

Looking over notes may be helpful, but practicing the material takes it one step further. By creating practice tests, rewriting import-

ant things, and utilizing flash cards among strategies, the knowledge will stick in your head come test time.

4. Fight procrastination

Procrastination is the devil on your shoulder. It is hard to donate spare time to studies, but neglecting the work until the last minute

calls for a daunting test day. Remember to space out your time between work so you are not scrambling to study the night before.

5. Take a break, or ten

Studying for long periods of time is strenuous work. Your hands get tired from writing, your eyes are sore from staring at a screen and your brain is short-circuiting. It is completely ok and actually beneficial to take breaks in between study sessions to gather your thoughts before you get back into the groove.

6. Teacher time

Never be afraid to reach out to a professor regarding their class. Their job is to help students learn and asking questions about material they are highly knowledgeable in is typically encouraged by them. Do not feel like a question is not worth their time; it never hurts to simply ask than to never know.

7. Confidence is key

Believe in yourself— it may sound cheesy, but it really works. Second-guessing yourself will only put you behind. If you have done the work and feel good about it, walk into the room on test day with

STUDY on page 11

Diversity in the world of Disney



Disney

Peter Pan, released in 1953, is one of many Disney movies known to have problematic depictions of race and ethnicity. In 2020, disclaimers were added to films.

By ANAHI ZUNIGA
Staff Writer

Disney has created some of the most prominent and significant films in cinema history composed of fairy tales, myths, and, following into the 21st century, culture.

Films such as Pocahontas, Aladdin, Peter Pan, Dumbo, and Mulan stirred up talk involving diversity, accuracy, and representation, which has now led to Disney being a popular subject when it comes to the topic of diversity. Past and current projects that the company has produced has led many to question what diversity actually is and how impactful it can be.

For me, diversity is representation. Seeing who we are on screen. Letting the world see who we actually are rather than the stereotypes that have been forcefully labeled onto many minority and diverse groups.

Being represented accurately on an emotional and historical basis is what matters to us.

I am a first generation Mexican American college student. Not once did I see myself represented in any Disney films growing up. I never saw myself represented as a Disney princess, or a fun protagonist on an adventure or journey of self-discovery.

I really never saw myself represented on screen until Pixar released Coco, a film about a boy who is determined to follow his dreams with his extended family being involved into the mix.

It was the only film that I have seen that represented my culture correctly. Sure, it sounds a bit stereotypical that when they make a film following Hispanic culture, they immediately tie it to Dia de los Muertos, but I didn't care. All I cared about was seeing people like myself, my family, and our culture being shown on screen.

And to make it more emotional, the film won an Academy Award, so maybe people like me do matter.

But it was just my culture and my people. Other cultures, races, and ethnicities want to be seen and represented just like I was. For the past few decades, Disney has created a lot of misrepresentation from their first few animated projects. Both Peter Pan and Pocahontas have received criticism for their portrayals of Native American peo-

ple and their culture; Peter Pan especially, as it had very little historical accuracy, offensive phrases and words, and included stereotypes that have been shown in the media for decades now. It greatly mistreated the portrayal of Native people, but it didn't stop there.

Other Disney classics such as Mulan, Aladdin, and Dumbo were bashed for the stereotypes that we implied into them. It may be fiction but Disney created these stories using other peoples' cultures.

Throughout the years, Disney tried its best to be diverse by making sure its audience felt seen and heard, and it has come a long way. It has released several films with characters coming from many different backgrounds and it has also covered several other sensitive topics in its films.

It even expanded its diversity by creating shows and movies, both live action and animation, that have been released on its well-known app Disney Plus.

Disney has strongly been promoting its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion through its content and throughout its workforce.

Leading up to today, Disney is still working to make sure its audience is seen. However, they have landed in hot water several times since then, and that is for the development in live action remakes. The company received backlash for casting Halle Bailey, a black woman, for the role of Ariel in the Little Mermaid.

The reaction for the casting was very mixed as half of the people claimed that they were no longer represented, while the other half claimed that they were joyful to see themselves being portrayed.

I, myself, was very intrigued with this new change, and after watching the live action remake, it instantly became one of my favorites.

Disney followed the path of having new spins for their live action remakes, but it was once again followed with controversy when the castings for the live action remakes of Snow White and Lilo & Stitch were revealed, which made many question what diversity truly is.

What about you? What does diversity mean to you?

◀**STUDY from page 10**
your head held high. If you walk into the room assuming the worst,

you will likely perform the worst. Fake it until you make it.



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

An emotional support animal is an animal that provides relief to people with psychiatric disability through companionship.

◀**ESA from page 10**
with her dog, evident in the way Luna listens to her and supports her through difficult times. Botsford expressed that being in college with an ESA is much easier than being in college without one.

"I don't know what I would do without her," Botsford said. "Every day I come home she's so excited. My stress just melts away and it's

so much nicer having her. I don't know what I'd do if I didn't have that reassurance every day."

Botsford also expressed that having an animal in college is difficult.

"There's a lot of upkeep and care that goes into it and you can't just wake up five minutes before class and run to class because you need to stop and feed your animal while

giving them lots of love and attention," Botsford said.

Despite the work that goes into owning an animal while in college, Botsford does not regret her decision.

"The work of keeping her happy is worth it because she does that for me ten times as much," said Botsford.

◀**RENT from page 10**
that despite the challenge, it's been "business as usual."

"Well, it's complicated from a technical point of view. Our set is not just a plain background; it's a very active element of the show. It's moving along with the show, transforming the show," said Rovinsky. "In theater, we always wish we had one more week, only a couple of

weeks, because in many ways, to kind of become the person you are presenting on stage."

The show has also had a mental challenge for the actors as well. Phillips said that it was all about getting into that mindset.

"We all did a good job having nice conversations about what we're saying. We're saying these words that could be slurs or de-

rogatory and understanding the meaning behind them and why we're using them in this show," said Phillips. "The show is very risky. We're pushing the buttons a lot in this show, and I think you'll see that once we're on stage."

For more information on how to get tickets, go to the theater arts page on the MSU website.

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