

Student Government hears potential VP candidates

By TRACY SWARTZENDRUBER
Staff Writer

Student senators heard from Rebekka Jay, a management and political science major, and Ruth Asmamaw, a social work and communication studies major, who were candidates for the third round of the vice presidency race.

Among various questions posed by the senators, Jay and Asmamaw responded to a question concerning how they have helped students in the past. Asmamaw recounted helping a fellow international student figure out various aspects of being a freshman, such as how to register for classes. Jay recounted filling the place of fellow student ambassadors who were unable to provide a campus tour for potential freshmen.

Jay and Asmamaw were also given the opportunity to state what projects they would seek to pursue in their role as vice president.

“Some of the things that I am planning to do, if elected, are student basic needs and mental health,” Asmamaw said. “For example, the student government offers free access to lawyers, but most students don’t know about that. Recently, I had a friend who came up to me with this problem, and they didn’t know what to do. I said the student government offers this.”

“One thing that I think a lot of our students are lacking is an understanding of the resources that our university provides for them,



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

Student senators heard from Rebekka Jay (above), a management and political science major, and Ruth Asmamaw, a social work and communication studies major, who were candidates for the third round of the VP race.

as well as a lot of the organizations that we have here on campus for them to be involved with. I want to work on some different guides for students to know what is accessible to them,” Jay said. “Another thing I want to help students with is tutoring across all of our different colleges that we have here at MSU.”

Asmamaw and Jay responded to a question about their core values or policies in the vice presidency.

“My core values will be honesty, responsibility, and time management,” Asmamaw said.

“One of my core values is vulnerability,” Jay said.

After much time spent interviewing the candidates, President Sierra Roiger called for an executive session to allow the senators to discuss in private without cameras or the gallery present. The outcome was no vice president was chosen as Asmamaw and Jay failed to win the two-thirds majority needed.

Smoother transitions for education in nursing

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

The Maverick Nursing Program has a new partnership.

The Maverick Advance Plan ensures a seamless transition from an Associate of Science in Nursing degree from a community college to a bachelor’s nursing education at Minnesota State.

The plan includes joint advising for students in community colleges from both MSU advisors and community college advisors. Students work with advising professionals to ensure they meet the requirements and stay on track to transition to the next step in their educational career.

“The goal of the program is to help make that transfer process from the two-year to the four-year go more smoothly for students so that they know exactly what they need to do to complete their bachelor’s degree,” said Marie Stolemaker, RN to BS Completion Program Advisor.

Stolemaker says advisors keep track of program completion for students in different community colleges.

“We have come up with an advising document for each school that we have a partnership with, and it outlines for the students what general education curriculum they are likely missing when they go through that program so that students know what additional courses they would have to take,” Stolemaker said.

According to Stolemaker, all students in the community college nursing program have access to the Maverick Advance Plan. Advisors, faculty members and program coordinators share the plan information with the community college students.

RN-BS Completion Program Director Laura Schwarz said students are acquainted with advisors from MSU before they graduate from their two-year program.

“We are planning to do three Zoom visits between this week and next week to talk to their students so they get to know us before they even graduate,” said Schwarz. “Students can ask us questions, and we get to know their faculty and advisor a little bit,

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Vigil held for Trans Day of Remembrance

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor In Chief

Students came together Tuesday night in the CSU Ballroom to commemorate transgender people who have lost their lives to violence in 2023.

Trans Day of Remembrance is celebrated on Nov. 20 while the week before is known as Transgender Awareness Week.

The holiday started in 1999 after Rita Hester, a transgender woman, was killed violently in Australia in 1998.

After a few videos were shown explaining the history behind Trans Day of Remembrance, students then went on stage and read the names of the 25 victims with a moment of silence held for each of them.

Director of the LGBT Center Zeke Sorenson said they wanted to host the vigil to acknowledge the spike in violence against transgender people.

“It’s important to host events like this to bring attention to that so we can start to have conversations of how we can do better and we can combat a lot of that negativity,” Sorenson said. “Unfortunately,



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Students gathered in the CSU Ballroom Tuesday night to honor transgender people who were violently killed in 2023. Their photos were displayed while students held electronic candles during moments of silence for each of the victims.

we as a human society, when we’re faced with things we don’t understand, we don’t always react in the best way. If we’re having these discussions and not being mindful of how we’re talking about gender and people’s identities, that’s going to influence how people think and treat people who want to just exist and be seen.”

Junior Lily Martin is a student

worker at the LGBT Center. Her brother is transgender and she wanted to attend to show her allyship to the LGBTQ+ community.

“Getting to hear other opinions was really helpful because it helps me understand his world a little better and helps me become a better ally,” Martin said.

Before the names were read off,

Sorenson spoke on the statistics of transgender violence across the nation.

Out of the 25 transgender and non-conforming lives lost in 2023, 88% of the victims were people of color with 52% of the victims being black transgender women. More than 47% of the victims with a known killer were killed by a romantic partner, friend or family member.

Sorenson said with all the anti-trans rhetoric in legislation, it’s important to talk about gender and acknowledge and respect each other’s identities.

“We’re a community that is more visible than we ever have before, so we need to continue to have those conversations and encourage people to try and understand if they’re having a problem understanding,” Sorenson said. “That’s not always easy to do, but we are living in a time where that is happening more and more.”

Martin said she feels disheartened to see people she loves getting attacked by the legislature that’s passed.

“10 years ago, my brother never wanted to stay in Minnesota and

VIGIL on page 3

Chess master challenges 16 students at MSU tournament



LAUREN VISKA • The Reporter

The chess club threw an event Wednesday with chess master John Bartholomew. Secretary of the club, Sean Nolan, said he hoped students got a lot out of the event.

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

While some people might think of chess as something that takes years to learn, the chess club at Minnesota State would say otherwise.

The chess club threw an event Wednesday with chess master John Bartholomew. Secretary of the club, Sean Nolan, said he hoped students got a lot out of the event.

“There are life skills that you can learn from chess, especially when you’re down pieces and being able to fight back and learn how to make plans with what you have,” said Nelson. “At the end of the day, it is to play chess and get better at chess and just get better at a really fun game.”

Jacob Baker was one of the 16 people who played against Bartholomew. He has been playing since 2019 and picked it up be-

cause he was bored and needed something to do. He said playing against Bartholomew was fun.

“I mean, I messed up really early on, and I felt like a doofus, and then everything went downhill from there. It’s a ton of fun seeing the moves he makes because he’s not going to make a mistake,” said Baker. “Everybody knew they were gonna lose coming into this, but they had fun with it.”

Bartholomew said that playing against 16 people was less intense than when he played against 35 people during a tournament.

“Challenging because there were some good players here. When you don’t know the level of the person you’re facing, you’re figuring that out as the game progresses,” said Bartholomew. “There’s always games that are a little more straightforward than others, but when you have these strong players interspersed, it can be mentally taxing.”

Bartholomew said he hoped people took some new skills home.

“I hope they learned something about their own game and maybe some possible areas for improvements,” said Bartholomew. “Also, with the Q&A, hopefully, I inspired a couple of people to approach their chess improvement differently or look deeper into the game.”

While first learning chess can be intimidating, Bartholomew said not to overthink it.

“Get online, find a friend that plays, or go to a club and jump in. A lot of people overthink what chess is; it is a game. It’s a social game, after all,” said Bartholomew. “There’s a lot of intimidating information about chess, but no one expects you to be a grandmaster or even a rated player when you first get into the game. It’s OK to make mistakes; you’re gonna have to make a lot of mistakes and chests to make progress.”

Smoothing: ‘We hope people will continue their education’

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too, so it is friendly.”

“I am regularly scheduling appointments and answering phone calls or emails from all the prospective students or leaders at a community college,” said Stolemaker.

Everyone enrolled in associate nursing program at community college can use services within Maverick Advance Plan.

“So basically, it’s anybody that is at the college, completing their program, those who have completed the program but haven’t started yet, or students that are en-

rolled,” said Schwarz. “So we have all across the board from still being in their Associate Degree program to being in our program.”

Schwarz says the South Central Community College was the first partner for Maverick Advance Plan.

“We reached out to them, and they liked that idea since their students are already coming here,” said Schwarz. “Then it just snowballed to other colleges and community college associate degree programs.”

According to Schwarz, students in Maverick Advance Plan

are guaranteed admission to MSU as long as they pass the NCLEX examination, are registered nurses and have a GPA of 2.5 or above.

Schwarz said the program is flexible, friendly and designed for registered nurses. After completing a bachelor’s degree, students can continue with a master’s program at MSU.

“We now have a master’s program, and our students can go directly onto that. With dual enrollment in the final semester, if they want to,” said Schwarz. “We hope people will continue their education beyond the bachelor’s degree and go on to Master’s or higher.”

Millions are booted off of Medicare and Biden is slow to act



MICHAEL GONZALEZ • The Associated Press

Children’s Defense Fund program director Graciela Camarena poses for a photo in Pharr, Texas, Monday, Nov. 13, 2023.

By AMANDA SEITZ
The Associated Press

Up to 30 million of the poorest Americans could be purged from the Medicaid program, many the result of error-ridden state reviews that poverty experts say the Biden administration is not doing enough to stop.

The projections from the health consulting firm Avalere come as states undertake a sweeping reevaluation of the 94 million people enrolled in Medicaid, government’s health insurance for the neediest Americans.

A host of problems have surfaced across the country, including hourslong phone wait times in Florida, confusing government forms in Arkansas, and children wrongly dropped from coverage in Texas.

“Those people were destined to fail,” said Trevor Hawkins, an attorney for Legal Aid of Arkansas.

Hawkins helped hundreds of people navigate their Medicaid eligibility in Arkansas, as state officials worked to “swiftly disenroll” about 420,000 people in six months’ time. He raised problems with Arkansas’ process — like forms that wrongly told people they needed to reapply for Medicaid, instead of simply renew it — with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Nothing changed, he said. “They ask questions but they don’t tell us what is going on,” Hawkins said of CMS. “Those should be major red flags. If there was a situation where CMS was to step in, it would have been Arkansas.”



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UN continues to adopt a resolution for Israel- Hamas war



MAHMOUD ABO SALAMAH • The Associated Press

Palestinians look for survivors after an Israeli strike on a building last night in Jebaliya refugee camp, Gaza Strip, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023.

By EDITH M. LEDERER
The Associated Press

After four failed attempts, the U.N. Security Council is trying for a fifth time to come up with a resolution on the Israel-Hamas war, but it remains to be seen whether serious divisions can be overcome to produce a consensus on wording.

The current draft under negotiation would demand “immediate extended humanitarian pauses” throughout the Gaza Strip to provide civilians with desperately needed aid. It also would demand that “all parties” comply with international humanitarian law that requires protection for civilians, calls for special protections for children, and bans hostage-taking.

But the draft, proposed by council member Malta and obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, makes no mention of a ceasefire. It also doesn't refer to Hamas' surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7 that killed around 1,200 people and took some 240 others hostage. Nor does it cite Israel's retaliatory airstrikes and ground offensive in Hamas-ruled Gaza that the Gaza health ministry says has killed more than 11,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children.

The 15-member council, which has the responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, has been paralyzed since the war began by its internal divisions. This is especially the case between China and Russia, which want an immediate ceasefire, and the United States, Israel's closest ally that has called for humanitarian pauses but objects to any mention of a ceasefire.

In the four previous tries, a Brazil-drafted resolution was vetoed by the United States, a U.S.-drafted resolution was vetoed by Russia and China, and two Russian-drafted resolutions failed to get the minimum nine “yes” votes needed for adoption.

Several council diplomats said the opposing sides were getting closer. Two said that a vote on the latest draft could come as early as Wednesday but that delegations were still checking with their capitals. The diplomats insisted on

speaking anonymously because the negotiations are supposed to be private.

The resolution under consideration says the humanitarian pauses should be “for a sufficient number of days” to open corridors for unhindered access by U.N., Red Cross and other aid workers to get water, electricity, fuel, food and medical supplies to all those in need. It says the pauses also should allow repair of essential infrastructure and enable urgent rescue and recovery efforts.

After the failure of the fourth Security Council resolution, Arab nations turned to the 193-member General Assembly and succeeded in getting wide approval for a resolution calling for a “humanitarian truce” in Gaza meant to lead to a cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hamas.

It was the first United Nations response to the war.

But unlike Security Council resolutions, General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding, though they are a barometer of world opinion.

The vote was 120-14 with 45 abstentions. Of the five veto-holding Security Council members, Russia, China and France voted in favor, the United States voted against and the United Kingdom abstained.

The General Assembly resolution was adopted Oct. 27 and Israel agreed Nov. 9 to four-hour pauses. But only very limited aid has been delivered to Gaza through the Rafah crossing from Egypt, and a humanitarian catastrophe has been brewing.

Richard Gowan, U.N. director for the International Crisis Group, said U.S. opposition to a ceasefire “is a gift that keeps on giving for Russia diplomatically.” He said that while many diplomats think Russia is demanding a ceasefire “for largely cynical reasons to make the Americans look bad,” Moscow's position “is closer to the mainstream of council thinking, and the U.S. looks isolated.”

The irony is that the Security Council has called for ceasefires in wars from the Balkans to Syria “with little or no impact,” Gowan said.

Missing sailor leaves last message

By MARIA VERTZA
The Associated Press

During the first minutes of Oct. 25 when Hurricane Otis roared into Acapulco Bay with 165 mph winds, sailor Ruben Torres recorded a 10-second audio message from a yacht called the Sereno.

“All things considered I'm alright, but it's really horrible, it's really horrible, it's really horrible,” he said over the howling wind and the boat's beeping alarms. “Family, I don't want to exaggerate, but pray for us because it's really awful out here.”

The Sereno was one of 614 boats — yachts, ferries, fishing boats — that according to Mexico's Navy were in the bay that night and ended up damaged or on the ocean floor. Of those aboard the Sereno, one person survived, while Torres and the boat's captain remain missing.

Otis killed at least 48 people officially, most drowned, and some 26 are missing. Sailors, fishermen and their families believe there are many more.

Sailors in the region typically board their boats during a storm rather than stay on land where



MARCO UGARTE • The Associated Press

A missing persons sign with the hashtag “otis disappeared” covers a post in Acapulco, Mexico, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023. It was 12:20 a.m. on Oct. 25.

they'd be safe, so that they can bring the boats to sheltered parts of Acapulco Bay instead of leaving them where a storm could slam them against docks and do damage.

But Otis was no normal storm. When sailors went to sea that day no one expected that the tropical storm would strengthen to a Category 5 hurricane in 12 hours and make a direct hit on Acapulco,

leaving no part of the bay safe.

Susana Ramos, the wife of Ruben Torres, heard her husband's message only days later.

Torres' family knew his routine when a hurricane approached: He went aboard to help care for the boat and the crew sailed it near the naval base in an area more protected by mountains that ring the bay.

◀ VIGIL from page 1

now he and his wife will stay because it's the only place they feel safe. Knowing they're sacrificing cities they love because they aren't safe has deeply affected me, especially knowing that I could move there and be fine, but they wouldn't feel safe visiting,” Martin said.

Martin said asking questions and what people's pronouns are is an easy way to show support.

“Just because somebody looks

a certain way doesn't mean they're going to identify that way,” Martin said. “Asking is the most important part because so many people are happy to educate, but when assumptions get made, people get hurt.”

Sorenson said one of the best ways to support transgender people is to take time to understand the history and have tough conversations.

“At the end of the day, remember these are people behind issues

and not to let the issues foreshadow the fact that these are human beings. The way we talk about things matters,” Sorenson said.

Throughout the week, the CSU display case between the bookstore and the LGBT Center will show photos of the victims along with tips on how to be a better ally. Sorenson said if students are looking for support, they can reach out to them either in the LGBT Center or via email at stephon.sorenson@mnsu.edu.

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Michigan judge says Trump can stay on primary ballot



REBA SALDANHA • The Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump greets the crowd at a campaign rally Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, in Claremont, N.H.

By COREY WILLIAMS and NICHOLAS RICCARDI
The Associated Press

A Michigan judge ruled Tuesday that former President Donald Trump will remain on the state's primary ballot, dealing a blow to the effort to stop Trump's candidacy with a Civil War-era Constitutional clause.

It marks the second time in a week that a state court declined to remove Trump from a primary ballot under the insurrection provision of the 14th Amendment.

In Michigan, Court of Claims Judge James Redford rejected arguments that Trump's role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol meant the court had to declare him ineligible for the presidency.

Redford wrote that, because Trump followed state law in qualifying for the primary ballot, he cannot remove the former president.

Additionally, he said it should be up to Congress to decide whether Trump is disqualified under the section of the U.S. Constitution that bars from office a person who "engaged in insurrection."

Redford said deciding whether an event constituted "a rebellion or insurrection and whether

or not someone participated in it" are questions best left to Congress and not "one single judicial officer." A judge, he wrote, "cannot in any manner or form possibly embody the represented qualities of every citizen of the nation — as does the House of Representatives and the Senate."

Free Speech For People, a liberal group that has brought 14th Amendment cases in a number of states, said it will immediately appeal the ruling to the Michigan Court of Appeals, but also asked the state supreme court to step in and take the case on an expedited basis.

"We are disappointed by the trial court's decision, and we're appealing it immediately," said Ron Fein, Legal Director of Free Speech For People.

In a statement, Trump campaign spokesman Steven Cheung rattled off other losses in the long-shot effort to bar Trump from the ballot.

"Each and every one of these ridiculous cases have LOST because they are all un-Constitutional left-wing fantasies orchestrated by monied allies of the Biden campaign seeking to turn the election over to the courts and deny the American people the right to choose their next president," Cheung said.

Climate changes continues to show

By SETH BORENSTEIN and TAMMY WEBBER
The Associated Press

Revved-up climate change now permeates Americans' daily lives with harm that is "already far-reaching and worsening across every region of the United States," a massive new government report says.

The National Climate Assessment, which comes out every four to five years, was released Tuesday with details that bring climate change's impacts down to a local level. Unveiling the report at the White House, President Joe Biden blasted Republican legislators and his predecessor for disputing global warming.

"Anyone who willfully denies the impact of climate change is condemning the American people to a very dangerous future. Impacts are only going to get worse, more frequent, more ferocious and more costly," Biden said, noting that disasters cost the country \$178 billion last year. "None of this is inevitable."

Overall, Tuesday's assessment paints a picture of a country warming about 60% faster than the world as a whole, one that regularly gets smacked with costly weather disasters and faces even bigger problems in the future.

Since 1970, the Lower 48 states have warmed by 2.5 degrees (1.4 degrees Celsius) and Alaska has heated up by 4.2 degrees (2.3 degrees Celsius), compared to the global average of 1.7 degrees (0.9 degrees Celsius), the report said. But what people really feel is not the averages, but when weather is extreme.

With heat waves, drought, wildfire and heavy downpours, "we are seeing an acceleration



ETHAN SWOPE • The Associated Press

A structure is engulfed in flames as a wildfire called the Highland Fire burns in Aguanga, Calif., Oct. 30, 2023.

of the impacts of climate change in the United States," said study co-author Zeke Hausfather of the tech company Stripe and Berkeley Earth.

And that's not healthy. Climate change is "harming physical, mental, spiritual, and community health and well-being through the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme events, increasing cases of infectious and vector-borne diseases, and declines in food and water quality and security," the report said.

Compared to earlier national assessments, this year's uses far stronger language and "unequivocally" blames the burning of coal, oil and gas for climate change.

The 37-chapter assessment includes an interactive atlas that zooms down to the county level. It finds that climate change is affecting people's security, health and livelihoods in every corner of the country in different ways, with minority and Native American

communities often disproportionately at risk.

In Alaska, which is warming two to three times faster than the global average, reduced snowpack, shrinking glaciers, thawing permafrost, acidifying oceans and disappearing sea ice have affected everything from the state's growing season, to hunting and fishing, with projections raising questions about whether some Indigenous communities should be relocated.

The Southwest is experiencing more drought and extreme heat — including 31 consecutive days this summer when Phoenix's daily high temperatures reached or exceeded 110 degrees — reducing water supplies and increasing wildfire risk.

Northeastern cities are seeing more extreme heat, flooding and poor air quality, as well as risks to infrastructure, while drought and floods exacerbated by climate change threaten farming and ecosystems in rural areas.

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Parents don't know when kids are behind in school



LINDSEY SHUEY • The Associated Press

Nearly nine out of 10 parents believe their child is performing at grade level despite standardized tests showing far fewer students are on track, according to a poll released Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023,

By ANNIE MA
The Associated Press

Nearly nine out of 10 parents believe their child is performing at grade level despite standardized tests showing far fewer students are on track, according to a poll released Wednesday by Gallup and the nonprofit Learning Heroes.

Report cards, which many parents rely on for a sense of their children's progress, might be missing the whole picture, researchers say. Without that knowledge, parents may not seek opportunities for extra support for their children.

"Grades are the holy grail," said Bibb Hubbard, founder and president of Learning Heroes. "They're the number one indicator that parents turn to to understand that their child is on grade level, yet a grade does not equal grade-level mastery. But nobody's told parents that."

In the Gallup survey, 88% of parents say their child is on grade level in reading, and 89% of parents believe their child is on grade level in math. But in a federal survey, school officials said half of all U.S. students started last school year behind grade level in at least one subject.

In a report examining grade point averages and test scores

in the state of Washington over the past decade, researchers found grades jumped during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many districts had eased their grading policies to account for the chaos and hardship students were experiencing.

Some of that leniency could still be in place, masking gaps in learning that are showing up in standardized tests, but not in grades, said Dan Goldhaber, a co-author of the report and the director of the Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research.

Districts across the U.S. have invested federal pandemic relief money in programs to get students back on track academically, from intensive tutoring to summer academic programs. But often far fewer students show up than the district had planned, Goldhaber said.

For programs like summer school or online tutoring, where the family chooses whether to participate, "what we see is that it's only a fraction of the students that are invited or eligible to that are actually participating," he said.

The Gallup poll findings underscore that trend, pointing to families who may not realize they should take action about their child's academic performance.

Biden and Xi meet to restore military communication between U.S. and China

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed Wednesday to restore some military-to-military communications between their armed forces as the two leaders met for hours on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

Both sides pledged cooperation that would bring the U.S. and China closer to resuming regular talks under what's known as the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement, which until 2020 had been used to improve safety in the air and on the sea.

A senior U.S. official said after the Biden-Xi meeting ended that the military communication agreements mean that U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin can meet with his Chinese counterpart once that person is named. The official spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss a private meeting.

This also opens the door for agreements at less-senior levels, including allowing the Hawaii-based commander of U.S. Pacific forces to engage with counterpart theater commanders, the official said. The agreement further will likely mean operational engagements between ship drivers and others at a much lower levels in each country.

Xi said after the meeting that he and Biden agreed to resume high-level military dialogues on the basis of equity and respect, according to a statement released by China Central Television, the state broadcaster.



DOUG MILLS • The Associated Press

President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping met Wednesday to restore military communications between their armed forces.

The agreement comes after U.S. military leaders had expressed repeated concerns about the lack of communications with China, particularly as the number of unsafe or unprofessional incidents between the two nations' ships and aircraft has spiked.

According to the Pentagon's most recent report on China's military power, Beijing has "denied, canceled or ignored" military-to-military communications and meetings with the Pentagon for much of last year and this year. The report warns that the lack of such talks "raises the risk of an operational incident or miscalculation spiraling into crisis or conflict."

The U.S. views military relations with China as critical to avoiding any missteps and maintaining a peaceful Indo-Pacific region. Here's a look at the often fraught relationship between the

U.S. and Chinese militaries.

A DECADE OF TALKS AND VISITS

More than 15 years ago, the Defense Department was making progress in a growing effort to improve relations with Beijing as both sides stepped up military activities in the Indo-Pacific.

The U.S. was concerned about Beijing's dramatic and rapid military growth. And China was suspicious of America's expanding presence in the region. In an effort to improve transparency and communication, defense leaders from the two countries were meeting regularly. And in a 2008 speech in Singapore, then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates noted that relations with China had improved, and that a long-sought direct telephone link between the U.S. and China had finally been established. He said he had used it to speak with the defense minister.

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Editorial

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Use your voice to advocate

Everyone has their own specific takes on what they believe in. When certain subjects arise, we feel the need to speak out about them and share our opinions. Other times we feel the need to shrink back and let others do the talking. However, it is critical we allow ourselves to be heard.

Those with the greater capability of making change effective take into account what we say. If we want to be the change we want to see in the world, we need to use our voices to advocate for what we want.

By speaking our minds, it allows us to find topics we are passionate about. Whether it's for social issues, the environment, or health-care, there are thousands of subjects to pick from and advocate for. Whether we choose to focus on one or multiple subjects, it allows us to gain a better understanding of the world around us and how components of our society function.

When we learn about topics and organizations that interest us, we can find ways to help give back through fundraisers, protests and volunteer opportunities.

Advocating does more than just educate ourselves. It allows us to be able to educate others as well. For those unaware of certain issues in the world, we can show them resources and information to help them stay informed.

Knowledge is power and sharing valuable information is one of the best gifts we can give to another person. This goes beyond just speaking with those who have similar ideas to us. We should also be open to listening to the opposing side. It does not mean at the end of the day we have to see eye-to-eye with someone who opposes our views on the world. It does, however, give us an idea of their views and broadens our perspectives beyond what we think about.

Raising our voices on subjects that need more awareness also helps contribute to certain causes. It can be as simple as sitting down and having a conversation with the director of an organization and asking them about their mission goal and how to get involved. Other times, it can be donating, attending rallies or reposting information for others to view on social media.

Strength happens in numbers and the more people we can educate and inform, the more likely it is for change to happen sooner rather than later.

We should not be afraid to allow our voices to be silenced for fear of what others may think of us. We should exercise our First Amendment right and promote our freedom of speech. We are more capable of change than we think we are, but closed mouths don't get fed, so let's get out there and use our voices!

Perspectives

Cisgender rights are human rights



Flickr photo

It should go without saying but cisgender people do exist. There should not be any debate about this fact.

So in this day and age where cisgender identity is hotly debated, I would just like to say, with my full non-binary throat, that cisgender identity is completely valid.

Yes, I said it. Cisgender, which means that one's gender completely aligns with the gender one was assigned at birth, is a completely valid gender identity.

This is in comparison to transgender and nonbinary people, whose gender identity does not align with the gender they were assigned at birth.

I mean can you imagine how boring and confining it must be to have a doctor declare at your birth "It's a boy!" and then you spend the rest of your life going, "Yup, I am a boy, most definitely 100% a boy." Or consider the alterna-



Jeremy Redlien
Staff Writer

tive situation, the one where the doctor declares, "It's a girl" and then that person is then going around saying, "Yup, I'm definitely a girl, I love pink and playing with dollies as a 100% girl" for the rest of their days.

The simple mundanity of it all makes my nonbinary heart so very, very sad.

Cisgender people should not live in shame nor should they fear being the target of violence because they are cisgender.

They should not face discrimination in their work-

places or schools if they come out as cisgender.

They should be able to use the bathroom that matches the gender they identify as and not be forced to use the bathroom that does not align with the gender they were assigned at birth.

Being cisgender is a perfectly normal and healthy thing to be.

As a nonbinary person, I would like to take this moment to address my fellow transgender and non-binary community members and offer a few tips on how to interact with cisgender people.

Tip 1: Do not misgender a cisgender person and make sure to use their correct pronouns.

A cisgender man should not be called a woman or a girl. You should not insult a cisgender woman by calling her a man.

Tip 2: Do not ask about a **COLUMN** on page 6

Pulse

"What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?"

Compiled by Nathanael Tilahun



ARUZHAN BETIGENOVA
SOPHOMORE

"Apple pie."



TOMONA SENOO,
GRAD STUDENT

"Sweet potato casserole."



GARRETT OIUM,
FRESHMAN

"Turkey."



IAN GROCUTT,
FRESHMAN

"Ham."



BETHEL ZEGEYE,
SOPHOMORE

"Turkey."



YAPHET GELAN,
SOPHOMORE

"Mashed potatoes."

Israel searches for traces of Hamas in Gaza hospital packed with patient



HATEMALI • The Associated Press

A Palestinian boy stands among the destruction after Israeli strikes on Rafah, Gaza Strip, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023

By NAJIB JORDAN, JACK JEFFERY and SAMY MAGDY
The Associated Press

Israeli troops on Wednesday stormed into Gaza's largest hospital, searching for traces of Hamas inside and beneath the facility, where newborns and hundreds of other patients have suffered for days without electricity and other basic necessities as fighting raged outside.

Details from the daylong raid remained sketchy, but officials from Israel and Gaza presented different accounts of what was happening at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City: The Israeli army released video showing soldiers carrying boxes labeled as "baby food" and "medical supplies," while health officials talked of terrified staff and patients as troops moved through the buildings.

After encircling Shifa for days, Israel faced pressure to prove its claim that Hamas had turned the hospital into a command center and used patients, staff and civilians sheltering there to provide cover for its militants.

The allegation is part of Israel's broader accusation that Hamas uses Palestinians as human shields. Israel released video late Wednesday of weapons it said it found in one building, but so far its search showed no signs of tunnels or a sophisticated command center.

Hamas and Gaza health officials deny militants operate in Shifa — a hospital that employs some 1,500 people and has more than 500 beds, according to the Palestinian news agency.

Palestinians and rights groups say Israel has recklessly endangered civilians as it seeks to eradicate Hamas.

As Israel tightens its hold on northern Gaza, leaders have talked of expanding the ground operation into the south to root out Hamas.

Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people have already crowded into the territory's south, where a worsening fuel shortage threatens to paralyze the delivery of humanitarian services and shut down mobile phone and internet service.

The war between Israel and

Hamas erupted after the militant group killed some 1,200 people and seized around 240 captives in an Oct. 7 attack that shattered Israelis' sense of security.

Israeli airstrikes have since killed more than 11,200 people, two-thirds of them women and minors, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry in Ramallah, which coordinates with the ministry branch in Hamas-ruled Gaza. Another 2,700 have been reported missing, with most believed to be buried under the rubble.

The ministry's count does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths.

ISRAELI RAID INTO SHIFA

Israeli forces launched their raid into the large Shifa compound around 2 a.m. and remained on the grounds after nightfall Wednesday, with tanks stationed outside and snipers on nearby buildings, Munir al-Boursh, a senior official with Gaza's Health Ministry inside the hospital, told The Associated Press.

It was not possible to independently assess the situation inside.

Letter to the Editor: Why You Should Join PRSSA

The Public Relations Student Society of America is a professional organization for students who want to gain insights on the world of public relationship and the world of mass communication.

Students who are interested in or are pursuing degrees in public relations, communication, journalism, marketing or any relations field should think about joining PRSSA to further their professional careers.

PRSSA provides members with opportunities to gain real-world experience, networking with students and professionals and stay updated on what is going on in the communication field. It can also help you grow as a person and in your career.

First off, internships and scholarships can arise from being in PRSSA.

There are PRSSA specific scholarships that only students who are involved in the program can earn.

There is also an annual conference for PRSSA students where they can meet with industry professionals to network. This can help put a foot in the door to a potential internship.

Joining will also help you see what the real world is like before graduation.

There are various resources available in PRSSA that help students develop real-world skills and a look into what jobs entail. It is the student affiliate with Public Relations of America (PRSA) which is the largest public relations organization in the world.

Joining will also help you see

the importance of ethical standards. Students are encouraged to uphold high ethical values and to consider the social impact of their work.

This will give you a one-up on most students no matter what the field you hope to be going into in the future.

If you are a student looking to gain more experience before graduation we highly recommend joining PRSSA.

No matter what field you choose to pursue in the future this will be a great start. Joining will help you network, get opportunities like scholarships, internships and jobs.

It will also allow you to work and meet with media professionals as they will help you get insight on the job while learning ethical standards.

If you do join, there are specific things you can expect within the group. The first is having fun. PRSSA often has food at meetings and an overall good time where you can make new friends. The group also takes frequent trips to the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro to explore public relations and other professional firms.

We also play games, go over tips for resumes and cover letters and just learn more about the industry in general.

For more information, you can check out MSU's PRSSA club on instagram @mnsuprssa or you could contact farah.azhar@mnsu.edu and prssa@mnsu.edu for more questions.

Signed by Brooke Adamich, Elizabeth Tep, Luke Jackson, Mady Picka and Maggie Howe.

◀COLUMN from page 7
cisgender person's genitals.

After all, cisgender men hate bragging about how big their genitals are and cisgender women would never ever give lengthy monologues where they only talk about their vaginas.

Tip 3: Do not out a cisgender person as cisgender to other people.

A person's gender identity is a private matter. Do not place cisgender people at risk of harassment or discrimination by outing them as cisgender.

Tip 4: Challenge cisphobia when it comes up.

Do not ask that cisgender people face down the horrors of cisphobia on their own. Ques-

tion anti-cisgender jokes when they are made.

Tip 5: Understand that cisgender identity is not a new identity category or some kind of passing fad.

Cisgender people have existed ever since the first days of people assigning sex to infants at birth.

Many cisgender people have made significant contributions to culture and scientific development throughout human history.

Tip 6: Avoid backhanded compliments or giving tips to cisgender people if they confide in you that they are cisgender.

Do not say, "I would never

have guessed you were cisgender." A cisgender man should not be told he is so good at car repair or tying a tie that he's at risk of being clocked as cisgender.

Nor should a cisgender woman have to hear that she is wearing too much makeup or she needs a voice coach if she wants to pass as a transgender woman.

I hope this is a helpful list. Maybe if we all do our part, the stigma associated with being cisgender can end.

Maybe someday we can all live full and vibrant lives as equals.

Maybe that day could be today.

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SPORTS

Redemption game loading: Mavs vs Vikings

By LUKE JACKSON
News Editor

After a loss to the University of Minnesota Duluth, the Mavericks still made it into the playoffs and now they get a shot at redemption versus Augustana University in the first round of the playoffs.

"I kinda thought we'd probably get in because our strength of schedule was pretty good," Minnesota State coach Todd Hoffner said in an article published by the Mankato Free Press. "We played all the best teams in the league, and now we get another opportunity."

The unseeded 9-2 Mavericks will travel to Sioux Falls once again to take on the No.4 seeded 10-1 Augustana Vikings.

The last time these two faced off both teams were undefeated and ruled the NSIC. Augustana continued the undefeated streak as they defeated the Mavs 28-10 on Oct. 21.

"Obviously, we didn't do well the last time we played them," Hoffner said. "We need to look back and see what we did. It's hard to find any weakness in their defense, and offensively, they're very explosive. We'll have to play our best if we want to compete."

In the game defense was everything. The game started off slow for both teams offensively but as the Vikings took over and the Mavericks were not able to keep up.

The Mavericks were held to one



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The winner of the game between MSU and AU will advance to the second round to take on Colorado School of Mines on Nov. 25 in Golden, Colo.

touchdown as Auggie found an answer for both Shen Butler-Lawson and Hayden Ekern.

AU had four touchdowns – two of which came late in the final minutes.

The Vikings went on to win the NSIC Conference Championship.

Concerning the Mavericks, they are coming with a chip on their shoulder with their recent loss and their loss to Auggie.

The team is currently averaging 35 points and 440 yards per game. The rushing and receiving attacks are very equal as the team posts 219

rushing and 213 receiving yards on average.

Shen Butler-Lawson leads the Maverick rushing attack, and ranks fourth in Division II, with 1,412 yards to go along with 15 touchdown carries. He is accompanied by Chritian Vasser with 390 yards

and Tony Anger with five rushing touchdowns.

Hayden Ekern leads the passing attack with 2,393 yards and 21 touchdowns.

Defensively, the Mavs allow for 22 points and 354 yards per game. Jacob Daulton leads the team in tackles with 50 while Maven Kretche has 9.5 of MSU's 27 sacks.

Khai West leads the team in interceptions with five which is 14th among all division II play.

Hoffner currently holds a 9-4 record versus the Vikings and is 4-3 on the road.

Augustana has similar team stat lines. They tally 33.1 points and 381.5 yards of total offense a game, including 162.6 rushing yards a game. Quarterback Casey Bauman has thrown for 2,391 yards and 24 touchdowns this season.

On defense they hold teams for fewer points and yards with 16.4 points and 299.9 yards a game this season.

The defense is led by Peyton Buckley who has 68 tackles and two interceptions.

The winner of this game will take on the Colorado School of Mines in the second round. Last year, MSU was knocked off against the School of Mines in a close 48-45 loss.

"A championship is our only goal," defensive back Dakota Smith said. "Our goals are still ahead of us and we never put them out of reach. We are not done."

Soccer to take on Central Missouri in NCAA Tournament

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State women's soccer team is back in action for the NCAA Tournament First Round against the University of Central Missouri Friday.

Last time out for the Mavericks was a 2-1 defeat to Concordia University, St. Paul in the NSIC Tournament Quarterfinals.

The Mavs' defeat to Concordia-St. Paul was the school's first loss in the NSIC Tournament prior to the Semifinals.

"Our goal every year is to win that conference tournament championship, and it's the first time we've ever not played in at least a semifinals. It was a tough few days, but we got together as a team and just hit a reset button and talked through some things, and I think got our minds back to where it needed to be so that we can be ready for the NCAA Tournament," said head coach Brian Bahl.

The Mavs' game against Concordia-St. Paul saw the Golden Bears score two goals from outside the penalty box, the Mavs score a penalty kick and had several stoppages due to fouls and the ball hitting the wires in the Maverick All-

Sports Dome.

Despite the defeat, Bahl thinks his team played well, and that the game was somewhat of a microcosm of the team's season.

"I think overall we played pretty well. Our whole season has been very similar to that game, where I thought we were the better team, we played well, we just didn't capitalize on some chances that we probably should have capitalized on. They got limited looks and they were able to capitalize on those limited looks. Soccer can be that way sometimes," Bahl said.

The Mavs are "past that" result against the Golden Bears, and are looking to be the best version of themselves against Central Missouri.

"We're just such a young group, we're just trying to find ourselves, and who we're going to be that particular week. Our hope is that this week, we're going to get into that game and we're going to be the best that we've been yet, and that's always the goal each week. We've had to endure some tough moments with this group this season, but they've been very resilient," Bahl said.

The Mavs defeated Central Missouri 1-0 in their first meeting

this season thanks to a 90th minute goal by Avery Korsching Sep. 8. The game had 17 fouls and Bahl is expecting the second matchup be-

tween the two teams to be similar in terms of physicality.

"It's become a rival over the

years. We've never beat them at their place, they've never beat us at our place. We've never played

SOCCER on page 12



DALTON GRUBB • The Reporter

Joining the Mavericks in NCAA tournament play are NSIC opponents [3] St. Cloud State and NSIC Tournament Champions [6] Bemidji State as they match up against one another in first-round action.

MSU Hockey: Bemidji Week

Streaks on the line as men's hockey returns home

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

Riding the momentum of their sweep at Ferris State last week, the Mavs will get back to work at home this weekend.

The Minnesota State men's hockey team now has a 4-3-1 record and are now well into the regular season, which means most of their opponents will be in their conference, the Central Collegiate Hockey Association.

The Mavs are off to a good start with a 2-0 conference record, but their next eight games are against conference opponents, and the way they play against them will have a serious effect on their playoff seeding.

The next conference challenger on the team's radar are the Bemidji State Beavers. The Beavers are coming off of a series split against Michigan Tech and are 4-6 overall.

Their series with the Huskies was looking like a sweep, as the Beavers were faced with a four-goal deficit. However, the Beavers scored three goals in the final five minutes of the second period to spark the largest comeback in the program's Division I history.

Kyle Looft finished with three points in that game, and the fifth-year senior defenseman is having

a career year. The reigning CCHA Defenseman of the Week has 12 points on the year, including five goals.

He leads the CCHA in both categories while also being the fifth-highest scoring defenseman in all of Division I. The last time these two teams met, Looft had the game-winning power play goal in overtime.

There is a confident no. 1 guarding the net for the Beavers; Gavin Enright. Enright has started eight of nine games for the Beavers and holds a 3-4 record with a .876 save percentage.

Outside of Looft, Lleyton Roed provides a great offensive punch. Roed ranks fourth in the CCHA with seven goals scored, and his three game-winning goals leads the conference.

As it was mentioned earlier, the Beavers won the last game the two teams played against each other. The Mavs and Beavers split that series, but the Mavs have the slight edge in the all-time series. The Beavers are one of the Mavs' oldest rivals, their playing history dates back all the way to 1981, where the Mavs won a 5-4 overtime game. The Mavs lead the all-time series 66-57-16.

Following their series sweep of FSU last weekend, the Mavs received two awards. The first was



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

Alex Tracy currently ranks third in the CCHA in both goals against average (2.68) and save percentage (.914).

Evan Murr being awarded CCHA Rookie of the Week after his first career goal ended up being a game-winner. Murr is the first Mav to win the award this season.

Their second accomplishment

was moving up to no. 20 in the USCHO Division I Ice Hockey Poll and no. 19 the USA Hockey/The Rink Live Rankings Poll. Additionally, Sam Morton brings a four-game point streak into the

weekend. As he tries to extend his streak, the Mavs will try to extend theirs. Puck drop at Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center is set for Friday at 7:07 p.m. and Saturday at 6:07 p.m.

Women look to get back on track in Bemidji

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State women's hockey team is off to a less-than-ideal start in the 2023-24 season. After a 2-0 start, the Mavs have dropped nine-straight games leading up to this weekend.

However, the Bemidji State Beavers have been having similar problems.

The Beavers are 0-11-1 and are also on a nine-game losing streak. Both teams will be looking for their first conference win this weekend.

The Beavers possess a two-headed offensive attack.

The duo of Hailey Armstrong and Taylor Nelson have combined for seven of the team's eight goals this season.

The freshman Armstrong has five goals on her own, but has yet to register an assist yet this season.

Assists are more of Nelson's thing, as she has four of them compared to two goals scored.

However, the Beavers enter this weekend as the only team to be averaging less than a point per game, also while not scoring a single goal on the power play.

In goal, the Beavers have had a three-player show.

Abbie Thompson, Emerald



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Mavs' women's hockey team signed three new student-athletes on National Signing Day 2023 to join the team.

Kelly and Eva Filippova have combined for a 4.33 goals-against average and a .885 save percentage.

This weekend's series will be the 102nd and 103rd time the team's have faced off.

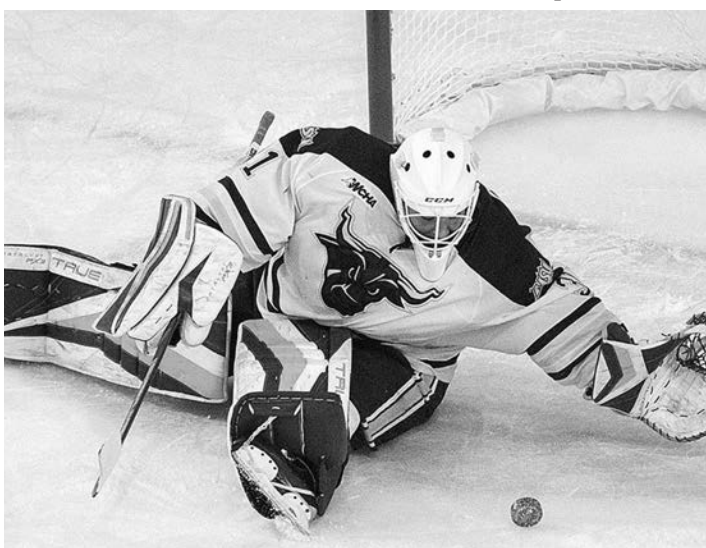
The Beavers hold the all-time series lead with 47-40-14 record,

but the Mavs are 10-2-1 in games played since 2020.

As the Mavs keep moving forward in their season, they will play their next two games in Nashville, Tenn. at the Smashville Classic where their opponents will be Robert Morris and Boston University.

Following the tournament, the Mavs will play their final two series of the calendar year against St. Thomas and no. 2 Ohio State before the holiday break.

Puck drop for this weekend's matchup in Bemidji will be at 6 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday.



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

Towns scores 33, sends Timberwolves past Warriors after early ejections



JED JACOBSON • The Associated Press

Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson, front, Draymond Green, left, gets into an altercation with Minnesota Timberwolves center Rudy Gobert.

By SONJA CHEN
The Associated Press

When the NBA created the In-Season Tournament as a way to inject playoff-level intensity into regular-season games, the scuffle between the Golden State Warriors and the Minnesota Timberwolves that resulted in three early ejections on Tuesday night may not have been what the league had in mind.

With the game still scoreless and not yet two minutes old, Golden State's Draymond Green was ejected after putting Minnesota's Rudy Gobert in a headlock. Warriors guard Klay Thompson and Timberwolves forward Jaden McDaniels, who got into a shoving match that resulted in Thompson's jersey being ripped, were also tossed.

Once the dust settled, Karl-Anthony Towns scored 33 points, sending Minnesota to a 104-101 tournament victory over Golden State. The Wolves have won seven straight games for their longest win streak since 2004.

"We just found a way to win ugly in a game that was pretty ugly," Minnesota coach Chris Finch said. "All credit to (the Warriors), those guys, they were super physical and took us out of our rhythm. But we found a way to win it and showed some toughness mentally."

The rematch of the Wolves' 116-110 win at the Chase Center on Sunday was not lacking in intensity as the lead changed hands several times in the fourth quar-

ter, until Towns gave Minnesota the lead for good with a 3-pointer with 1:07 remaining.

Towns also grabbed 11 boards, and Gobert had 13. Reigning Western Conference player of the week Anthony Edwards scored 20 points.

"I just saw some moments to make some shots. I'm glad I did," Towns said. "My teammates put me in great positions. Mike (Conley) finished the game out. It was just a team win, a great win. (Ed-



JED JACOBSON • The Associated Press

wards) made some big shots when we needed him, Rudy got some big rebounds and we could keep going down the list."

Golden State was without leading scorer Stephen Curry, who was ruled out with right knee soreness. Coach Steve Kerr said an MRI revealed "nothing alarming," and the star guard is considered

day to day.

With Curry sidelined, Golden State got a different look on the floor, something Kerr said could help them find an offensive spark. Rookie Brandin Podziemski and Dario Saric led the charge, but Golden State's losing streak reached four.

Podziemski played 39 minutes, scoring a career-high 23 points with seven boards off the bench and hitting three 3-pointers, including a buzzer-beater to end the

third quarter. Saric got his second start with Golden State and added 21 on 6 of 15 shooting.

Chris Paul, who drew the start after coming off the bench in nine straight games, had 15 points with five rebounds and four assists.

"We don't have some regular rookies, you know what I mean," Paul said of Podziemski's perfor-

way with them," Bahl said.

Bahl wants to see toughness from his team when they go to Topeka, Kansas and take the field at Yager Stadium.

"I just want to see toughness and fight and effort through the roof. I just want to see us com-

pete at a level that we haven't yet competed at this year. It takes a different level once you get to the NCAA Tournament to move on. So I just want to see us go battle and fight and be really competitive and let the chips fall where they may," Bahl said.

Georgia jumps to No. 1 in CFP rankings



JOHN BAZEMORE • The Associated Press

Georgia quarterback Carson Beck (15) reacts after a Georgia touchdown during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Mississippi, Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, in Athens, Ga.

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

Georgia moved up to No. 1 in the College Football Playoff rankings Tuesday night, nudging past Ohio State, with third-place Michigan and fourth-place Florida State holding their spots in the top four.

Georgia, the two-time defending national champion, had maybe its most impressive performance of the season Saturday in beating Mississippi 52-17. It was the second straight week the Bulldogs defeated a ranked opponent, after downing Missouri the game before.

Selection committee chairman Boo Corrigan, the athletic director at North Carolina State, said Missouri's big win last week against Tennessee helped bolster Georgia's case for No. 1.

"Active, strong debate in the room," Corrigan said of choosing its first victory against a ranked team.

Michigan is also coming off its first victory against a ranked team. The Wolverines won 24-15 at Penn State, but couldn't pass Big Ten rival Ohio State. They will play the Buckeyes at home on Nov. 25. The top eight teams in the rankings won last week, and the selection committee's only changes among that group were at the very top.

Washington (10-0) was fifth again, followed by Oregon (9-1), Texas (9-1) and Alabama (9-1). Missouri (8-2) at nine and Louisville (9-1) were new to the top 10 this week.

No team with two losses has ever made the College Football Playoff, and only one team from the Group of Five has made the final top four — Cincinnati in 2021.

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◀SOCCER from page 10

at a neutral site, so we'll see how that goes. They're fast, physical and they're good. Our first game against them could have went either way, but we really did a good job in that game of keeping our composure and staying focused and we battled every step of the

Tight games highlight competitive Sunday

By ROB MAADDI
The Associated Press

Walkoff field goals. Comebacks. Close games.

Sunday was filled with competitive action across the NFL. Just the way the league wants it.

Five games ended on game-winning field goals in regulation, the most in one day in NFL history. Two teams overcame deficits on their final drive. Eight games were decided by four points or less.

"I'm so proud of our team and excited for them to be in a tight football game versus a playoff football team and come up with a win," Texans coach DeMeco Ryans said following Houston's 30-27 win at Cincinnati. "That's where we're headed as a team. We're showing that we're a good team, and we're showing that we can win tight games, so I'm really proud of the way our guys battled."

With one game remaining in Week 10, 10 of 13 games (76.9%) have been within one score in the fourth quarter and 10 games were decided by one score. This season, 69.8% of all games (104 of 149 games) were within one score in the fourth quarter.

The Texans, Cardinals, Browns, Seahawks and Lions each won on a field goal as time expired. The previous high in a single day was three. Cleveland and Arizona were

trailing before their kickers won it. Seattle, Houston and Detroit were tied before their decisive field goals.

The Browns rallied from a 31-17 deficit in the fourth quarter against the AFC North-leading Ravens. Deshaun Watson threw a touchdown pass to Elijah Moore and Greg Newsome II returned an interception 34 yards for a TD less than a minute later but Dustin Hopkins missed the extra point. He got another chance and nailed a 40-yard field goal to give Cleveland a 33-31 win.

"Wins like that define you," Browns pass rusher Myles Garrett said. "They set the tone for the season and the team going forward. There's no game that we're out of. So, you've just got to do what's gotten us here to this point in the season and continue to play the brand of football that we know we can play."

Kyler Murray, playing his first game since returning from ACL surgery, led the Cardinals to a 25-23 comeback win over Atlanta. He scrambled 13 yards on a third-and-10 and threw a 33-yard pass to set up Matt Prater's 23-yard winning kick.

"There's no quit, no quit, no quit in that group and I think we showed that today," Murray said.

The Lions-Chargers game was the most entertaining matchup of the day, a wild, back-and-forth



ROSS D. FRANKLIN • The Associated Press

Arizona Cardinals' Matt Prater (5) leaves the field after kicking the game-winning field goal against the Atlanta Falcons after an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, in Glendale, Ariz. The Arizona Cardinals won 25-23.

shootout that ended with Riley Patterson hitting a 41-yard field goal to lift Detroit to a 41-38 victory.

The teams combined to go 7 for 8 on fourth down with six of those conversions resulting in touchdowns, three for each team.

The one conversion that didn't result in a score took the most guts. Lions coach Dan Campbell bypassed a go-ahead field goal on fourth-and-2 from the Chargers 26 with 1:47 left. Instead, Jared Goff tossed a 6-yard pass to Sam LaPorta

and Detroit ran down the clock to set up the winning kick as time expired.

"I wanted to finish with the ball," Campbell said. "I trusted our guys and trust Goff. Going into that situation, there can be a lot of

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VARIETY

Senior show displays meaningful art

By ANAHI ZUNIGA
Staff Writer

The end of the semester is almost here, and Minnesota State seniors now have the chance to display all of their hard work and creativity.

The Conkling Gallery opened its Senior Show Monday, where seniors are able to display their art work for MSU students and staff to view. Many pieces and designs containing a variety of art techniques and forms are on display. As for the seniors, they are given the opportunity to showcase their talent through the artwork they created.

Senior Sophia Schmid is one of the many students taking part in the showcase, and shared her passion for art that grew from when she was young.

“Ever since I was a kid I’ve always really enjoyed art. Ever since I was young, I did a lot of art classes growing up and in high school, and it was always something that I just kept wanting to do, and I would fill all my spare time doing it,” Schmid said.

Schmid also expressed her insight on how art is important to the world, where it can be incorporated into everyday society and how it can help reveal deep meaningful topics.

“I think art has a really important part to play in the world. I think it’s a great way for people to address certain topics or subjects that are personal to them or other people, like as a way of expressing,” she said. “I also see art as a place where you can bring a lot of beauty to the world. I think there’s a lot of goodness that is in art and being creative and expressing yourself in that way can be a really great opportunity for other people in the world to see that and to experience things in a different way.”



NATE TILAHUN • The Reporter

The Senior Showcase will appear in Conkling Gallery in Nelson Hall until Dec. 1, featuring the art of Fall 2023 graduates, including Minnesota State senior Sophia Schmid.

The showcase has a variety of pieces, and Schmid revealed the pieces that she created for the showcase were a tulip painting and a ceramics tray. Both pieces have a personal and experimental meaning behind them. She tried out a different technique on her painting and paid tribute to her heritage on her ceramics piece.

“The first one with the tulip painting, it was a little bit more of an experiment with using some more different materials and experimental materials. I was just trying a different way to hang the painting. And also with adding the embroidery, incorporating some bits of traditional craft and I wanted to make it look a little bit like a tapestry. So there’s a little bit more of experimentation with that,” she

said. “And then with probably one of my favorite ceramic pieces that I put in, with the tray, both my mom and my dad’s side of the family are very German. So I wanted to incorporate that German kind of folk art design so that’s more of a personal element. I’m kind of painting for my own heritage and creating that design and incorporating that into my ceramics so that’s a little bit more of a personal piece to me.”

Having her art displayed at a gallery for everyone to see as a senior, Schmid offers advice to first-year students majoring in the art field or for anyone who is interested in art.

“I think to really push yourself and just really open up to experimenting. I think it’s really helpful. Experimenting with things that

maybe you’re not comfortable with and going outside your comfort zone when you’re coming to your artwork. Just trying a lot of new things that you’ll never really know what you like,” she said. “Show dedication to your work, because I definitely would not have grown as much as I have in my work if I hadn’t dedicated it to just my projects in my classes. So take the opportunity. You have the time and the materials to be able to really improve your artwork and to create a lot of really amazing work, so take advantage of that.”

Students can stop by the Conkling Gallery located in Nelson Hall until Dec. 1 to see the displayed designs and art pieces.

CAN Jam to help the homeless

By ELLIE MESCHKE
Staff Writer

Professor Dale Haefner’s music management and concert production class arranged an event at Hooligans at Madison East Center for National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week Wednesday from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Those who attended were encouraged to donate non-perishable food items, which goes to the Maverick Food Pantry on campus. Donors also received raffle tickets as a chance to win prizes which were donated by local businesses and citizens in the Mankato area.

Vocal and instrumental music students in the Department of Performing Arts attended the event to provide musical entertainment as well as local musicians. The event was free and open to the public, people of all ages were encouraged to attend and enjoy the music.

Steven Straub, the Student Events Team Public Relations Chair, said “The concert production class puts on events every year; that’s how we got the idea of it.”

“For this event, it’s not required that you donate, it’s free admission, but we’re heavily suggesting it. Anybody can come and drop off just any non-perishable food items, and then they get a raffle ticket and they can win prizes,” Straub said. “We reached out to a bunch of local businesses and asked them to donate stuff, so there’s gift cards, merch from local businesses, and then to donate to the food pantry, I’m positive you can just go and drop it off, and whoever’s working just talk to them, I’m sure they’re happy to accept anything. So yeah, that’s easy enough, and then to donate for the event, it’s a win-win. They get to help the food pantry, help other students, and also have a chance to one, enjoy some great music from students, and then also have a chance to win some cool stuff from local businesses.”

Professor Dale Haefner said, “The concert production class has been working hard to make this a fun night of music, food, and charity. I’m trying to teach the students how important it is to give back to the community. Giving back has a beneficial impact on people’s lives. Donating dry or canned goods to CAN Jam 2023 is a great way to assist Minnesota State Mankato students who are experiencing food insecurity.”

The Maverick Food Pantry is located in the walkway between Preska and Student Health Services, it is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 to 5 p.m., Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m., and Fridays from 8 to 2 p.m. Each student can go and pick up food once per week.

Tips and tricks for holiday decorating this season

By GRACE ANDERSON
Staff Writer

While many do not want to think about the December holidays until Thanksgiving is over, others cannot wait to start unboxing their Christmas lights and other decorations. My holiday spirit start date varies from year to year, but for 2023, I am unable to hold off for any longer. That being said, I have many decorating tricks up the sleeve of my ugly sweater.

First, find a day, usually on the weekend, when you can dedicate your time to decorating. The best decoration strategies come from the right mindset and the right mood. Next, hit play on a holiday movie or music playlist and start bringing out the seasonal boxes.

I was fortunate enough to get older decorations from my mother that she does not use anymore,

but for those who do not have previous decor, a good place to start is a thrift store. Some of the best holiday decorations can be bought for affordable prices at stores such as Goodwill, Again Thrift, or Salvation Army. Recently, I spotted an array of fake Christmas Trees in the very front of Again Thrift. Places such as these are where you can buy what I call “shelf decorations” which are decorations that can stand alone and be placed on any shelf with not much strategy involved.

For those who want to go all out, my highest recommendations are fake-flower bouquets and fake snow. Bouquet flowers can be bought at Michaels or Hobby Lobby. Most bouquets include red and white poinsettias mixed with pine cones and silver or gold mini branches. Some bouquets are already pre-made. Then, place the



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

It is now time to begin decorating for Minnesota’s favorite holiday: Christmas.

bouquet in a vase, oversized mason jar, or tall metal decorative bucket.

Then, with your choice of season-

HOLIDAY on page 15▶

My visit across the border: Mexico



MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN • The Reporter

Outside of the hotel in Puerto Vallarta was a perfect view of the Pacific Ocean. The pictured beach above was also where the wedding ceremony and reception took place.

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

Around 80 years ago, my grandmother Thomasa Cruz traveled from Mexico to the United States, and never returned to her home country again. Her eleven children were raised in the small town of Melrose, Minnesota, where they were the only Mexican American family in sight. The youngest of the eleven became my mother, Traci, who kept the heart of her late mother Thomasa alive through her stories and cultural practices.

Since I was a little girl, I have grown more and more eager to explore the country where my grandma came from. I felt drawn to Mexico; I wanted to speak the language, meet the people, and appreciate the beauty underneath its mixed repu-

tation.

Once I turned old enough to work, I submitted my application to a Mexican restaurant in my hometown of Winona, Minnesota. I worked alongside immigrants with such vibrant stories, contagious laughter, and a strong work ethic. In 2018 I started working at a different restaurant, El Patron Mexican Grill and Cantina, and that is where I found a forever family.

Fast forward to today, and I still make the effort to visit my favorite restaurant, welcomed with open arms and the scent of delicious margaritas and fajitas. My best friends and I received invites to our old manager's wedding this year, on 11/11. We were ecstatic, and planned the trip without hesitation. It would be my first time

visiting Mexico, and leaving this country in general. I posed for my passport picture with a grin ear-to-ear, ready to embark the city of Puerto Vallarta.

My friends, wearing matching t-shirts designed by yours truly, zoomed through TSA. Myself, on the other hand, had to wait for my full-body pat down. Once confirmed innocent, we drank a few margaritas and hopped on our flight. Once we arrived and got through customs, we were on our way to our luxurious hotel for the fiesta to begin.

As I watched through the window of our Uber driver's car, I saw a sea of colorful buildings, lights, sculptures, and many different faces. I saw skinny street dogs, people standing on top of cars, loads of construction, and some of the most

motorcycles I've ever seen – and I went to Daytona Beach, Florida during Bike Week.

Once we got dropped off at our hotels, our faces matched that of a sad street puppy as we were stuck, lost with matching tourist shirts and my hot pink luggage trailing behind me. A friendly man helped us confused gringas to our hotel, and we made it to our room, huffing and puffing with our heavy luggages to the third floor. Not an elevator in sight.

Our room had three different rooms, and all four of us had a bed to ourselves. The following morning, we indulged in the hotel breakfast. I ordered the chilaquiles, fried corn tortillas in salsa verde with chorizo eggs.

full story on our website

What your favorite Thanksgiving dish says about you

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

The biggest feast of the year is upon us in just under a week and families everywhere will be crowding around the table. The buffets are stocked with warm, comforting dishes where everyone will heap their plates full of flavors. Based on what you grab a little extra of, here's what your favorite dish says about your personality:

Turkey- This holiday classic is extremely versatile which is just like your personality! Right out of the oven, grill or smoker, you're the life of the party. However, you don't mind being chill just like the leftover turkey which makes a great sandwich. Everyone enjoys your versatility because you can adapt to any situation.

Mashed potatoes and gravy- You have a warm and comforting personality. People turn to you when times get tough and you know what to say to make someone feel better. Anyone is lucky to know you and everyone is grateful for your presence.

Cranberry sauce- You're eclectic, but not for everyone. You can get a bit tart at times and your zestiness can overwhelm others. Sometimes people don't get you or understand the hype.

However, those who enjoy you simply can't get enough of you. Never change who you are!

Pumpkin pie- You are festive, fun and love everything about the holidays! You aim to put everyone in a good mood and you're not afraid of letting your loved ones

know how much you love them. If there's a good time involved, you are the last one to leave and never want the party to stop!

Stuffing- You know that what's on the inside (of the turkey) matters. You look for the good in others and can be considered a people-pleaser. You enjoy having those deep conversations to really get to know someone and couldn't care less about small talk. You also enjoy pushing your boundaries to see what you're capable of.

Green bean casserole- You enjoy spending time with your family. This Midwest staple comes from years of tradition and you like to maintain those traditions year after year. You can likely be found watching the Macy's parade and football games and spending time

with your loved ones (even if they tend to drive you a bit crazy).

Mac and cheese- You're an all-around good person, but you have a bit of a childish side to you. While this might taste extra special today, this can be enjoyed any time of year. There's nothing wrong with letting your playful side out, but it can be hard for others to take you seriously.

Rolls- Really? Out of all the dishes you could have picked to enjoy, most of them only made this one day a year, and you chose bread? The most common carb there is? If people tend to say you suck the fun out of everything, you're just like the roll that sops up everything at the end of the meal. You're extremely basic, sorry not sorry.

◀**HOLIDAY** from page 14

al ribbon, tie a bow around the body of the container for an added effect. Finally, place your finished bouquet display at the top of a shelf or in the corner of a desk or countertop.

Fake snow can be found at Michaels and is purchased in bag form. It is fluffy white material that can be stretched or torn apart. I normally place this in thin strips above the tops of my cupboards and cabinets. However, after moving to an apartment with no space above them I decided to place the fake snow around my TV on top of my TV stand.

Small Christmas villages have become more popular in recent years. However, it takes a certain amount of space to be able to pull this off. This works well on top of a shelf or bookcase. It could work even better with a big plain surface, bookcase or shelf fully dedicated to the village so that it is not clashing with other items and vice versa.

My biggest piece of advice is to have fun with decorating. Grab a friend who can match your enthusiasm and ask them to lend a hand and make a fun day out of it. Perhaps they can also lend a bit of creative decorating direction as well.

Matthew Perry's co-stars reminiscence about late actor

The Associated Press

All five of Matthew Perry's "Friends" co-stars are sharing more remembrances of the star in their first personal social media posts since the actor's death last month.

Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow and Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer each posted heartfelt notes about Perry, who died Oct. 28, on Instagram. The posts on Tuesday and Wednesday were accompanied by photos from the "Friends" set.

"In the last couple weeks, I've been pouring over our texts to one another. Laughing and crying then laughing again," Aniston posted Wednesday, sharing a text message where Perry sent her photo of a script reading session where Perry made her laugh.

"Oh boy this one has cut deep... Having to say goodbye to our Matty has been an insane wave of emotions that I've never experienced before," Aniston's post read.

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