

Big Idea Challenge showcases innovation

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

Minnesota State's College of Business held the annual Big Ideas Challenge, a competition between innovative business ideas proposed by students and alums within two years of graduation.

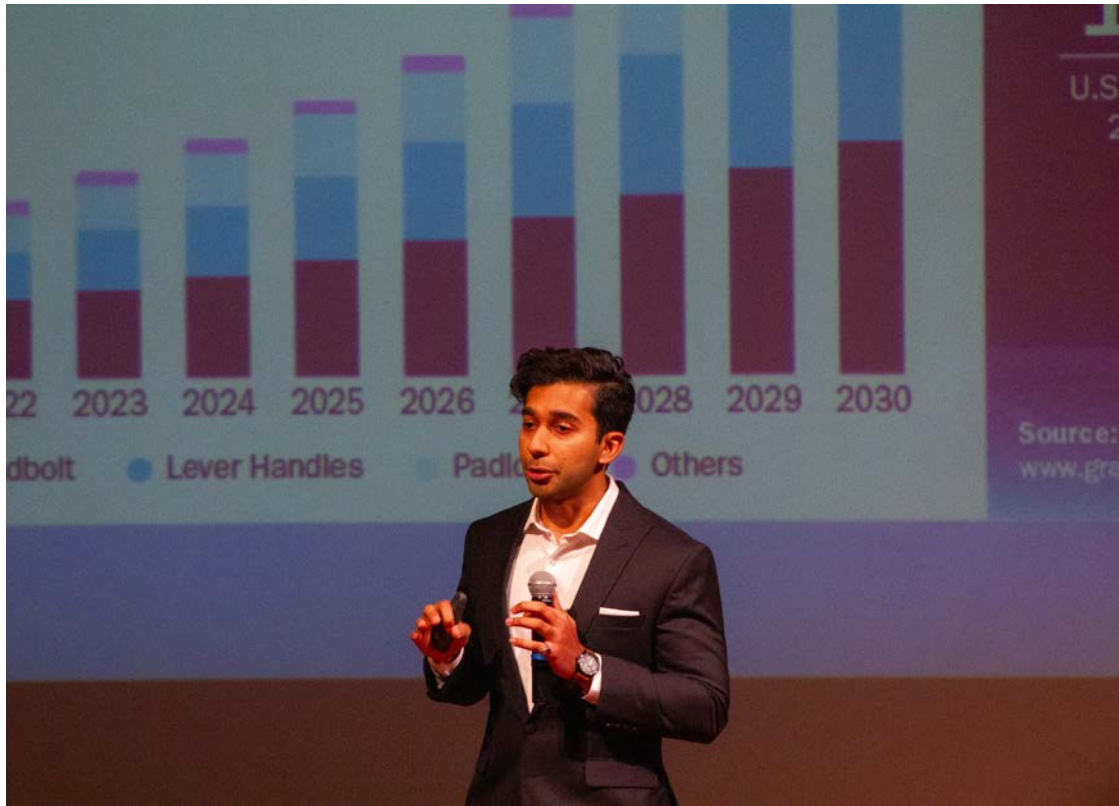
Administrative coordinator for the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ashley Niss said the Big Ideas Challenge has around 20 applications yearly. Once applications are submitted, ideas are narrowed to six finalists.

"Finalists then go on to have mentors they're paired with from the Small Business Development Center," said Niss. "They have to submit their business plans to us, which ends up being 50% of their score. The other 50% is the live pitch presentation."

All finalists presented their ideas to judges and attendees during the Big Ideas Challenge event. Director of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Shane Bowyer, said there are two nominations for the winners: People's Choice Award and the winner selected by judges.

Junior Melan Shifa won first place with his innovative platform called Evoli, a platform that allows students to manage various aspects of life, such as academics, work and daily habits.

"It's a platform for students that



NATHANAEL TILAHUN • The Reporter

Minnesota State's College of Business held the annual Big Ideas Challenge, a competition between innovative business ideas proposed by students and alums within two years of graduation.

would help them manage their life and productivity," said Shifa. "It will also connect the different parts of a student's life into one unified line and make things way simpler for students."

Shifa said he had already start-

ed developing the platform and will accelerate the process with the prize money.

"I'm also hoping to build a small marketing contract-based team to build the company's brand and social media presence," Shifa said. "I

hope to release an MVP early next year for a few users to test and iterate based on feedback."

The People's Choice Award went to a junior Muhammad Huzaifa, who developed Flock, a **IDEAS on page 2**

Student Government adjusts sustainability fee

By TRACY
SWARTZENDRUBER
Staff Writer

Student government has approved shifting the sustainability fee, also known as the Green Fee, from under the Student Activities Fee to its own area. This adjustment will officially be implemented in the next fiscal year, which begins in July.

This project began during last year's student government under the leadership of President Emma Zellmer. According to current President Sierra Roiger, the sustainability fee project was not unique to this campus but involved all seven Minnesota State universities.

"Since this would become a system policy, once it was approved by the Board of Trustees, each campus was given approval to move forward with it," Roiger said. "However, to charge students, it required approval by the campus student association or the campus student government."

The student government's role was to approve the fee and examine the sustainability practices of Minnesota State University. For MSU, the sustainability project meant moving the Green Fee, used for campus bussing, to its own area rather than under Student Activities.

"That frees up like \$18 under the Student Activities Fee, which is a lot considering one penny could be worth \$1,200 when you put it together. The sustainability fee has just really become the new name of the Green Fee," Roiger said.

Roiger also explained the concept of sustainability as being very broad and looking slightly different for each of the universities. For example, Bemidji focuses on to-go boxes; but since MSU has that covered, it has decided to focus on bussing.

"[The sustainability project] allows each campus flexibility to look at what their needs are and use it to support those," Roiger said.

The problem with having the Green Fee under Student Activities arose last year when the campus came against the student fee cap. This meant MSU couldn't increase support for any programming

GOVERNMENT on page 3

Dementia is not a normal part of aging

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

Dementia. It is not a specific disease but rather a general term for the impaired ability to remember, think or make decisions, which interferes with performing daily tasks. The most common type of dementia is Alzheimer's disease. Though dementia primarily affects older adults, it is not a normal part of aging.

Eta Sigma Gamma held a workshop with Geri Svaleson and Kim Alinder from Dementia Friends to teach students about dementia and try to end its stigma and misinformation. Alinder said the group's primary goal is to educate people on dementia.

"We try to get them involved in the community and do things for people with dementia so that they do not feel left out," said Alinder. "I think people shy away from wanting to be around people with dementia, and that's one of the things we're trying to get away from."

The event's goal was to spread awareness and information about dementia. MSU student Chloe Koens attended this event for her professional operation group's health class. She said she found this workshop informational. She

also worked in a nursing home for about a year and worked with people who have memory issues.

"I think it's just good for people to learn about it as it's a common disease," said Koens. "I learned more about the signs and symptoms. If you don't know if someone has dementia, you can recognize it that way."

Svaleson said people who live in independent living start showing signs of dementia; the workers didn't want them there anymore.

"They think it's contagious. Like they don't want to associate with people with dementia," said Svaleson.

Svaleson said she hoped people got a bunch out of their presentation and left with a better understanding of the disease.

She also said she hoped they would become more involved with people with dementia and not shy away from them.

"In some cases, we're dealing with people that have family members or friends with dementia. We had one girl here whose grandma had it," said Svaleson. "We want to help them understand how to communicate better with them and how to respond and keep patients when dealing with dementia."



LAUREN VISKA • The Reporter

Students gathered Monday, Nov. 20 to listen to Kim Alinder (far left) explain the symptoms of dementia and ways to end the stigma regarding misinformation. The workshop was held by Eta Sigma Gamma.

There are many ways for people to learn about dementia and to end the stigma and miscommunication.

Svaleson said that Dementia Friends has many resources for those wanting to learn.

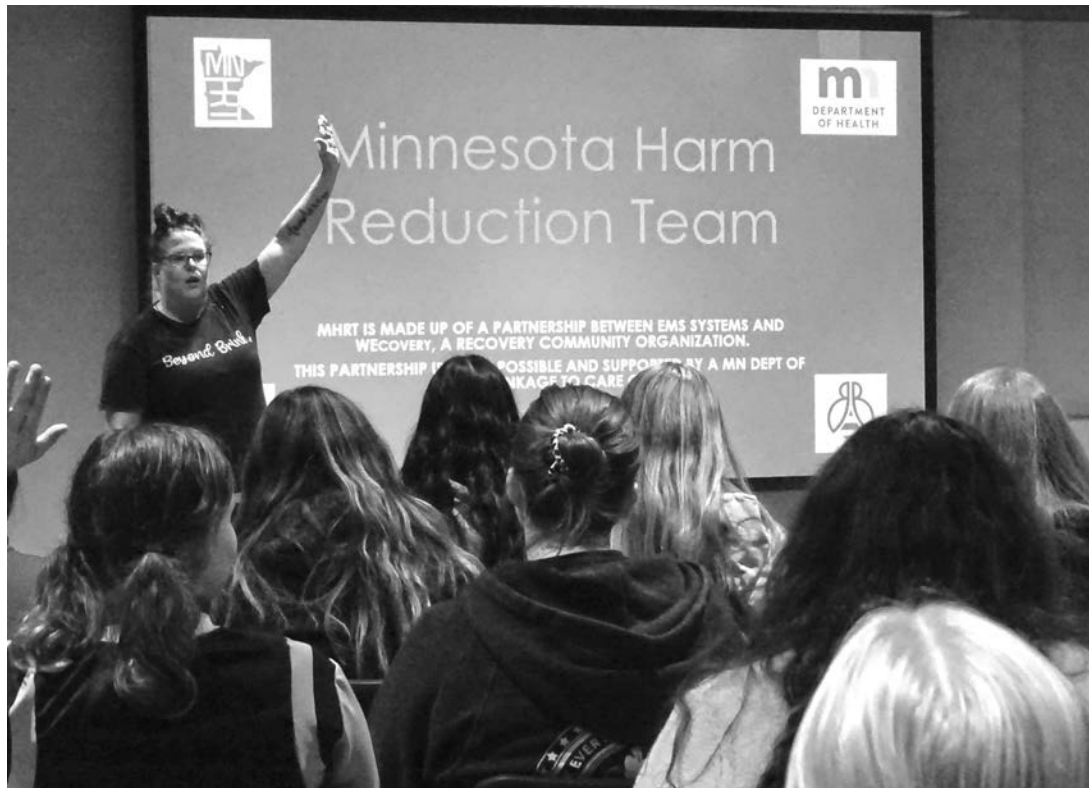
"We do a monthly recommendation of books and different activities that you can do with people," said Svaleson. "Some books are written by people with dementia that would help you understand

what they're thinking."

Alinder said she recommends for those who are worried about getting dementia to "stay connected with people otherwise, it's such an isolating disease."

DF offers many workshops and sessions for students who want to know more about this disease. To find a session or learn more about DF, head to <https://dementiafriendsusa.org/>.

Narcan training provides more than just information on opioids



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

Students for Drug And Alcohol Education (SADE) provided free narcan training to Minnesota State students in order to show them what to do if they witness a drug overdose.

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

Students for Drug And Alcohol Education (SADE) provided free narcan training to Minnesota State students in order to show them what to do if they witness a drug overdose.

"We really wanted to raise awareness because we want people to be educated and know how to save their friends if they are in need," said SADE President Sara Novak, who helped organize the Nov. 16 event.

"There's obviously been a lot more opioid overdoses in the area recently and at the beginning of the semester we thought it was a good idea to get this running," said Novak.

Narcan is an opioid overdose medication and is administered nasally or by injection to those experiencing an opioid overdose.

The training was led by Molly Kortuem from Beyond Brink who, after providing information on how to recognize someone experiencing an overdose and the details of how to administer

Narcan, talked candidly about her own experiences with drug addiction in the past.

"I am part of the harm reduction team and I am also in recovery from all drugs and alcohol," said Kortuem when she introduced herself at the beginning of the training.

Kortuem discussed how she started down the path of drug addiction.

"When I started I just wanted to have fun and I wanted to be accepted and I wanted to be part of the crowd. I knew my family history and I knew the tendency to have issues with this," said Kortuem.

Kortuem also included her experiences with the consequences and difficulties related to drug addiction.

"The disease had such a hold on me I couldn't see any other way out. I thought I would never get sober. I thought I would just continue on that way the rest of my life. It tore me away from my family. My family would barely talk to me. It took away all my morals, it

took away my soul," said Kortuem. Kortuem also discussed her recovery.

"On August 7, 2022 I had a spiritual awakening. On that day I had something guiding me and it told me to go home. I had never experienced anything like this before. I don't feel like I was at my rock bottom. So I followed what, however you explain it, the intuition, the feeling, the whatever to go home and I got sober after trying several, several, several times," said Kortuem.

Another topic discussed during the training was the philosophy of harm reduction, a practice which seeks to minimize the harm caused by drugs and alcohol.

"Harm reduction is designed as any positive change as a person decides for him or herself. Harm reduction practices can include needle exchanges, narcan distribution, fentanyl testing strips, safe use sites and hotlines, and the use of a peer support specialist. Harm reduction is a worthy recovery goal, whether or not abstinence is achieved," said Kortuem.

Idea: 'It is a thing to make it easier for the elderly and disabled people'

◀ from page 1

smart lock powered by artificial intelligence. Flock provides secure and convenient access to homes using facial recognition.

"You only need to look at the door to unlock the smart lock and get access to your home," said Huzaifa. "It is a thing to make it easier for elderly, disabled people and everybody in Minnesota or any place that they want convenience."

For Huzaifa, Flock started as a research project only after it became a product he wanted to make possible for people to use.

"I have the physical version of the lock and have already done

testing on it," Huzaifa said. "Now I need to get a patent and then create distribution channels. That will be a little time consuming, but the product should be there soon."

Bowyer said finalists could participate in the Minnesota Cup. This program helps Minnesotans from any field with their innovative ideas.

Bowyer said he believes participating in the Big Ideas Challenge helps students develop many skills.

"One is assistance in the mentorship because we align participants with a small business development consultant," said Bowyer.

"We also have faculty members who helped participants work on their pitch skills and getting up on stage.

They're learning to work with others and to present in front of an audience."

Bowyer said the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is open for students all year long.

"We can align them with mentors or help them through a business plan or advise them as they go, so it's not just a one-and-done type of thing for the center," Bowyer said. "We want students to be thinking about their big ideas all year long."

Donors speak about what moves them and why they give



DAVID J PHILLIPS • The Associated Press

Monica Fulton poses at her home Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, in Houston. Fulton prioritizes giving to organizations that serve the city's residents, like the food bank, a homeless shelter and an arts education organization.

By THALIA BEATY
The Associated Press

What motivates people to donate to charities or causes they care about is often deeply personal. Donors name relatives or friends who have survived or died from illnesses. They recount tearful conversations with their children. They point to their aspirations for how their communities and the larger world could be improved.

In advance of GivingTuesday, The Associated Press interviewed people from across the country with a variety of life experiences about why they give, which organizations they choose to support and how they plan their giving throughout the year.

While not all will participate in GivingTuesday, which started in 2012 as a hashtag, the date has become a central part of nonprofit fundraising and a kind of last chance to meet their budget goals for the following year.

These interviews have been edited for length:

HOUSTON — A longtime resident of Houston, Monica Fulton, 51, prioritizes giving to organizations serving the city's residents.

She's volunteered with the Houston Food Bank for decades, doing "everything except the

cold room. Because I don't like the cold," she joked.

Fulton, who is originally from Panama, sees her giving and volunteering as a way to make a difference, something she has tried to pass on to her children, who are now 18 and 20 years old.

"You look at what's happening in the world and you tend to feel helpless. And what I try to teach my kids instead of feeling helpless is find one little patch of grass that you can make better," she said.

Usually, at the beginning of the year, Fulton sets aside the funds that she intends to give to nonprofits, with the majority going to the food bank, a nonprofit that provides services to people without housing, a women's fund and an arts education organization. But she keeps aside a portion to respond more flexibly, including on GivingTuesday when she seeks out nonprofits that are running matching campaigns.

"My advice for people for Giving Tuesday is, do a little bit of research and see who needs help, who has matching challenges," she said.

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A long push ahead for progress to reverse the crashing climate



PETER HAMLIN • The Associated Press

A illustration shows a man staring out a window at the changing world that not only is changing in technology but also in nature.

By DANA BELTAJI
The Associated Press

Amidst record-high temperatures, deluges, droughts and wildfires, leaders are convening for another round of United Nations climate talks later this month that seek to curb the centuries-long trend of humans spewing ever more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

For hundreds of years, people have shaped the world around them for their benefit: They drained lakes to protect infrastructure, wealth and people. They dug up billions of tons of coal, and then oil and gas, to fuel empires and economies.

The allure of exploiting nature and burning fossil fuels as a path to prosperity hopped from nation to nation, each eager to secure their own energy.

People who claimed the power to control nature and the energy resources around them saw the environment as a tool to be used for progress, historians say.

Over hundreds of years, that impulse has remade the planet's climate, too — and brought its inhabitants to the brink of catastrophe.

CONTROLLING THE ENVIRONMENT

Mexico City traces its roots

to a settlement centuries ago on islands in the midst of Lake Texcoco.

These days, most of the lake is gone, drained long ago to make room for the building and growth that today has more than 22 million people sprawling toward the edges of the Valley of Mexico.

Getting water in the arid valley — a need that has spiked as droughts have worsened — relies on pumping from deep underground.

The toll of centuries of such pumping can be seen in curbs that crumble and structures that tilt atop the resulting subsidence, with some areas sinking around 30 centimeters (11.8 inches) a year.

At the same time, neighborhoods are at increased risk of severe flooding because of climate change-fueled extreme rain events and drainage systems that are less effective because of the subsidence.

“Nature doesn’t create these huge problems,” said Luis Zambrano, professor of ecology at the National University Autónoma of Mexico. “Nature behaves as nature ... we are increasing our vulnerability by allowing the city to sink by pumping as much water as we possibly can from the aquifer.”

Mexico City is just one exam-

ple of people and empires altering their natural environments in ways they believe will benefit themselves and the land. Elsewhere, huge swathes of land have been deforested for agriculture or livestock grazing, or degraded and contaminated by quarrying and mining for metals and minerals. Tapping nature for its resources drove progress and productivity for some, but it’s also been a major driver of emissions and environmental degradation.

Anya Zilberstein, a historian of climate science at Concordia University in Montreal, highlighted the example of Europeans colonizing the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries as an early catalyst for modern-day climate and environmental crises.

“They bring with them this idea that conquest and then the development of the cultivation of landscapes, like taking down trees, opening up lands to European style agriculture, that the draining of swamps ... will also change the climate, usually for the better,” Zilberstein said.

The Aztecs built Tenochtitlán — what became Mexico City — on the lake’s islands and chinampas — small, artificial fields. When the city later fell under Spain’s rule, it was seen as the “most gorgeous jewel in the Spanish empire.”

◀ **GOVERNMENT** from page 1 area because the cap had been reached. Roiger said the adjustment of the cap and the sustainability fee will allow students to get more from programs than just the bussing.

“It just allows students to actually have their money put in spaces where they can get the most benefit out of it because students who are online aren’t going to be able to use that Green Fee while students in-person are using that Green Fee to the max. And so, it is making sure we are being respon-

sible with students and their fees,” Roiger said.

Roiger said student senators will examine closely during the March 20 budget meeting how the adjustments to the Green Fee will affect other programming and then make recommendations to President Edward Inch and Vice President David Jones.

“One of those recommendations will be for a 0% student fee increase, and the other will look at a 2% student fee increase and the potential of an even higher student fee increase,” Roiger said.

“This would only happen if the programming areas are needing it.”

She also said the current arrangement of the Green Fee is not covering costs for bussing at \$18 per student. Ability to more easily change bus hours of availability and bus routes for student convenience will be some of the benefits of adjusting the Green Fee as a separate sustainability fee.

“Now it’s not fighting against 30 other areas for support. It’s on its own and it’s intentional,” Roiger said.

Court document claims Meta designed its platform to hook kids



JEFF CHIU • The Associated Press

Attendees visit the Meta booth at the Game Developers Conference 2023 in San Francisco on March 22, 2023.

The Associated Press

Facebook parent Meta Platforms deliberately engineered its social platforms to hook kids and knew — but never disclosed — it had received millions of complaints about underage users on Instagram but only disabled a fraction of those accounts, according to a newly unsealed legal complaint described in reports from The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times.

The complaint, originally made public in redacted form, was the opening salvo in a lawsuit filed in late October by the attorneys general of 33 states.

Company documents cited in the complaint described several Meta officials acknowledging the company designed its products to exploit shortcomings in youthful psychology such as impulsive behavior, susceptibility to peer pressure and the underestimation of

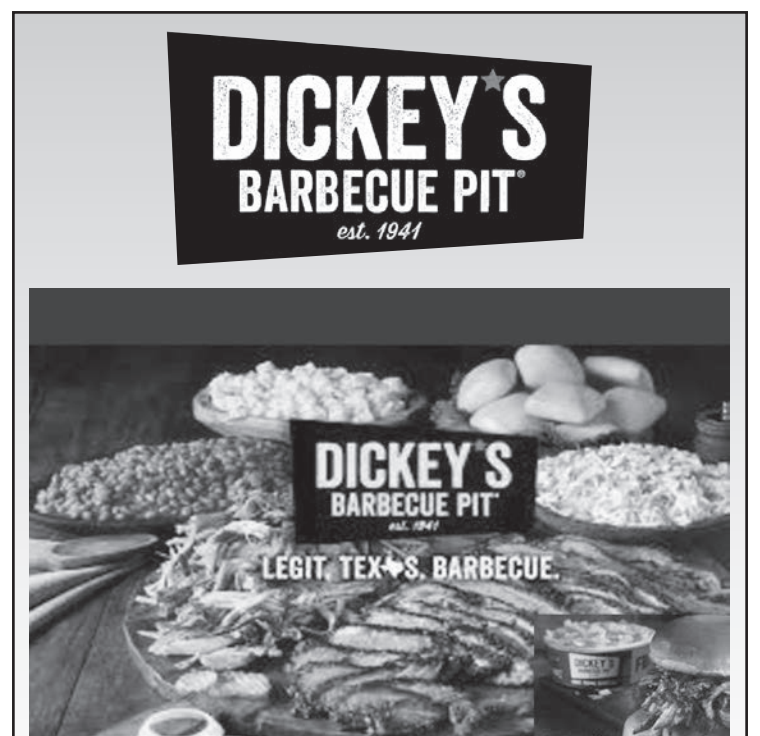
risks, according to the reports.

Others acknowledged Facebook and Instagram also were popular with children under age 13 who, per company policy, were not allowed to use the service.

Meta said in a statement to The Associated Press that the complaint misrepresents its work over the past decade to make the online experience safe for teens, noting it has “over 30 tools to support them and their parents.”

With respect to barring younger users from the service, Meta argued age verification is a “complex industry challenge.”

Instead, Meta said it favors shifting the burden of policing underage usage to app stores and parents, specifically by supporting federal legislation that would require app stores to obtain parental approval whenever youths under 16 download apps.



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Editorial

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Winter break is for recharging

First semester is coming to an end, and many of us students are ready for a break. From the stress of different classes, final projects and exams, and simply waking up every morning, winter break is meant for us to recharge by the time spring semester rolls around.

The last stretch of the end of a semester is typically the most difficult; winter break is meant to provide sweet relief from a heavy course load, and spend the holidays stress-free with family.

During winter break, make sure to take a mental vacation, while also exercising the mind from time to time. Read books, journal, watch documentaries.

Keep the brain sharp while also giving it time to recover from fall semester.

Winter break falls around Christmas time; whether or not this holiday is a celebration in every Maverick's home, it is still a time to be surrounded with family, and give thanks for everything they do. Appreciate the little things, as we will not have the chance to spend much time at home once spring semester is here.

During Winter break we will also enter into a new year: 2024. Take time to set some goals for next year, and prepare for these during winter break. New beginnings are approaching, and sometimes a fresh start is needed to have more motivation for next semester.

Even though winter can be dark, cold, and snowy, it is great to take advantage of an indoor setting.

Find relaxing things to do in the comfort of your own home, whether that may be watching movies with family, doing puzzles, playing games, and cooking. Once summer comes, we will be able to enjoy the outdoors a little more, but inside time is not so bad for a mental break away from academics.

Another option for consuming winter break could be to get ahead of a course load.

Research the content of future spring courses, and gain some insight to be well-prepared for spring.

Regardless of the amount of brain work we put in during winter break, the most important thing is to appreciate it for what it is: a break.

It is the perfect time to take care of our mental health and rejuvenate for the second semester.

Many of us will have to work during break as well, so remembering to take days off is so important to prepare us for the second half of our academic year.

Perspectives

A Diabetic Talks: Why Finals Suck



Courtesy Luke Jackson

Winter is coming and as the days dwindle down we inch closer to finals week.

This is what I would consider school hell week. Throughout my four years in high school and now my three years of college, I have always thought the week before finals was worse than finals itself.

All teachers pile on the end of year curriculum on their students all at once and we are all stuck with projects and tests the week before finals. It doesn't make much sense, you would think they would finish their lectures and leave those assignments for the last week ... but they don't.

Now we essentially have two very challenging weeks to get through before the fun of winter break. This time of year is always very challenging for me and I wonder if other diabetics feel the same.

As the sun goes down ear-



Jeremy Redlien
Staff Writer

lier, the weather gets worse and I get more and more assignments. I find it very challenging to stay active and go outside as homework and stress piles on. This can greatly affect my health as a diabetic.

The first issue arises if I remain stagnant. Not being active can be a big contributor to high glucose levels. A new study from the University of Bath shows that long-term inactivity significantly increases blood sugar levels even if you reduce your food intake. They found that inactivity

in their non-diabetic participants raised blood glucose levels by 6% during the day and 10% at night.

Since I am a diabetic and I don't naturally produce insulin, being inactive can affect me even worse and it shows. When I don't work out or get outside throughout the day, I can see on my Dexcom G7 that my blood sugar is significantly worse.

Another issue I face during finals week is stress.

According to the National Library of Medicine, experiencing persistent high glucose levels could be influenced by stress. Blood sugars rise due to hormones released in the body in response to stress. They also found that general stress can raise hemoglobin A1C levels, (three-month average of a person's blood glucose levels) while major stress can be a leading contributor to rapid rising of

COLUMN on page 5▶

Pulse

"How do you relieve stress during finals?"

Compiled by Dalton Grubb



BRAYDEN SCHUITEMAN,
SENIOR

"Long walks and cry."



COLE SUMERA,
FRESHMAN

"Drive."



HANNAH REYNEN,
SOPHOMORE

"Study more."



NOLAN CARVER,
FRESHMAN

"Don't worry about it."



SAM BRANDENBURGER,
FRESHMAN

"Play video games."



SAMUEL AUWRATER,
FRESHMAN

"Listen to music and get fresh air."

Derek Chauvin stabbed in prison



AP File

In this image taken from video, former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin addresses the court at the Hennepin County Courthouse, June 25, 2021, in Minneapolis.

By MICHAEL R. SISAk and TRISHA AHMED
The Associated Press

An attorney for Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer convicted of murdering George Floyd, said Saturday that Chauvin's family has been kept in the dark by federal prison officials after he was stabbed in prison.

The lawyer, Gregory M. Erickson, slammed the lack of transparency by the Federal Bureau of Prisons a day after his client was stabbed on Friday by another inmate at the Federal Correctional Institution in Tucson, Arizona, a prison that has been plagued by security lapses and staffing shortages.

A person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Friday that Chauvin was seriously injured in the stabbing. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the attack.

On Saturday, Brian Evans, a spokesperson for the Minnesota attorney general's office, said: "We have heard that he is expected to survive."

Erickson said Chauvin's family and his attorneys have hit a wall trying to obtain information about the attack from Bureau of Prisons officials. He said Chauvin's family has been forced to assume he is in stable condition, based only on news accounts, and has been contacting the prison repeatedly

ly seeking updates but have been provided with no information.

"As an outsider, I view this lack of communication with his attorneys and family members as completely outrageous," Erickson said in a statement to the AP. "It appears to be indicative of a poorly run facility and indicates how Derek's assault was allowed to happen."

Erickson's comments highlight concerns raised for years that federal prison officials provide little to no information to the loved ones of incarcerated people who are seriously injured or ill in federal custody.

The AP has previously reported the Bureau of Prisons ignored its internal guidelines and failed to notify the families of inmates who were seriously ill with COVID-19 as the virus raged through federal prisons across the U.S.

The issue around family notification has also prompted federal legislation introduced last year in the U.S. Senate that would require the Justice Department to establish guidelines for the Federal Bureau of Prisons and state correctional systems to notify the families of incarcerated people if their loved one has a serious illness, a life-threatening injury or if they die behind bars.

"How the family members who are in charge of Derek's decisions regarding his personal medical care and his emergency contact were not informed after his stabbing further indicates the institution's poor procedures and

lack of institutional control," Erickson said of the prison.

A spokesperson for the Bureau of Prisons did not immediately respond to a request for comment Saturday evening.

The Bureau of Prisons has only confirmed an assault at the Arizona facility and said employees performed "life-saving measures" before the inmate was taken to a hospital for further treatment and evaluation.

The Bureau of Prisons did not name the victim or provide a medical status "for privacy and safety reasons."

Prosecutors who successfully pursued a second-degree murder conviction against Chauvin at a jury trial in 2021 expressed dismay that he became the target of violence while in federal custody.

Terrence Floyd, George Floyd's brother, told the AP on Saturday that he wouldn't wish for anyone to be stabbed in prison and that he felt numb when he initially learned of the news.

"I'm not going to give my energy towards anything that happens within those four walls — because my energy went towards getting him in those four walls," Terrence Floyd said. "Whatever happens in those four walls, I don't really have any feelings about it."

Chauvin's stabbing is the second high-profile attack on a federal prisoner in the last five months. In July, disgraced sports doctor Larry Nassar was stabbed by a fellow inmate at a federal penitentiary in Florida.

◀COLUMN from page 4
blood sugar levels.

These things add up and can greatly affect diabetics. It is hard to be active when hiding from the cold in a library while grinding out homework constantly. It is also nearly impossible to just magically get rid of stress when getting good grades

is the constant standard that we are taught.

I try to get up and move around when I can but that sometimes just simply is not enough. Throughout the years I always see trends of worsened blood glucose levels around winter time and it is now my

goal to find better ways to combat this growing issue.

Maybe by next semester I'll find an answer and I'll make sure to give it to the public. As I said before and as the Starks always say, "Winter is Coming." But as I always say, "It'll be chill."

Pope Francis has a hospital checkup after getting the flu



The Associated Press

Pope Francis smiles as he waves faithful at the end of his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023.

The Associated Press

Pope Francis went to the hospital Saturday for tests after he came down with the flu, but the results ruled out any respiratory problems, the Vatican said.

Francis, who had part of one lung removed as a young man, underwent a CAT scan, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said.

The test at Rome's Gemelli hospital, where Francis was treated for a respiratory infection earlier this year, was done to rule out any possible respiratory problems and came back negative, Bruni said in a statement.

Earlier Saturday, the Vatican said the pope had canceled his audiences because of the flu.

Francis is due to travel on Friday to Dubai for the COP28 conference on climate change.

Bruni provided no informa-

tion about any change in his plans and the Vatican on Saturday gave new details about his itinerary, suggesting the trip was still on.

Francis, who will turn 87 next month, spent three days at Gemelli in April for what the Vatican said was bronchitis after he had trouble breathing.

He was discharged after receiving intravenous antibiotics.

Francis spent 10 days at the same hospital in July 2021 following intestinal surgery for a bowel narrowing.

He was readmitted in June of this year for an operation to repair an abdominal hernia and remove scarring from previous surgeries.

When asked about his health in a recent interview, Francis quipped in reply what has become his standard line — "Still alive, you know?"



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Israel and Hamas agree to extend truce for two more days



MOHAMMED HAJJAR • The Associated Press

Palestinians walk in Gaza City on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, on the fourth day of the temporary ceasefire between Hamas and Israel.

By TIA GOLDENBERG, JACK JEFFERY and SAMY MAGDY
The Associated Press

Israel and Hamas agreed to extend their cease-fire for two more days past Monday, raising the prospect of further exchanges of militant-held hostages for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel and a longer halt to their deadliest and most destructive war.

Eleven Israeli women and children, freed by Hamas, entered Israel Monday night after more than seven weeks in captivity in Gaza in the fourth swap under the original four-day truce, which began Friday and was due to run out. Thirty-three Palestinian prisoners released by Israel arrived early Tuesday in the West Bank town of Ramallah. The prisoners were greeted by loud cheers as their bus made its way through the streets.

The deal for two additional days of cease-fire, announced by Qatar, raised hopes for further extensions, which also allow more aid into Gaza. Conditions there have remained dire for 2.3 million Palestinians, battered by weeks of Israeli bombardment and a ground offensive that have driven three-quarters of the population from their homes.

Israel has said it would extend the cease-fire by one day for every 10 additional hostages released. After the announcement by Qatar — a key mediator in the conflict, along with the United States and Egypt — Hamas confirmed it had agreed to a two-day extension “under the same terms.”

But Israel says it remains committed to crushing Hamas’ military capabilities and ending its 16-year rule over Gaza after its Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel. That would likely mean expanding a ground offensive from devastated northern Gaza to the south.

Monday’s releases bring to 51 the number of Israelis freed under the truce, along with 19 hostages of other nationalities. So far, 150 Palestinians have been released from Israeli prisons.

After weeks of national trauma over the roughly 240 people abducted by Hamas and other militants, scenes of the women and children reuniting with fam-

ilies have rallied Israelis behind calls to return those who remain in captivity.

“We can get all hostages back home. We have to keep pushing,” two relatives of Abigail Edan, a 4-year-old girl and dual Israeli-American citizen who was released Sunday, said in a statement.

Hamas and other militants could still be holding up to 175 hostages, enough to potentially extend the cease-fire for two and a half weeks.

But those include a number of soldiers, and Hamas is likely to make much greater demands for their release.

FOURTH RELEASE

The newly released hostages included three women and nine children — including 3-year-old twin girls and their mother — from the kibbutz Nir Oz, a community near Gaza that was hard hit in Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack. The kibbutz said 49 of its residents remain in captivity, including the father of the twins.

The Israeli military said late Monday that the hostages were undergoing initial medical checks in Israel before being reunited with their families.

Most of the hostages freed so far have appeared to be physically well. But 84-year-old Elma Avraham, released Sunday, was airlifted to Israel’s Soroka Medical Center in life-threatening condition because of inadequate care, the hospital said.

Avraham’s daughter, Tali Amano, said her mother was “hours from death” when she was brought to the hospital. Avraham is currently sedated and has a breathing tube, but Amano said she told her of a new great-grandchild who was born while she was in captivity.

Avraham suffered from several chronic conditions that required regular medications but was stable before she was kidnapped, Amano said Monday.

So far, 19 people of other nationalities have been freed during the truce, mostly Thai nationals. Many Thais work in Israel, largely as farm laborers.

France said three of the hostages released Monday were French-Israeli dual citizens, two 12-year-olds and one 16-year-old.

Cyber Monday marks the years biggest online shopping day

By HALELUYA HADERO
The Associated Press

Consumers are scouring the internet for online deals as they begin to cap off the five-day post-Thanksgiving shopping bonanza with Cyber Monday.

Even though e-commerce is now part and parcel of our everyday lives and much of the holiday shopping season, Cyber Monday — a term coined back in 2005 by the National Retail Federation — continues to be the biggest online shopping day of the year, thanks to the deals and the hype the industry has created to fuel it.

Adobe Analytics, which tracks online shopping, expects consumers to spend between \$12 billion and \$12.4 billion on Monday, making it the biggest online shopping day of all time.

For several major retailers, the “Cyber Monday” sale is a days-long event that begins over the weekend. Amazon’s, for example, kicked off on Saturday and runs through Monday. Target’s two-day event began overnight on Sunday, while Arkansas-based Walmart kicked off its most recent discounts Sunday evening.

Consumer spending for Cyber Week — the five major shopping days between Thanksgiving and Cyber Monday — provides a strong indication on how much shoppers are willing to spend during the holiday season.

Shoppers have been resilient this year in the face of stubbornly high inflation, which recently reached its lowest point in more than two years yet remains painfully apparent in areas like auto and health insurance and some



PAUL SAKUMA • The Associated Press

In this Monday, Nov. 29, 2010, file photo, a consumer looks at Cyber Monday sales on her computer at her home in Palo Alto, Calif.

groceries, like beef and bread.

Economists, meanwhile, have cautioned strong spending is likely to wane in the coming months.

Stressed consumers are relying on savings to fuel their shopping and are facing more pressure from credit card debt, which has been on the rise along with delinquencies. They’ve also been embracing “Buy Now Pay Later” payment plans, which allow shoppers to make payments over time without — typically — charging interest.

The National Retail Federation expects holiday shoppers to spend more this year than last year. But the pace of spending will slow, it said, growing 3% to 4% compared to 5.4% in 2022.

A clear sense of consumer spending won’t emerge until the government releases sales data for the holiday season, though preliminary data shows some good

signs for the retail industry.

According to Adobe, shoppers spent a record \$9.8 billion online Friday — marking a 7.5% jump from last year. Meanwhile, Salesforce, which also tracks online shopping, estimated that Black Friday online sales totaled \$16.4 billion in the U.S. and \$70.9 billion around the world. And Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks in-person and online spending across all payment forms, reported that overall Black Friday sales excluding automotive rose 2.5% from a year ago — a smaller but still notable jump compared to 2022’s double-digit growth.

According to the firm, online sales rose 8.5%, while in-store purchases were up just 1.1%. Those numbers are not adjusted for inflation, which means that real sales in-stores could have dipped due to high prices.

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SPORTS

Men's hockey is tested in close games

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State Men's Hockey team has played four games in the past nine days, and picked up a win and three losses against two conference opponents.

After a series split with the Bemidji State Beavers and being swept by the Michigan Tech Huskies, the Mavs now have a record of 5-6-1 as they head into the month of December.

The Mavs' first game against the Beavers was a 5-1 victory as the Mavs scored three goals in the final period to secure the win. Josh Groll and Alex Tracy each had standout performances in the win. Groll scored two points, picking up his first assist and scored goal of the season, energizing the Mavericks. His assist gave the Mavericks a 1-0 lead, and his goal would end up being the game-winner as the Mavs went up 2-0. Tracy posted 31 saves, his second-best performance of the year.

"I thought we found some bend but don't break moments and that changed the tide a little bit and capitalized on big goals," head coach Luke Strand said in a press conference posted to the Maverick Athletics website. "Groll was outstanding and gave us that push. Those are big moments to be able-



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

Team captain Sam Morton snapped a seven-game point streak after being held off the scoresheet Saturday.

to turn defense into offense and score. Tracy was great tonight. He gave us a backbone and made some monster saves at the end. They (Bemidji State) have a talented group and they work hard offensively so I was glad Tracy worked hard to find

pucks."

The next day, the Mavs started out hot, scoring five first period goals, but fell short in the end as the Beavers left Mankato with a 7-6 win. The difference would be the Beavers' ability to score in the third

period, as they scored the final three goals, all in the third period while the Mavs failed to capitalize on their fast start.

"As a group we just didn't get the job done," said Strand. "From my-

self to the players, we didn't execute well enough. We had way too many breakout turnovers and credit to Bemidji State for their pressure. It was at our fingertips but we just didn't do enough to win."

They would have six days over the holiday until they took on the Huskies on Black Friday.

As they returned to the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center, the Mavs were prepared for another close game with Michigan Tech - and that's exactly what they got. As Ryland Mosley scored the game-winning goal with six seconds left in overtime, the Huskies claimed the first game of the series in a thrilling 3-2 loss for the Mavs.

"The second half, I liked our game," said Strand. "We did some good things, played more aggressive, and battled. They're a good team. The overtime part we can fix."

Keenan Rancier returned to action Friday night, and he made 34 saves in his first start of the season.

"I was extremely happy for Rancier," Strand said. "It's a tough go given the layoff and I thought his performance was excellent. I thought he showed determination to lean on his experience and the fact that he's been through this before. He didn't panic when goals went in early and he stood tall for

HOCKEY on page 8

Maverick football ends season with accolades

By LUKE JACKSON
News Editor

Minnesota State's football season came to an end Saturday in Sioux Falls as the Mavericks fell to Augustana 51-24 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Mavericks got on the scoreboard first with a quick field goal but soon after, the game got away from them. Within three quarters, Auggie put up 37 unanswered points before the Mavs finally found the endzone in the fourth quarter.

But by then it was too little too late. The Vikings continued scoring as they propelled to 51 points. The Mavs found two more touchdowns to bring the score closer.

"It was all Augustana," head coach Todd Hoffner said in a press conference released by Augustana Athletics. "They did a lot of scoring and we turned the ball over. They wore us down, competed hard and we put our defense out here way too much. Very unfortunate."

The Mavericks finished the season 9-3 and tied for second place in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. They were one of three NSIC teams to make it to the NCAA Division II tournament.

Along with these accolades, the team received a plethora of All-



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

With the loss, MSU finishes its season with a 9-3 record. With the win, AU improves to 11-1. Augustana will now take on Colorado School of Mines in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

NSIC Honors.

Shen Butler-Lawson, Marshall Foerner and Zach Roggow received All-NSIC First Team Offense honors, while Jacob Daulton,

Maven Kretche, Trey Vaval and junior Khai West claimed All-NSIC First Team Defense accolades. Vaval also garnered All-NSIC First Team Special Teams honors.

Tony Anger, Nathan Gribble, Deontae Veney and Keeshawn Westley earned All-NSIC Second Team Offense while Dakota Smith was named to All-NSIC Second

Team Defense.

"I couldn't be more proud to wear this uniform," Smith said. "I can confidently say I'm a Maverick for life and I couldn't be more grateful to have him (Todd Hoffner) as my head coach and have these teammates?"

Smith started in all 11 games this season and ranked third on the team in tackles. He also finished the season with three forced fumbles.

Other highlights of the season came from Butler-Lawson and Vaval. Butler-Lawson rushed for 1,412 yards and 15 touchdowns this season. His rushing yards place him fifth in the nation for the season. He also finished with the fifth best season in Maverick history. He recorded six games tallying over 100 yards and two games tallying over 200.

His season highlights came against Bemidji State and Sioux Falls. Versus Bemidji he put up 235 yards on the ground. In this game he had his season best 80 yard rush. Against Sioux Falls, he had his season best, four rushing touchdowns.

Vaval's performance earned him both defense and special teams accolades for good reason. On defense, he hauled in two interceptions and two blocked kicks. On special teams, he leads the team

FOOTBALL on page 8

Mavs basketball dominant so far



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

Minnesota State saw six players score at least 10 points in MSU's 97-63 win over Bethany Lutheran College. They will be back in action this weekend.

By AHMED HASSAN
Staff Writer

Minnesota State Men's Basketball is 6-0 to start the season. This start can be described by one word "Dominance."

The team has been nothing short of dominant to start the season so far and is showing very good signs and habits to start so far. No game has been very close so far yet in the scoreline, but there have been blowouts from Minnesota State.

Some of the most impressive players so far have been three of the recruits this season: Justin Eagens, Elijah Hazekamp and Dylan Peeters, all of whom have added something new and dynamic. These players are here to win, and it has shown so far.

It's a long season where many things can happen, but the way you start seasons is the most important because it sets a tone and creates the vibe that follows the team throughout the season. Minnesota State has set the tone, and they don't look like they're planning on stopping anytime soon.

In a game against Waldorf Friday, MSU shot an efficient 47.6% from the field, with Malik Will-

ingham and Dylan Peeters leading all scorers with 15 points apiece.

Minnesota State was impressive during this game showcasing much versatility and talent with the Willingham brothers very much showing their talent and ability in this game.

Kyrese Willingham led all scorers in the first half with 12 points and was looking like the most dangerous on the court. Malik was a floor general for the Mavericks throughout this game and was setting the tone. The brothers are the real deal and have been a large part of this dominant start by the Mavericks.

Dylan Peeters and Brady Williams were setting the tone as the big men of the game showing dominance on the boards and creating havoc in the paint. Peeters' ability to score with versatility showed the layers of the game.

Brady Williams was very dominant defensively and seemed to be the defensive heart of the team at one point. Williams was injured last year and missed most of the season, but showed that won't have any effect on his game.

Elijah Hazekamp is a player who is not afraid to shoot, and it very much showed against Wal-

dorf. He would shoot whenever he saw the opportunity, and this resulted in him shooting with a good efficiency of 40% with 13 points on the night.

The second unit was another highlight of the night with Malcolm Jones, Brady Williams and Harrison Braduis leading the second unit for the game. They were very impressive and offered every missing piece the Mavericks needed. Their intensity on both the offensive and defensive of the court did not go unnoticed.

Regarding the game, Head Coach Matt Margenthaler had this to say.

"I think the last two games we've played very well together, we've been connected. This week is about us just doing what we do, and not trying to deviate from our game plan. When you play teams that you should win, you want to make sure you don't create bad habits, and I think so far, we've done a really good job of staying the course and taking care of ourselves."

The Mavericks have shown no sign of stopping their winning ways, and look to extend their record to 7-0 Friday against Sioux Falls.

◀ **HOCKEY** from page 7
us."

The next day, the Mavs were able to score goals late in the third period, but it was too late. In a game that ended in the same 3-2 score in favor of the Huskies, two third period goals were not enough for the Mavs to muster a

◀ **FOOTBALL** from page 7

in punt return yards with 243 and ranks 14th in NCAA Division II with 11.6 yards per return. He has also notched 181 kick return yards.

To end the season highlights, West matched a school record

series split.

Alex Tracy returned to action and he recorded 25 saves in the loss.

"I thought we increased our competitiveness and the game went on in all three zones," said Strand. "Tip our hat to Tech for playing as a group and staying to

with a 100-yard interception touchdown, Daulton led the team in tackles with 50 and Kretche led the team in tackles for loss with 10.5 and in sacks with 9.5. Lastly, the offensive line helped the team rush for 2,419 yards with 28 touchdowns and allowed a mere

their structure the way they do. I thought our second and third were a couple of our better periods of the year."

The Mavs will play their first games in the month of December later this week when they travel to Lake Superior State for another CCHA conference clash.

11 sacks which is 14th best in the nation.

"We are an exceptionally young team," Hoffner said. "We have a lot of guys returning and there is going to be a lot of reflecting on what we need to do. We will find a way to get better."

Women's basketball split in first two home games



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The win over the Rangers snaps a three-game losing streak for the Mavericks. They now look ahead to their matchup with Sioux Falls.

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State women's basketball team kicked off conference play in a 75-64 loss to the University of Minnesota-Duluth Tuesday.

The Mavs were heading into their home opener having lost their previous two games to Southern Nazarene University and Fort Hays State University in the Regional Crossover Challenge.

In the game against UMD, the Mavs had a 14-12 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Mavs were able to extend their lead to 24-17 in the second quarter, before the Bulldogs went on 14-7 run in the final three and a half minutes of the quarter to tie things up at 31 going into the half. The second half started as a tightly contested affair similarly to the first half, with both teams being tied at

41 after six minutes in the third quarter.

This was when the Bulldogs took control of the game and never looked back. The Bulldogs went on a 14-6 run to go into the fourth quarter up 55-47. The Mavs were able to cut the Bulldogs' lead to two points in the fourth quarter after a Destinee Bursch layup and two Joey Batt free throws, but UMD went on a 16-7 run in the final five and a half minutes of the fourth quarter. Minnesota Duluth went 7-8 from the field during their run to close out the game.

UMD's Taytum Rhoades led the team in scoring with 22 points. She also had six rebounds and three blocks. The Bulldogs went 6-12 from three-point range and shot 58% from the field. They also had the advantage in bench production. They had 25 bench

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NFL, What Do You Know? Week 12 Edition

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Staff Writer

Cowboys Feast on Commanders

The Dallas Cowboys beat the Washington Commanders 45-10 to extend their winning streak to three games.

Since their 28-23 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles, the Cowboys have dismantled the Giants, Panthers and Commanders, and have built momentum into December and for the tough part of their schedule.

Despite all the blowout wins, the thing that looms over them is the quality of the opponents that they have beat.

As someone who believes this team can get to the Super Bowl, I think that is a valid point, and it is why I am looking forward to seeing how the Cowboys fare against teams like the Eagles, Bills, Dolphins and Lions in the next several weeks.

Even if they beat a couple of those teams, some will still want them to prove it in the playoffs. Fair or not, that's the reality for the Cowboys.

We'll have to wait and see what they do from here on out, but for those discrediting their numerous blowout wins this season, why aren't other teams doing it as constantly as the Cowboys are if it was that easy?

No matter how good you think the Cowboys actually are, something undeniably impressive has been the play of Dak Prescott.

I had to spend all of last season hearing about how Prescott is a "turnover machine" when his



SAM HODDE • The Associated Press

With the Bills falling out of the unofficial race for the playoffs, the Indianapolis Colts have filled that spot. HOW.

previous six seasons of his career showed no evidence of that.

To no surprise, he has taken care of the football this season and has been playing the best football of his career since the Cowboys' loss to the 49ers.

Against the Commanders, Prescott completed 22 of 32 passes for 331 yards and four touchdowns. Prescott received an incredible 97.0 grade from Pro Football Focus for his performance.

It is the highest grade a quarterback has received from PFF since 2007.

Make no mistake about it, he is firmly in the MVP race.

Jordan Love Dominates in Detroit

A few weeks ago, the Green Bay Packers were 2-6 and it looked like they would join the line of teams that would be interested in a quarterback in next year's NFL draft. The Packers are now 4-6 and alive for a playoff spot in the NFC. In Week 11, they beat the Los Angeles Chargers 23-20, and Jordan Love was spectacular.

He completed 27 of 40 passes for 322 yards and two touchdowns.

That was his best performance of the season to that point, but he hadn't shown enough of that this season for me to really believe in him.

The Packers' 29-22 win over the Detroit Lions on Thanksgiving was an even better performance than the Chargers game by Love.

He completed 22 of 32 passes for 268 yards and three touchdowns. The reason this was so impressive by Love and the Packers was that it was on the road and on a short week against a good Lions team that has a legitimate chance at getting the one seed in the NFC.

The one thing you couldn't question about Love was his arm talent and mobility. He seems to be starting to combine that with decision making.

Bills Playoff Hopes Unofficially Over

The Buffalo Bills suffered a brutal 37-34 overtime loss to the Philadelphia Eagles. With this loss, their record is 6-6 and they are 10th in the AFC standings. In a vacuum, losing to the Eagles on the road is nothing to be ashamed of.

The Eagles are one of the best teams in the league and have only one loss this season.

It's losing games to the likes of the Jets, Patriots and Broncos that are going to cost the Bills a playoff spot come the end of the season.

Their loss against the Eagles was a perfect example of what this team has been this season.

Josh Allen played well for the most part. Allen completed 29 of 51 passes for 339 yards, had two passing touchdowns and two running touchdowns.

He also threw an interception in the fourth quarter on the Bills' side of the field to set up an Eagles' touchdown.

The Bills are supposed to have a good defense, but due to things like injuries, they haven't been.

In this game, they allowed 24 points in the fourth quarter and overtime.

Another thing that was lacking against the Eagles was their discipline. They had 11 penalties for 80 yards.

We all know that the Bills are familiar with how penalties can cost you a game.

Just ask Ken Dorsey.



DAVID DERMER • The Associated Press

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VARIETY

Chicago parade features MAV Machine



Courtesy IT Solutions Video & Digital Media

The Maverick Machine marches down the streets of Chicago for its annual Thanksgiving Day Parade, rated the second in the country according to TimeOut magazine.

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

Chicago's 89th annual Thanksgiving parade returned Thursday morning; a tradition many Americans tune in to each holiday. This year, Minnesota State's own Maverick Machine marched through the Chicago streets for the first time.

MSU senior Genevieve Bellot recalls growing up in Chicago, going to the parade and watching it on TV. Only this year, she won't be watching it, she will be part of it as a member of the colorguard.

"Being able to go and perform

alongside a lot of people who were my mentors growing up is really exciting," Bellot said. "Since I'm from Chicago, it's not easy for them to come to Mankato. So I'm most excited for everyone who maybe hasn't seen me perform in a while to be able to see me."

Maverick Machine director Michael Thursby has been preparing the students for their Thanksgiving day debut, and said he is "beyond proud" of the group.

"They bleed purple and gold more than anybody I've ever seen in my life, and they deserve this type of an opportunity," Thursby

said. "Just to see them get this experience is so rewarding; it's just so incredible."

The Maverick Machine's performed its show, "Home," built around the Machine's 10-year anniversary celebrated this fall. During Homecoming the band brought nearly 60 MSU alumni back to their roots, to perform alongside the current squad.

"I hope that when people hear our performance, they realize how important home can be, whether that is a place, a feeling, a group of people, or whatever else a person might feel is home to them," said

Alec Scherer, a fourth-year member of the Maverick Machine.

The band received an invitation from parade organizers after their return from Rome last year.

"When we went to Rome, it was awesome that we were able to be recognized internationally, so I am happy we finally are able to be recognized at a large event here in the states," Scherer said.

Prior to their march, the Machine has spent hours rehearsing the set, studying the route, and practicing marching techniques. Transitioning from a field to the

PARADE on page 12

Book boyfriends are not all terrible

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

There's no denying that the romance genre is one of the most popular book genres out there. Millions of readers wait in line for the newest novels full of equal parts passion and cuteness overloads. Society has come a long way from the days of Shakespeare's novels. Contemporary literature comes with more than its fair share of common tropes used across several works. Among the usual such as sappy or sexy covers, several types of relationships are portrayed (grumpy and sunshine, friends to lovers etc.) and of course, the dynamic of two protagonists.

Some readers find the dynamic between the male and female main characters to have the same power dynamic. The man is an "alpha," doing all he can to protect "his woman." The woman plays up the "damsel in distress" act to make the man feel better about himself. Some readers think authors veer into too abusive relationships or creepy dynamics in books. While it is true in certain novels such as Colleen Hoover's "It Ends With Us," and "November 9," this is not applicable to all books. Some even go so far as to talk about Edward's stalker tendencies and Jacob's neediness in the "Twilight" series. I won't even venture into what dynamics occur in "Fifty Shades of Grey" or other fanfiction-based books.

While I don't condone any of the behaviors shown in any of the aforementioned books, it's a bit dramatic to dismiss the entire genre as full of reproachful prose. I'd gladly sit these female main characters down and tell them while they have their "redeeming moments," they're oblivious to their lover's red flags. Besides, highlighting books that show the abusive side of these relationships doesn't leave much room for books that have the men all women should aspire to have in their lives. Here are a few who evoked a few "awws" from me:

Prince Maxon- The Selection Series. This is where my obsession with romance novels began. Kiera Cass knew what she was doing when she was writing his Royal Highness. Maxon gives America gifts to keep her stay, allows her to leave in the midst of the Selection to visit her family, and enjoys that she's able to throw comebacks at him even though she's not supposed to out of respect. This man even takes a caning to save America and almost dies for her, speaking just beautiful "last" words. If you haven't read this series, I highly

Student Events holds first ever Silent Disco

By ANAHI ZUNIGA
Staff Writer

Finals are almost here but it doesn't stop the Student Events Team from planning even more unforgettable events for Minnesota State students.

A new after dark event was announced earlier this month: Silent Disco. This unique event was put together by the event committee Mavericks After Dark and was held in the CSU Ballroom on Nov. 18.

Silent disco is an event where people are able to listen and dance to their music of choice through wireless headphones rather than a typical speaker system. Students were provided headphones and the optional music stations of international music, top 40 hits and classic throwbacks with each station having its own DJ.

Mavericks After Dark Chair Janat Kazibwe was in charge of organizing the after dark event along



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

The Student Events Team hosted the first Silent Disco with headphones provided, including three different stations to dance the stress away before finals begin.

with the help of the Student Events Team. She revealed that the Silent Disco event was the Student Events team's first one.

"I think there was a silent disco six years ago. I think other organizations on campus have done a silent disco like four years ago but

this is the Student Events team's very first silent disco." Kazibwe said.

Kazibwe shares the idea of the after dark event and its concept behind it and how it was able to provide both fun and entertainment for every MSU student that attended.

"It was just a thought; we thought about an event that would be inclusive to everybody. People are different; they have different music tastes and music genres. So usually you can't please everybody's taste at a party," she said. "But a silent disco enables that to happen because of the three different channels, three different genres of music, so people can choose to tune in to whatever they love to listen to, hence the inclusivity and different friend groups having fun at the same time."

First-year student Lex Lustig shared their opinion on attending

DISCO on page 11

BOOK on page 11

“Barbie Land” takes over CSU Ballroom



NATE TILAHUN • The Reporter

The Student Events Team welcomed Mavericks to the showing of “Barbie” Nov. 16, with a chance to win a \$50 prize.

By ELLIE MESCHKE
Staff Writer

On Nov. 16 the “The Barbie Movie” was shown at the Ostrand Auditorium. Alongside free admission, attendees were encouraged to dress in pink for a chance to win a \$50 prize in a raffle held at the end of the movie.

Eyuel Gezahegn, a member of the Student Events Team, said “We wanted to have the movie where we could have an interactive event with other students. Normally we would have a movie, just a random movie, but when it comes to ‘Barbie,’ we just wanted to have something that was interactive, something that people cared about. So that’s why we chose ‘Barbie.’”

“The Barbie Movie” was released this summer, and stars Margot Robbie as Barbie and Ryan Gosling as Ken. The film follows Barbie and Ken as they leave their perfect world to venture into the human world. “Barbie” is the highest grossing film from a female director.

Gezahegn also said “The time was really weird, people don’t really turn out for events at the end of the semester, as opposed to the beginning of the semester where everybody’s just trying to move, and it’s getting cold outside so nobody wants to leave their house. But, the turnout was nice, there was a lot of people (103). We envisioned everybody wearing pink, and that actually happened, people were

wearing pink, like at least 75% of people were in pink, so, that was nice.

“We do have events, normally at the beginning of the semester, but, this just turned out to be at the end. But we do have about four, when it comes to the Stomper Cinema, but the Student Events Team as a whole, has about sixteen, seventeen events.”

While the next on-campus film will be in the Spring, be sure to keep an eye out for more events held by the Student Events Team. If you want to see more of Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, check out some other films they were in, such as “The Wolf of Wall Street,” “The Notebook,” and “Blade Runner 2049.”

DISCO from page 10

Silent Disco and how fun it was for all the students that attended.

I’ve never experienced the event before. I’ve heard about silent disco nights and I always wanted to go to one and, thankfully, I was able to because of MSU and the student events team. The event was very exciting and the fact that they were playing music from our childhood was the thing that really made it perfect. And we could all just relax and enjoy the time and the nostalgia that it

brought.” Lustig said. “I think it would be really awesome if they put this on again every few years. It would be more fun if more students knew about it and went because it might be for everyone. Everyone listens to what they want so why not try it out again?”

As the fall semester comes to an end, Kazibwe reveals that the Student Events Team have started planning out several events for the upcoming spring semester and shared a few that are in the works.

“For the spring semester, we’ll

have tubing in Mankato. That’s when you go to Mt. Kato and tube with your friends and have hot chocolate and stuff like that. Another thing that’s still in the works is roller skating; a roller skating event. We’ll just see how that goes.” she said.

For more information on how to get involved with the Student Events Team, visit mnsu.edu/StudentEventsTeam or attend meetings that are held every Tuesday at 4 in CSU 245.

BOOK from page 10

recommend you do because you’ll instantly fall in love with him from the first time he comes onto the page. (There’s also Aspen in this love triangle, but he veers a little too close to the iffy men.)

Lale Sokolov- The Tattooist of Auschwitz. The story is actually based on a real-life couple Lale, the tattooist, and Gita, who worked in the camps. While I also do not condone the circumstances in which they met, I do condone the unconditional love they found. Despite the cruelest and harshest circumstances they faced, they never once gave up hope they would be together outside of the walls of Auschwitz. Slipping each other gifts of food and sneaking away to spend moments where they could encourage each oth-

er and share a spare moment of comfort in each other’s arms goes to show if men wanted to, they would, no matter what.

Brendan Taggart- It Happened One Summer. The literal love of my (fictional) life. Tessa Bailey can do no wrong when it comes to writing the prime example of what a man should be. I had never written down reasons “why this character is amazing” in my notes before and Brendan was the first. Before he met Piper, he was celibate for seven years after his wife died from cancer. No dates, no hookups, nothing. Talk about commitment! He changes the locks at the bar Piper’s father used to own to make sure she’s safe when he leaves on crab-fishing trips. He memorizes little details like how she takes her coffee

and what expensive brands she likes. He doesn’t take advantage of her when she gets drunk and sleeps on the downstairs couch. He travels from Seattle to L.A. to save her when she has to go back home after she refinishes her family’s bar. There are thousands of reasons why I love him and I guarantee anyone who reads this book would fall for him too (just ask one of my several friends who I’ve lent the book).

Romance novels are my favorite genre and there are several I’ve read where the main characters aren’t total jerks. Just because there are a few popular books that display less-than-perfect traits from men doesn’t mean there aren’t hundreds more where the men are happily-ever-after-worthy.

Essay writing tips: Getting through finals the “write” way



Courtesy Flickr

With finals quickly approaching, students can utilize the following tips and tricks to build a suitable essay for final papers on the way.

By GRACE ANDERSON
Staff Writer

For many students, finals are the exaggerated boss battle at the very end of any video game. It looms in the distance and brings a sense of dread to most students who think about them.

But in some cases, instead of final tests, many courses will assign final essays. As a tutor at the Writing Center, consider this a writer’s guide through the long hours of typing.

Compare each essay to the basics of building a house. Every house needs a foundation and a frame. After this comes the walls, roof, doors and windows. Finally, make the house a home with furniture, plumbing, heating and all other living necessities.

Start with “The Rule of 3s.” This will serve as our foundation and frame. For any essay, you will need to start with a thesis and a structure. For a thesis, it is important to start the sentence with your topic closely followed by your opinion regarding it and finished up with three main points to support this opinion. Here is a basic example of a thesis statement following this rule of thumb: “Cats are the best companions for college students because they are easier to care for, more independent, and are neighbor friendly.” It is important to use brief blanket statements for the three main points in order to expand on those points later on.

The Rule of 3s continues and intensifies with the body paragraphs, excluding the introduction and the conclusion where

the thesis statement will reside. Let these paragraphs serve as the walls, windows, doors and roof. With the three main points from the thesis, you can now create three sections of the paper. For each main point, it is important to find three points of evidence to support it. Expand on these pieces of evidence or add more pieces based on how long the paper needs to be.

For most college-level papers, the format will be APA. These papers include title pages and reference pages. For more information regarding this style, visit apastyle.apa.org. This website has been a tremendous help to tutors and students alike. It provides reference examples, student sample papers, and other updated rules and guidelines for the format.

Now it is time to make the house a home with the living necessities. This includes word choice, grammar and adding the proper spice to the essay that will improve the likelihood of getting an ‘A.’ For instance, transitional words in the beginning of the first sentence of the paragraph can play a major role in allowing your paper to flow smoothly. Words such as “additionally,” or “furthermore,” or “also,” signal to the reader that the writer is continuing the essay rather than finishing it. To signal to the reader that the essay has reached its final point, you can say words such as “finally,” or “lastly.”

Word choice can also mean finding ways to get around the usage of words such as “I” and “you.” You can do this by instead

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Video genre about everyday life is everywhere

By HALELUYA HADERO
The Associated Press

“Get Ready with Me” — to go on a date, go to work or ... get fired?

“Get Ready with Me” videos are everywhere these days, and they’re as straightforward as the name suggests. Social media users, often influencers, invite viewers to watch them get ready to do something or go somewhere. And embedded in the storyline are the skin care, the makeup, the hairdo and all the glam that goes into looking hot — and, of course, the personal stories about life or love that arrest your attention.

GRWM videos, as they’re also known, are part of a trend of “with me” content that has gained popularity over the past decade. Think “Clean with Me” videos where users watch people clean their homes for inspiration or pleasure. Or hours-long “Study with Me” videos for students who want buddies for intense cramming sessions but don’t have any friends nearby.

More than a decade after debuting on YouTube in the days when creator content was still relatively new, “Get Ready with Me” videos and their personal sensibilities have inundated social media thanks to a shorter iteration of the genre, which seems to have lent them a more personal and even revelatory tone.

“For creators, this is a vehicle for storytelling,” says Earnest Pettie, a trends insight lead at YouTube. “It becomes an excuse to share something about your life.”

People are watching by the billion

The videos have made everyday



MATT ROURKE • The Associated Press

TikToker Allie Pribula poses for a photograph in Mechanicsburg, Pa., Monday, Nov. 20, 2023. More than a decade after debuting on the once-nascent YouTube creator community, “Get Ready with Me” videos have inundated social media.

tasks a core staple of our online diets on platforms like YouTube by drawing in viewers who find it either informative, communal, or both.

Consumers, for the most part, seem to be really into it. In a report released in August, YouTube said there were more than 6 billion views of videos titled with variations of “grwm” at that point in the year. On TikTok, videos with the hashtag “grwm” have been viewed more than 157 billion times.

Celebrities and “it girls” have hopped on the bandwagon, often

to promote their brands or as part of Vogue’s “Beauty Secrets” series, which draws from the trend. In April, model Sofia Richie Grainge joined TikTok and posted a series of Get Ready with Me videos to offer fans an inside look into her wedding.

In the initial years of the genre, Pettie says, people would simply put on makeup in front of the camera. Soon after, the videos evolved to what is seen today — content creators getting glammed up while talking to their followers about whatever’s on their minds.

It experienced another revival in recent years with the popularity of short-form video, TikTok’s bread-and-butter — which was cloned by YouTube and Instagram in the form of Shorts and Reels, respectively.

The genre is being adopted by up-and-coming creators who might be uncomfortable sharing a story in a video without doing anything else, says Nicola Bartoli, the vice president of sales at Influencer Marketing Factory. Adding activities has the tendency to make content feel less heavy and more in-

viting, especially to viewers who’ve never come across the creator but are interested in what they’re doing.

Because users also tend to scroll quickly on TikTok, creators must capture a viewer’s attention right away before they move on to the next thing on their “For You” page. More engagement means more popularity, which typically leads to partnerships with companies eager to pay influencers through brand deals or other means.

“The level of compelling stories has been increasing a lot,” says Bartoli, whose company connects influencers with brands who want to partner with them to promote products. “It can be because it’s more crowded. You need to step up the game, so to speak.”

Get ready for emerging personalities. One of the most-known influencers in this arena is 22-year-old Alix Earle, who shares her experiences with struggles like acne, an eating disorder and panic attacks as well as lighthearted episodes about nights out with friends. She has nearly 6 million followers on TikTok.

Alisha Rei, 18, who lives in Toronto and models, says she wants to create viral social media content to help her build her following and, in turn, her modeling career. She says her friends told her to make Get Ready with Me videos because they tend to be popular.

Because of modeling events, Rei says she’d missed some shifts at her part-time job working at a mall shoe store. So she decided to make a “get ready with me to get fired” video while doing her makeup before she went back for another shift.

◀PARADE from page 10

street has been a focus for the members.

“Instead of everyone coming to see the sport, they’re coming to see the band,” said Mitchel Pomije, fourth-year flute player.

Although band members spent their Thanksgiving away from family members and a home-cooked meal, a separate family is found within the band itself.

“It is my hope that our performance shows everyone that fam-

ily can mean whatever is in your heart,” senior trumpet player Morgan Anderson said. “In the Machine, we are one big band family who go through the highs and lows together no matter what.”

The Maverick Machine has

three core values as a program: family, pride, and excellence. All three helped guide the crew through their Thanksgiving performance, one that was a first for many students.

“This program is not mine. It’s

not about me, it’s the students,” Thursby said. “That’s their program and I’m so excited to just see them experience it. It’s just great to see the students receiving recognition for all of the hard work and dedication that they put into our university.”

◀ESSAY from page 11

writing “one” or “a person” or “people.” For instance, the last sentence I wrote could instead begin with, “One can do this,” or, “A person can do this.”

Finish the essay by providing a

conclusion and a reference page. A conclusion is generally restating the introduction without repeating it word-for-word. It also includes the thesis statement. Experiment with different ways to deliver your paragraph based on your topic, as the

conclusion has a habit of stumping most writers.

One way to prepare for turning it in is to have a peer read through it or ask a tutor to read through specific portions of the essay that you are unsure about. Keep in mind

that most tutors only have a maximum of about 45 minutes to help each student before ending the session. The Writing Center is located on the main floor of the Memorial Library by the elevators.

Congratulations! You now have

an essay that is ready to be turned in for grading. While writing is not everyone’s strong suit, having a basic and generalized blueprint for papers and essays is a great start for helping students get through the end-of-semester obstacles.

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