

## Straka prepares to say goodbye to MSU

By EMMA JOHNSON  
Editor in Chief

After nearly 36 years working in the Minnesota State system, Vice President for Finance and Administration Rick Straka is retiring.

Straka came to MSU in November of 1987 as the athletic business manager before becoming the university's budget director.

Straka worked at MSU for seven years before taking the vice president of finance role at South Central Technical College in North Mankato where he worked for 11 years.

He then took his current position at MSU in 2006.

Straka said his time at South Central gave him the experience of supervising people he needed to return to MSU.

"I learned how to manage people and it was the first time I really became intimately involved in the decisions relating to facilities both in facilities operations and in master facility planning. It helped me broaden my reach," Straka said.

Straka has been responsible for the campus facilities and overseeing financial plans.

He has a team in Facilities and Planning and Construction who work with the architects and contractors to ensure projects are built and move forward the way they're intended.

Some of the projects Straka oversaw were the Trafton renovations, the Clinical Sciences Build-



EMMA JOHNSON • The Reporter

After nearly 36 years working in the Minnesota State system, Vice President for Finance and Administration Rick Straka is retiring. He started in 1987 as the athletic business manager. He plans to retire at the start of February.

ing and the underground tunnel from the Centennial Student Union and the Memorial Library.

Straka said keeping MSU financially stable is one of his greatest contributions.

"We've been able to continue to make investments in the university even when resources were tight or declining. I've worked with great

leaders and enjoyed being able to work as part of a collegial team to put the best interests of the students forward and try to give the students the best education we can give them at really reasonable costs," Straka said.

Straka said one of the struggles he faced during his career was the COVID pandemic.

"It was a struggle trying to figure out how we could focus our resources to make sure that students got the support they could get and how to access classes, but also making sure we kept people safe," Straka said. "That was a really delicate balance in those couple of years."

The 2008 Great Recession was **STRAKA on page 3**

## Free career development tool for students

By AMALIA SHARAF  
Staff Writer

Minnesota State's Career Development Center has partnered with SkillsFirst, an AI-powered tool to build resumes, cover letters and practice interview skills.

Associate Director of Career Development Center Mandy Weister said they have been looking for an option for students that would allow them to create powerful resumes and help them get ready for professional careers.

Weister said the decision to partner with SkillsFirst was an easy one.

"One reason we've wanted to move with SkillsFirst is that it has that powerful AI tool to give instant feedback on the resume, cover letter or application materials," Weister said.

The tool is available for students at any time of the day. Weister said it is beneficial for students who want to receive helpful feedback and polish their resume late at night when they have enough time to create it.

"Students can build a resume on the platform or upload one they already have," said Weister. "And then what used to take many hours of fighting with a Word document to get the right formatting is done in a click on this platform."

Moreover, SkillsFirst helps in analyzing the cover letter through multiple tools. One of those is gap analysis, which allows students to see what parts of the job description should be mentioned in the cover letter.

"Students still have to apply critical thinking and thoughtful processes and tell their own story," Weister said. "But the tool can give them that competitive advantage to ensure they are not missing anything when submitting those application materials."

Additional tools on the platform are pitch builder and interview questions preparation.

"Students can work on different elevator pitches. For example, see what they are going to say in a networking situation, at a career fair or an interview," Weister said. "And that can help them have that **CAREER on page 3**

## Student government elects new VP

By TRACY SWARTZENDRUBER  
Staff Writer

Roshit Niraula elected vice president of student government

The candidates for the final round of the vice presidency election were Sophomore Rebecca Jay and Niraula. Jay and Niraula had the opportunity to respond to various questions presented by the senators.

One of the questions presented was what their greatest strengths and weaknesses were. In response to this question, Jay said her strength was time management while her weakness was paying too much attention to small details at the expense of the larger picture. Niraula said time management was a weakness but communication was a strength that thrived as the academic affairs coordinator.

In response to a question about what they planned to achieve as vice president, Jay and Niraula said the following.

"I specifically aim on expanding the student town halls that recently happened. The student town



NATHANAEL TILAHUN • The Reporter

Roshit Niraula was elected vice president of the student government Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023.

hall that I attended last week was a great resource for students to know about existing campus resources and also for us to advocate and listen to different concerns," Niraula said.

"I would say that one of my biggest things would be creating some type of accessibility guides for incoming students, transfer students,

international students, anything like that. Our campus has a lot of academic resources and organizations to be involved in, and it can be a lot for students to understand," Jay said.

In response to a question about how to increase the student population, Jay advocated better advertising aimed toward out-of-state

potential students, while Niraula recommended smoothing transfer pathways.

When asked why they decided to run for the position, Jay and Niraula said the following.

"I am a political science student, so I love everything about government. I love our university and am very involved because I think it is a great place to be," Jay said. "I felt that with my communication and written abilities I would serve well in this position. I am friends with President Roiger, and I've seen the amazing work that she has been able to do."

"I have always been inspired to advocate for students, which pushed me to become a senator," Niraula said. "Talking about my inspiration for applying for the vice presidency, in our recent town hall with the students, I got to hear a lot of different concerns from the students; and I got into thinking about creative project ideas that I could be delegating with senators. I definitely feel like being in that position would help me relay, communicate, and connect all of you with those projects."



# Cities crack down on homeless encampments

By CLAIRE RUSH  
The Associated Press

Tossing tent poles, blankets and a duffel bag into a shopping cart and three wagons, Will Taylor spent a summer morning helping friends tear down what had been their home and that of about a dozen others. It wasn't the first time and wouldn't be the last.

Contractors from the city of Portland had arrived to break down tents and tarps on a side street behind a busy intersection and people had an hour to vacate. Whatever they couldn't take with them was placed in plastic bags, tagged with the date and location, and sent for storage in an 11,000-square-foot (1,020 square meter) warehouse.

"It can get hard," said Taylor, 32, who has been moved at least three times in the four years he's been homeless. "It is what it is. ... I just let it go."

Tent encampments have long been a fixture of West Coast cities, but are now spreading visibly across the U.S. The federal count of homeless people reached 580,000 last year, driven by lack of affordable housing and a pandemic that economically wrecked households. Encampments are also generating more controversy because of homeless people with severe mental illness and drug addictions who refuse treatment or don't have access to programs.

Records obtained by The Associated Press show attempts to clear encampments increased in cities from Los Angeles to New York as public pressure grew to address what are dangerous and unsanitary living conditions. But despite tens of millions of dollars spent in recent years, there appears to be little reduction in the number of tents propped up on sidewalks, in parks and by freeway off-ramps.

Homeless people and their advocates say the sweeps are cruel and a waste of taxpayer money. They say the answer is more housing, not crackdowns.

The AP submitted data requests to 30 U.S. cities regarding encampment sweeps and received at least partial responses from about half.

In Phoenix, the number of encampments swept soared to more



CRAIG MITCHELLDYER • The Associated Press

Amber Nastasia from Rapid Response Bio Clean cleans a homeless camp in Portland, Ore., Thursday, July 27, 2023.

than 3,000 last year from 1,200 in 2019. Las Vegas removed about 2,500 camps through September, up from 1,600 in 2021. And in Minneapolis, camp removals have more than doubled from last year to 44 through Nov. 9, according to city records.

The city of Los Angeles said its sanitation department responded to more than 4,000 requests a month from the public to address homeless encampments at the end of 2022, double the amount the previous year.

But it would not explain whether that meant the encampments were dismantled or simply cleaned around or even how large the encampments were.

But even cities without data confirmed camping is consuming more time, and they are starting to track numbers, budget for removals, and beef up or launch programs to connect people to housing.

State and local laws criminalizing homelessness are on the rise, said Scout Katovich, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, which has filed lawsuits

challenging the constitutionality of sweeps and property seizures in a dozen cities, including Miami, Anchorage and Boulder, Colorado.

"These laws and these practices of enforcement do nothing to actually alleviate the crisis and instead they keep people in this vicious cycle of poverty," she said.

But California Gov. Gavin Newsom, whose state is home to nearly one-third of the country's homeless population, says leaving hazardous makeshift camps to fester is neither compassionate nor an option.

He is among officials urging the U.S. Supreme Court to take up a 9th Circuit appellate court ruling that prohibits local governments from clearing encampments without first assuring everyone is offered a bed indoors. San Francisco is under a court order to enforce the ruling.

"I hope this goes to the Supreme Court," said Newsom, a former mayor of San Francisco, in a September interview with news outlet Politico. "And that's a hell of a statement coming from a progressive Democrat."

Earlier this month, crews in Denver erected metal fencing as police officers called to residents to leave a sprawling downtown encampment. A bonfire blazed against temperatures in the teens and snow covered the ground.

"The word 'sweep' that they use ... that's kind of how it feels, like being swept like trash," said David Sjoberg, 35. "I mean we're not trash, we're people."

Removing encampments is costly — an expense more cities, counties and states have to budget for. Several cities queried by the AP provided some costs, but others said comprehensive figures were difficult to get given the multiple departments involved, including police, sanitation and public health.

Still, Denver reported spending nearly \$600,000 on labor and waste disposal in 2021 and 2022 to clean 230 large encampments, some more than once. Phoenix said it spent nearly \$1 million last year to clear encampments.

Despite all that spending, said San Francisco real estate broker Masood Samereie, businesses keep

losing customers because of people camped on sidewalks, some clearly in mental distress. "It's throwing money at it without any tangible or any real results," he said.

For homeless people, sweeps can be traumatizing. They often lose identification documents, as well as cellphones, laptops and personal items.

Roxanne Simonson, 60, said she had a panic attack during one sweep in Portland and started yelling for an ambulance. "And then I changed my mind, because if I go, then I would lose all my stuff," she said.

But, cities can't stand by and do nothing, said Sam Dodge, who oversees a San Francisco city department that coordinates multiple agencies to place people into housing so crews can clear tents.

"Saying, 'This is not working, this is dangerous, you can do better than this, you have a brighter future than this,' I think that's caring for people," Dodge said.

One August morning, his crew surveyed about a dozen structures and tents, some inches away from vehicles zipping by. Outreach workers fanned out, asking people if they had a case manager or wanted a room indoors.

City officials are particularly frustrated by people who have housing, but won't stay in it.

Michael Johnson, 40, was assigned a coveted one-room pre-fabricated structure with a bed, desk and chair, a window and locking door. But his friends aren't there and to him, it feels like jail, so he's sleeping in a tent.

Many cities say they link camp residents to housing, but track records are mixed. For example, a June New York City comptroller's report said more than 2,300 people were forcibly removed from encampments from March to November 2022. Only 119 accepted temporary shelter, and just three eventually got permanent housing.

Advocates for homeless people say there are not enough temporary beds, permanent housing or social services and there are many reasons why someone might reject shelter. Some have been assaulted in one, or say there are too many rules to follow.

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PRESIDENT INCH



## Celebrities, politician among those named in sex abuse suits



ETIENNE LAURENT • The Associated Press

When New York's Adult Survivors Act expired on Friday, Nov. 24, 2023, more than 3,700 legal claims had been filed, with many of the last few coming against big-name celebrities, such as Weinstein, and a handful of politicians.

The Associated Press

For a year, New York's Adult Survivors Act suspended the usual legal deadlines to give sexual assault victims one last chance to file lawsuits over misconduct that occurred years or decades ago.

By the time the law expired last week, more than 3,700 legal claims had been filed, with many of the last few coming against big-name celebrities and a handful of politicians.

The list of the accused contained many familiar names from past #MeToo scandals and a few new ones. A huge number of claims were also made by former prisoners over alleged assaults in jails and prisons.

Here's a guide to some of the more noteworthy lawsuits:

Donald Trump

Former president Donald Trump was one of the first to be sued under the law when it took effect last November, by a writer who said he had raped her in a department store dressing room.

E. Jean Carroll, a columnist, had written of the alleged assault in a 2019 book. He rebuffed the accusation, saying it never happened. She initially sued Trump only for defamation because the allegations dated back to the mid-90s and the deadline for filing a legal claim had long since passed. But the Adult Survivors Act cleared the way for a suit claiming

sexual assault.

In May, a jury found Trump liable of sexually abusing Carroll, but not raping her. She was awarded \$5 million, including damages for defamation.

Sean "Diddy" Combs

Sean "Diddy" Combs, the hip-hop music mogul, was sued this month by three women. The first case was filed in federal court by R&B singer Cassie. She accused Combs of beatings and rape in a long-term relationship, which he denied. They announced a settlement the next day.

Two more women came forward with lawsuits last week, just before the law's expiration. They accuse Combs of sexual abuse in separate incidents dating back to the early 1990s. A spokesperson for Combs denied the allegations.

Harvey Weinstein

Harvey Weinstein, already convicted of rape in New York and Los Angeles, was sued in October by Julia Ormond, who accused the movie producer of bringing down her movie career after a sexual assault in 1995.

Weinstein, who is in prison in New York, "categorically" denied the accusations through his attorney.

Jamie Foxx

Among the rush of lawsuits filed in the last days of the law was one against performer Jamie Foxx.

alumni can use the platform at no cost when registering with their university email address.

"If it goes well, students like it, and it's providing the results we want it to, as far as getting people access to powerful tools to get strong resumes, then it could stay around for a long time," Weister said.

Additionally, all data is protected on each account.

"All students' information is private unless they choose to make it public or share links with people on the platform," Weister said. "The company can't see the things you're making and I can't see them, so just their username is going to be a part of public data."

For additional help with registration or navigation through SkillsFirst, email [cdc@mnsu.edu](mailto:cdc@mnsu.edu)

### ◀ CAREER from page 1

ready-to-go pitch that they can confidently deliver and impress employers."

Students can also learn on the SkillsFirst platform via a collection of short video lessons on various topics.

"Little intricacies of how to excel on the job in networking, how to utilize transferable skills, just a whole host of small snippet videos for that powerful career advice," said Weister. "And then students can take an assessment which gives them results, such as what job might be a good fit for them."

Students can access the platform from the CDC's website or promotional materials with a QR code leading directly to SkillsFirst. All current students and

## Straka: 'MavFam has become more than just a saying. It really is a culture'

### ◀ From page 1

another struggle Straka faced.

"We had a budget plan of about \$8 million and we had to make reductions in the university. We had to come together to make some difficult decisions, but we also made sure we were still investing in the university to set ourselves up for the next decade," Straka said.

Throughout his time at MSU, Straka said the campus community has become more prideful.

"I think MavFam has become more than just a saying. It really is a culture," Straka said. "It's a much more close-knit community."

Taking Straka's role is Anne Gillespie.

Gillespie was the Vice President for Business and Finance at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

While he wasn't involved in the search, Straka said he already sent Gillespie a warm welcome and his congratulations.

"I'm looking forward to meeting her in January when she comes on board. We have a little transition time where we'll both be on board and where I can hopefully help her transition a little bit into the uniqueness of the Minn State system and public higher ed in Minnesota," Straka said.

Before Straka officially departs on Feb. 6, he said he wants to address some budgetary challenges and continue advocating for the Armstrong replacement to help with the transition.

"There's some reorganization taking place in the university as well as the transition from myself to our new Vice President and I just want to try to make that transition as smooth as possible," Straka said.

The energy of the students is what Straka said he'd miss the most.

"If I'm having a stressful day, I'll get out and walk through the

Student Union and be around the buzz and the activity.

Being around 13,000 students every day who are excited and nervous about what they're going through, but knowing we're changing their lives through education is really rewarding," Straka said.

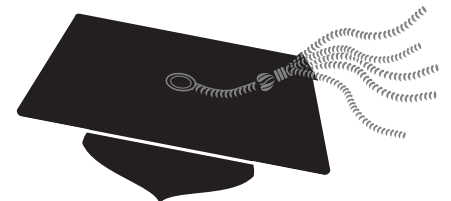
Straka said his career has been rewarding and how gracious MSU has been to him and his family.

"I got my MBA and undergraduate from here. My daughter has two degrees and my son has a degree from here. It's an important institution to our family and I just have fabulous memories here," Straka said.

During his retirement, Straka said he plans to golf, fish and spend time with his friends and family.

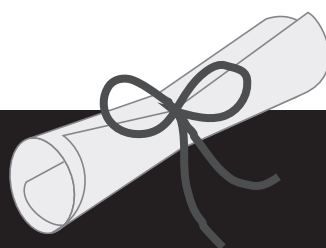
He also plans on entering his third year as a board member at Feeding Our Community Partners.

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# #MavBiz



# Trump embraces riots while lawyers distance him

By ERIC TUCKER  
The Associated Press

Donald Trump has embraced the rioters who attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, as patriots, vowed to pardon a large portion of them if he wins a second term and even collaborated on a song with a group of jailed defendants.

In his election interference case in Washington, his lawyers are taking a different tack.

Despite losing a bid to strike from the indictment references to that day's violence, defense attorneys have made clear their strategy involves distancing the former president from the horde of rioters, whom they describe as "independent actors at the Capitol."

At the same time, special counsel Jack Smith's team has signaled it will make the case that Trump is responsible for the chaos that unfolded, and point to Trump's continued support of the Jan. 6 defendants to help establish his criminal intent.

The competing arguments highlight the extent to which the riot serves as an inescapable backdrop in a landmark trial set to begin on March 4 in a courthouse just blocks away from the Capitol.

It also reflects a point of separation between Trump and his legal team in the case accusing the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination of conspiring to overturn his 2020 election loss.

While Trump's glorification of Jan. 6 defendants may boost him politically as he vies to retake the White House in 2024, his lawyers' approach lays bare a concern that arguments linking him to the rioters could harm him in front of a jury.

Though Trump is not charged



JULIO CORTEZ • The Associated Press

Rioters walk on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington. Donald Trump's lawyers have suggested their strategy in his election interference case in Washington involves distancing.

with inciting the riot, any success he hopes to have at trial may turn in part on his defense team's ability to neutralize, or at least minimize, the ghoulish images of the violence that prosecutors cite as a natural extension of the former president's repeated lies about a stolen election.

Much may depend as well on the evidence permitted by U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan. Trump's lawyers have signaled they will try to block prosecutors from presenting at trial evidence related to the actions of the rioters, who shattered windows, beat police officers, and sent lawmakers running

into hiding.

"What's likely to happen here is for the judge to strike some type of reasonable balance, which will allow prosecutors to admit some portion of the evidence about the conduct and some of the violence that went on during that day, but will put some kinds of limits on just how far prosecutors can go in presenting evidence of violent conduct," said Robert Mintz, a defense attorney and former federal prosecutor in New Jersey who has followed the case.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing in the case, which he has characterized as politically moti-

vated.

In separate civil cases seeking to hold Trump liable for the Capitol attack, his lawyers have argued he encouraged his supporters to peacefully protest the results of the election and never called for any violence.

The federal appeals court in Washington is currently weighing whether Trump can be sued by lawmakers and police officers, who have accused him of inciting the riot.

Trump will stand trial in the same courthouse where roughly 1,200 of his supporters have been charged in the largest investiga-

tion in Justice Department history. More than 800 of them have pleaded guilty or been convicted at trial of federal crimes stemming from the riot, including seditious conspiracy and assaulting police officers. About two-thirds of those sentenced so far have received prison time.

The former president often speaks on the campaign trail about what he says is the mistreatment of those defendants, many of whom have argued in court that they were following his instructions to go to Washington and to the Capitol on Jan. 6. Judges and juries, however, have rejected the argument that rioters who said they were acting at Trump's direction can't be held responsible for their crimes.

At a recent rally in Houston, Trump took the stage to a song titled "Justice For All," featuring a choir of jailed Jan. 6 participants and Trump reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

He told the crowd: "I call them the J6 hostages, not prisoners."

In court, however, his lawyers argued that references to the rioters' conduct are irrelevant and that details of that day's violence would only prejudice the jury against their client because they "may wrongfully impute fault to President Trump for these actions."

They are also seeking to force prosecutors to hand over to the defense statements by prosecutors in Jan. 6 rioters' cases they say undercut Smith's argument that Trump is responsible for the violence.

Judge Chutkan recently rejected Trump's bid to strike references to the riot from the indictment, saying he "has not satisfied his burden to clearly show that they are prejudicial."

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## Ukraine insists it sees no sign of NATO war fatigue



VIRGINIA MAYO • The Associated Press

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, right, speaks during an interview at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023.

By LORNE COOK and MATTHEW LEE  
The Associated Press

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba insisted on Wednesday that NATO allies are showing no sign of war fatigue and remain committed to helping Ukraine defend itself against Russia and take back occupied territory.

Speaking to The Associated Press, Kuleba also said that President Vladimir Putin is miscalculating if he sees any value in keeping his forces in Ukraine at least until presidential elections in the United States in a year's time, which could usher in a new administration.

"I heard a clear 'no' to any reference to fatigue, and I heard (a) clear 'yes' to increased support to Ukraine," Kuleba said after meeting NATO counterparts in Brussels. He said that some allies had made fresh offers of support, but he declined to provide details.

"They understand that in order for them to feel safe, in order for them not to end up in a situation where NATO's soldiers will have to fight, Ukraine has to win in this war," Kuleba said.

More than 650 days into the war, fighting between Russia and Ukraine has bogged down, with neither able to make significant gains. NATO believes that Russia has suffered around 300,000 casualties, but officials decline to speculate about the toll on Ukraine.

NATO as an organization does not provide military assistance to Ukraine, even though many members do on an individual basis and in groups. But supplying ammunition and equipment has become a challenge as national weapons stocks dwindle.

And the rhetoric has shifted. Six weeks ago, top NATO officials and ministers praised the slow but incremental gains that Ukraine's armed forces were making. This week, the country's mere survival was being hailed as a victory.

Still, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the allies are "determined to make sure that Ukraine has what it needs, including to take back territory." He said many NATO members want "to help Ukraine build a future

force that can ensure deterrence, and ensure defense against aggression going forward."

Blinken said the only thing preventing an end to the war "is Vladimir Putin and the extent to which he believes that he can somehow outlast Ukraine, outlast his people," and Putin's refusal "to engage in any meaningful way in diplomacy or negotiations."

A senior U.S. official said that most, if not all, NATO allies do not believe Putin will agree to any kind of deal with Ukraine until after the U.S. election, and they approach their decisions on assistance to Ukraine with that in mind.

This means not only military aid but also reconstruction assistance, economic support and help with reforms to get Ukraine on a more sustainable path to NATO membership, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. He offered no specifics.

But Kuleba said that Putin is always holding out for something.

"He always waits for elections in another country to take place and for the new government and new leadership to change the attitude," Kuleba said, "and President Putin always failed, consistently failed, in his expectations."

He added: "There may be differences about the best ways to contain Russia, to deter Russia. But the understanding (at NATO) that Russia poses a threat is consensual, and I don't see that changing."

The United States and European Union are struggling to provide enough funds to keep Ukraine's war economy afloat. The money is being held up due to political infighting and convoluted decision-making.

But Ukraine is mostly focused on winning the ultimate security guarantee – what Kuleba described as "the mother of all decisions" – joining NATO and opening EU membership talks.

EU leaders will weigh that decision next month and the European Commission, which oversees the accession process, has said that talks should start soon, perhaps early in 2024.

## Sports Illustrated damaged by AI

By DAVID BAUDER  
The Associated Press

Computer-generated writers ... writing computer-generated stories?

Sports Illustrated is the latest media company to see its reputation damaged by being less than forthcoming — if not outright dishonest — about who or what is writing its stories at the dawn of the artificial intelligence age.

The once-powerful publication said it was firing a company that produced articles for its website written under the byline of authors who apparently don't exist. But it denied a published report that stories themselves were written by an artificial intelligence tool.

Earlier this year, experiments with AI went awry at both the Gannett newspaper chain and the CNET technology website. Many companies are testing the new technology at a time when human workers fear it could cost jobs. But the process is fraught in journalism, which builds and markets its values-based products around the notions of truth and transparency.

While there's nothing wrong in media companies experimenting with artificial intelligence, "the mistake is in trying to hide it, and in doing it poorly," said Tom Rosenstiel, a University of Maryland professor who teaches journalism ethics.

"If you want to be in the truth-telling business, which journalists claim they do, you shouldn't tell lies," Rosenstiel said. "A secret is a form of lying."

CONFLICTING ACCOUNTS OF WHAT HAPPENED

Sports Illustrated, now run as a website and once-monthly publi-



LAWRENCE JACKSON • The Associated Press

The website Futurism reported that the once-grand magazine used articles with "authors" who apparently don't exist, with photos generated by AI.

ation by the Arena Group, at one time was a weekly in the Time Inc. stable of magazines known for its sterling writing. "Its ambitions were grand," said Jeff Jarvis, author of "Magazine," a book he describes as an elegy for the industry.

On Monday, the Futurism website reported that Sports Illustrated used stories for product reviews that had authors it could not identify.

Futurism found a picture of one author listed, Drew Ortiz, on a website that sells AI-generated portraits.

The magazine's author profile said that "Drew has spent much of his life outdoors, and is excited to guide you through his never-ending list of the best products to keep you from falling to the perils of nature."

Upon questioning Sports Illustrated, Futurism said all of the authors with AI-generated portraits disappeared from the magazine's website. No explanation was of-

ferred. Futurism quoted an unnamed person at the magazine who said artificial intelligence was used in the creation of some content as well — "no matter how much they say that it's not."

Sports Illustrated said the articles in question were created by a third-party company, AdVon Commerce, which assured the magazine that they were written and edited by humans. AdVon had its writers use a pen name, "actions we don't condone," Sports Illustrated said.

"We are removing the content while our internal investigation continues and have since ended the partnership," the magazine said. A message to AdVon wasn't immediately returned on Tuesday.

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Photo Editor

## Guide to finals week with minimal stress

It's about to be finals week – the assignments are beginning to get lighter, your classes are starting to slow down and one thing is on your mind: just getting through it.

So what is the best way to manage the stress, uncertainty and overwhelming feelings that come along with finals week?

Well, that depends.

The best way to handle stress is different for everyone. However, we can safely say that the best way to head into a final exam with the most confidence and certainty is to be prepared.

It may seem cliché and obvious, but many students will waltz into their classroom completely unprepared and sit down to take the most important test of the semester.

Studying notes, rehearsing presentations, talking amongst your other classmates and getting a good night's sleep before your big day are all great ways to prepare yourself. However you want to go about each of those is exactly how you should do it. No one knows yourself better than you.

However, it is important to be able to separate all of your classes and just focus on one at a time. Stress often comes when you become overwhelmed, and in preparing for a big test, your focus can only be on one subject. Prepare for all of your work, but when the time comes, try to focus on that one topic.

Trust in yourself.

Test-taking is a skill, and the best advice we can give is to just trust yourself. If you run across a question you aren't sure of, trust your gut, don't spend too much time on it and go back to it later if you have the time.

If not, at least you know you answered all of the questions that you knew. If it is a presentation, you most likely have spent the past few days, weeks, months, etc. studying the product or information you will be speaking about, and at that point, you have done everything that you can to earn the grade that you deserve.

With all of this being said about working hard, studying, focusing and whatnot, it should also be known that taking breaks is absolutely necessary as well.

Still prioritize your mental well-being. You most likely won't be able to focus if your mind is burnt out.

But if you do take breaks and still try to enjoy the week, you should still have a smile on your face when you walk into the classroom to ace that big exam.

Happy finals week everyone, we at The Reporter want to wish everyone good luck and we hope you all have a great winter break!

# Perspectives

## The murders of 4 men.



Flickr photo

It is a well known fact that LGBTQ folks face increased violence and victimization just for being who we are. This fact is unfortunately one that definitely applies locally.

I have spent the last several years researching the murders of gay men in the local area.

These men are Henry "Bud" Quimby, William Schaefer, David Wagner, and Dean Thurston.

Henry Bud Quimby was a popular radio disk jockey. He was murdered Aug. 17, 1981. At the time of his death he had been working at KTOE as both a DJ and technical expert. He had been the host of KTOE's "Going Home Show."

William Schaefer had been the owner of Jake's Pizza in New Ulm, which is where he was murdered Aug. 21, 1987. His body was discovered in his apartment above Jake's Pizza by his parents when they went to help open up the



Jeremy Redlien  
Staff Writer

pizzeria.

Less than a month later, David Wagner was murdered in Mankato Sept. 17, 1987. His body had been so badly mutilated by his murderer that he had initially been identified as a woman by police. According to his obituary he enjoyed drag car racing.

Dean Thurston was murdered July 18, 1997 in an apartment in Mankato. According to comments from articles from that time by those who knew him, he was well respected for his work with homeless and low in-

come people.

In all four cases, the perpetrators almost all tried to utilize the gay panic defense or a variation of it. The gay panic defense is basically when a heterosexual who acted violently against a gay person, claims that sexual advances from the gay person is what caused them to act violently.

Drugs and alcohol use by both victims and perpetrators appear to have been common themes to all four murders. The murderer of William Schaefer specifically claims that he was supplied with cocaine by Schaefer.

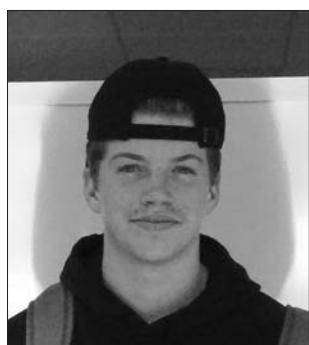
The two 1987 murders took place not only at the height of the AIDS crisis (which is believed to have led to higher levels of violence against the LGBTQ community) but during a heightened drive to add sexual orientation to Mankato's non-dis-

COLUMN on page 7

# Pulse

### "What are your plans for winter break?"

Compiled by Alexis Darkow



BRODY LARSEN,  
FRESHMAN

"Going home and spending time with my family."



ELISE ADIX,  
SOPHOMORE

"I'm going to work at FedEx."



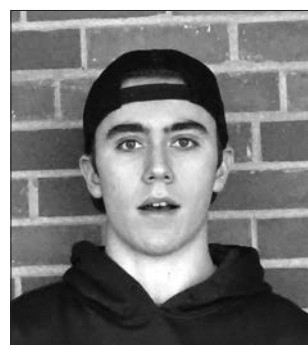
JAROD NEUVILLE,  
FRESHMAN

"Hanging out with friends."



MEGAN CARLSON,  
JUNIOR

"Having my whole family over, making cookies and watching Christmas movies."



SOREN SCHAUST,  
JUNIOR

"Going home for break."



SOPHIA JENSEN  
FRESHMAN

"Going home."



# Wolverines pushed toward extinction



CHRIS STERMER • The Associated Press

This photo provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife from a remote camera set by biologist Chris Stermer, shows a wolverine in the Tahoe National Forest near Truckee, Calif., on Feb. 27, 2016.

By MATTHEW BROWN  
The Associated Press

The North American wolverine will receive long-delayed threatened species protections under a Biden administration proposal released Wednesday in response to scientists warning that climate change will likely melt away the rare species' snowy mountain refuges and push them toward extinction.

Across most of the U.S., wolverines were wiped out by the early 1900s from unregulated trapping and poisoning campaigns. About 300 surviving animals in the contiguous U.S. live in fragmented, isolated groups at high elevations in the northern Rocky Mountains.

Wolverines join a growing number of animals, plants and insects — from polar bears in Alaska to crocodiles in southern Florida — that officials say are at growing risk as increasing temperatures bake the planet, altering snowfall patterns and raising sea levels.

In the coming decades, warming temperatures are expected to shrink the mountain snowpack wolverines rely on to dig dens where they birth and raise their young.

The decision Wednesday by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service follows more than two decades of disputes over the risks of climate change, and threats to the long-term survival of the elusive species. Officials wrote in the proposal that protections under the Endangered Species Act were needed "due primarily to the ongoing and increasing impacts of climate change and associated habitat degradation and fragmentation."

The animals resemble small bears and are the world's largest species of terrestrial weasels. Sometimes called "mountain devils," they thrive in harsh alpine environments.

Protections were rejected under former President Donald Trump.

A federal judge in 2022 ordered the administration of President Joe Biden to make a final decision this week on whether to seek protections.

Republican lawmakers in Montana had urged the administration to delay its decision, claiming the scientists' estimates were too inaccurate to make a fair call about the dangers faced by wolverines.

The lawmakers, led by hard-right conservative Rep. Matt Rosendale, warned that protections could lead to future restrictions on activities allowed in wolverine habitats, including snowmobiling and skiing.

Rosendale said Wednesday he would seek to revoke threatened species status for wolverines at the earliest chance if it's finalized.

"Whether it's private property, state property or federal property, if we are limited on the use of that land based upon this status, that's a taking," he said. "Is the federal government going to compensate the state for lack of use on state-owned lands? .... I don't think so."

In September, government scientists conceded some uncertainty about how quickly mountain snowpacks could disappear every spring in areas with wolverines. They also said habitat loss due to climate change — combined with other problems such as houses and roads — will likely harm wolverine populations.

"The best available information suggests that habitat loss as a result of climate change and other stressors are likely to impact the viability of wolverines in the contiguous U.S. through the remainder of this century," they concluded.

Fish and Wildlife Service officials said in documents released Wednesday that they were "not concerned" about the effects of

existing developments such as ski resorts since wolverines likely already avoid those areas. But winter recreation could hurt wolverines in the future, they said, as activities like backcountry skiing and snowmobiling have become more popular in some areas.

The scientists added that some of those losses could be offset if wolverines are able to recolonize areas such as California's Sierra Nevada and Colorado's Rocky Mountains.

Environmentalists have argued in multiple lawsuits against the Fish and Wildlife Service that wolverines face localized extinction from climate change, habitat fragmentation and low genetic diversity.

The proposal to protect them "gives the wolverine a fighting chance for survival," said Timothy Preso, an attorney for the group Earthjustice who's been part of that legal effort.

Another attorney said he still had concerns over legal trapping for other species in areas where wolverines live. The Fish and Wildlife Service proposal would allow some accidental killing of wolverines as long as trappers report any captures within five days and use "best practices" to avoid the animals.

"I'm not sure that's possible. Wolverine populations live in remote areas of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Washington state. Wolverine populations live in remote areas of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Washington state. Wolverine populations live in remote areas of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Washington state. Wolverine populations live in remote areas of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Washington state."

Wolverine populations live in remote areas of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Washington state.

In recent years, individual animals have been documented in California, Utah, Colorado and Oregon. However, there's been "no evidence" that the animals are becoming established and breeding in those states, officials said in Wednesday's proposal.

# Six-planet solar system in perfect synchrony has been found



NASA via The Associated Press

This image provided by NASA shows an artist's illustration of the TESS telescope. Astronomers have discovered six planets orbiting a bright nearby star in perfect rhythmic harmony.

By MARCIA DUNN  
The Associated Press

Astronomers have discovered a rare in-sync solar system with six planets moving like a grand cosmic orchestra, untouched by outside forces since their birth billions of years ago.

The find, announced Wednesday, can help explain how solar systems across the Milky Way galaxy came to be.

This one is 100 light-years away in the constellation Coma Berenices. A light-year is 5.8 trillion miles.

A pair of planet-hunting satellites — NASA's TESS and the European Space Agency's Cheops — teamed up for the observations.

None of the planets in perfect synchrony are within the star's so-called habitable zone, which means little if any likelihood of life, at least as we know it.

◀COLUMN from page 6  
crimination ordinance.

It was first hearing about these murders that ultimately drove my desire to do more research into local LGBTQ history.

I don't know how we're going to end violence against LGBTQ people for violence

is a far too common theme in our lives. These are just the murders that happened locally. Nationally, we know that violence against LGBTQ people is a dangerous epidemic with no end in sight.

I know I want to leave in peace someday though. Why can't that peace come today?

*Congratulations*

We would like to recognize and appreciate the contributions of

**Mia Makovsky**

Thank you for all of your hard work and your dedication to the MSU Reporter!  
Best Wishes in your Future Endeavors!

**CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!**

**GOOD LUCK ON YOUR FUTURES ENDEAVORS!**

FROM

**THE MAVERICK KMSU 89.7 FM**



# Current pains of climate change and warming

By SETH BOERNSTIEN  
The Associated Press

The world is heading for considerably less warming than projected a decade ago, but that good news is overwhelmed by much more pain from current climate change than scientists anticipated, experts said.

That's just one of a set of seemingly contradictory conditions facing climate negotiators who this week gather in Dubai for marathon United Nations talks that include a first-ever assessment of how well the world is doing in its battle against global warming. It's also a conference where one of the central topics will be whether fossil fuels should be phased out, but it will be run by the CEO of an oil company.

Key to the session is the first "global stocktake" on climate, when countries look at what's happened since the 2015 Paris climate agreement, how off-track it is and probably say what's needed to get back on track.

Even though emissions of heat-trapping gases are still rising every year, they're rising more slowly than projected from 2000 to 2015. Before the Paris deal, scientists at Climate Action Tracker and the United Nations Environment Programme were projecting about 3.5 degrees Celsius (6.3 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming over pre-industrial levels based on how much carbon dioxide countries were spewing and what they planned to do about it.

That 3.5 "is totally out of the picture. It will not happen," said NewClimate Institute scientist Niklas Hohne, who works on Climate Action Tracker. "Our number is 2.7 (4.9 degrees Fahrenheit). It could be even lower with pledges



A coal-fired power plant operates near wind turbines Niederaussem, Germany, as the sun rises on Nov. 2, 2022.

MICHAEL PROBST • The Associated Press

and with net zero targets."

UNEP's Emissions Gap projected 2.5 to 2.9 degrees (4.5 to 5.2 degrees Fahrenheit). The global goal is 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Countries are promising and even starting on actions that should eventually reduce emissions, but those cuts haven't materialized yet, said Climate Analytics CEO Bill Hare, also of Climate Action Tracker.

"So things aren't as bad as they could have been or as we worried they might be 20 years ago, but they're still far from where we need to be," said Stanford University cli-

mate scientist Rob Jackson, who heads scientists who annual track world emissions in the Global Carbon Project.

When he looks at the impacts of just 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming — about what the world has gotten so far — World Resources Institute CEO Ani Dasgupta said he wants to scream from the rooftops about how "unfair and unequal the devastation is."

"No one who has half a brain can be happy where we are," Dasgupta said.

Scientists underestimated for decades how much destruction just

a little warming would cause, several scientists said. And that damage we are feeling far outweighs the gains made in reducing future warming projections, they said.

Hare points to more than 60,000 heat deaths in Europe in 2022. Others point to thousands dead from flooding in Pakistan and Libya.

"The more we know, the more severe impacts we see at lower temperature changes," said Anne Olhoff, chief author of the UNEP Emissions Gap report. "The impacts happen much faster than we thought previously and much harder than we thought previous-

ly."

The damage the world is seeing "is scarier to me than almost anything else," Jackson said. "We are seeing the world's weather start to unravel and there's no evidence that that will stop."

When it comes to emissions, the key is what's causing them, experts say, citing fossil fuels.

"I think rightly the fundamental role of fossil fuels will take center stage" at the Dubai negotiations, called "COP" for conference of parties, said Melanie Robinson, climate director for World Resources Institute.

Heading into negotiations, world leaders have crowded about tentative agreements to triple the amount of renewable energy use and double energy efficiency. But that's not enough, said Johan Rockstrom, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Research.

"It requires the tearing out the poisoned root of the climate crisis: fossil fuels," said United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Guterres, numerous climate scientists and environmental activists all say what's needed is a phase-out — or at the very least a phase-down — of coal, oil and gas.

But the host country runs the negotiations and appoints a president. The host country is the oil state United Arab Emirates and it has named ADNOC oil company CEO Sultan al-Jaber, who also runs a renewable energy company, as the conference president. Al-Jaber and his colleagues say by bringing fossil fuel companies to the table they can get more done and that it may take someone in the industry to get the concessions needed.

Environmental activists don't believe it.

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**GOOD LUCK  
ON YOUR FINALS!**

**END OF SEMESTER HOURS:**

THURSDAY, NOV. 30	7:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
FRIDAY, DEC. 1	7:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, DEC. 2	10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, DEC. 3	11:00 A.M. - 2:00 A.M.
MONDAY, DEC. 4	7:30 A.M. - 2:00 A.M.
TUESDAY, DEC. 5	7:30 A.M. - 2:00 A.M.
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6	7:30 A.M. - 2:00 A.M.
THURSDAY, DEC. 7	7:30 A.M. - 12:00 A.M.
FRIDAY, DEC. 8	7:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, DEC. 9	10:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

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# SPORTS

## Mavs gear up for six games over winter break

By HAYDEN LEE  
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State men's hockey team is coming off of a series loss to Michigan Tech where they were swept.

As they look forward to their games over the looming holiday break at MSU, they have six games on their schedule before they get a break.

Coming up first is a matchup with Lake Superior State on the road. The Lakers are 7-7 overall and 4-4 in conference play thus far. The two teams met last in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association Quarterfinals in March.

The Mavericks swept the Lakes in that series, 6-1 and 2-1. Goaltender Keenan Rancier stopped 16 of 17 shots en route to a Mavericks victory in the latter.

In their regular season series, the Mavs also swept the Lakers, 3-1 and 3-1. MSU has dominated the all-time series as they currently hold a 30-4-1 advantage dating back to 2013.

The Mavs have won the last five matchups and nine of the last ten.

A season ago, the Lakers finished with a 9-35-2 record, and they have retained two important pieces from that team – head coach Damon Whitten, who has been their coach since 2014, and senior Jared



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

On their second three-game losing skid of the season, Minnesota State will try to right the ship this weekend when they travel to face the Lake Superior State Lakers at Taffy Abel Arena.

Wescott, who leads the CCHA in points (22) and goals (14). Wescott was named the CCHA Player of the Month in two months straight and has this team heading in the right direction.

The Lakers are 4-2 at home on the season and 4-4 in the month of November.

At the beginning of the year, they were picked to finish last in the CCHA in the CCHA Preseason

Coaches' Poll.

They lead the CCHA in goals scored per game with 3.43 but are fourth in goals surrendered with 3.21.

As for the Mavs, they have plen-

ty to be optimistic about despite a recent losing streak.

Sam Morton and Evan Murr headline the offensive attack – Morton leads the team with 10 goals and Murr has impressed with three goals on the year.

Additionally, they post a solid goalie duo with Alex Tracy and the returning Keenan Rancier.

After they take on the Lakers, they will face the St. Thomas Tommies in a series where each team hosts a game Dec. 8 and 9.

The Tommies are 7-6-1 and will be coming off of a series against Ferris State.

Finally, in their last series before they get a break, they will head to New York for a series against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

RPI is 2-7-1 on the year and will have three games before they clash with the Mavericks.

The Mavs' upcoming series against the Lakers will begin at 7:07 EST on December 1 and 6:07 EST on December 2 in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

The Tommies will come to town on December 8, and that game has a start time of 7:07.

The next day, the Mavs will travel to Mendota Heights for another 7:07 start.

RPI will host the Mavs at 7:07 EST on December 15 and 6:07 EST on December 16.

## Top 5 Super Bowl contenders heading into December

By MOHAMED WARSAME  
Staff Writer

Around this time of the year is when we start to see the real contenders separate themselves from the rest of the pack. Here are the five teams that I believe at this stage are most likely to win the Super Bowl.

### 1. Kansas City Chiefs

There is a lot of skepticism surrounding the Chiefs this season due to their offense not functioning at a high level.

This is a foreign thing for Chiefs fans considering what they have become used to since Andy Reid took over.

What makes this even more surprising is that you would never expect a team quarterbacked by Patrick Mahomes to look the way the Chiefs have this season.

The main reason for their offensive struggles is due to their wide receivers. The Chiefs lead the league in drops this season with 30.

To some degree, Travis Kelce hasn't looked quite like himself for the most part this season. Which is understandable considering his age and he has battled through injuries this season.

The reason I'm not worried about the Chiefs at this moment is because they won the Super Bowl last season with pretty much



JOHN LOCHER • The Associated Press

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) passes against the Las Vegas Raiders during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, in Las Vegas.

the same receiving core they had last season, with the only notable change being rookie Rashee Rice now on the team instead of JuJu Smith-Schuster.

They still have Mahomes, and

even though Kelce may not be as good as his peak, he is still one of the most dangerous offensive players in the league.

That combined with their defense being better than they were

last season, makes them extremely dangerous.

The Chiefs' defense is ranked third in opponents points per game, fourth in opponents yards per game and third in opponents

points per play.

### 2. Philadelphia Eagles

Putting the Eagles second on this list means that at this moment, the most likely Super Bowl matchup is a rematch between the Chiefs and Eagles.

The word to describe the Eagles is tough. They are 10-1, but they are not blowing teams away like they did last season, but are finding ways to win.

Usually when a team is constantly winning one-score games, people are a bit skeptical because that luck tends to run out at some point. A good example being last year's Minnesota Vikings.

No one looks at this Eagles team as one of those teams because of what they did last season and the makeup of their team.

Their last two games sums up their season perfectly. They first went on the road on Monday Night Football and beat the Chiefs after being down 10 points at halftime.

Then they beat the Bills in overtime after overcoming a 10-point deficit going into the fourth quarter. Jalen Hurts in both games didn't play that well early, but turned it on late and made the plays necessary for them to win.

At this point, you just have to stop doubting the guy.

### 3. San Francisco 49ers

The 49ers have arguably the **CONTENDERS on page 10**



## Former MSU athletic director Don Amiot passes away

By EMMA JOHNSON  
Editor In Chief

Former Minnesota State director of athletics Don Amiot died in a car accident earlier this week. The school's announcement did not release further details.

Current director of athletics Kevin Buisman told the Mankato Free Press he was "devastated" about the news and his thoughts are with Amiot's family.

"I had big shoes to fill when I stepped into this position following Don's very successful tenure," Buisman told the Mankato Free Press. "He set the table for our future success and our ability to sustain his legacy is a testament to his hard work and dedication."

Amiot worked in the athletics department from 1988 to 2002. Amiot jumped the men's hockey program from Division III to Division I. He also started the women's soccer program in 1995 and the women's hockey team during the 1998-99 season.



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

## Bucks earn quarterfinal berth by topping Heat 131-124



WILFREDO LEE • The Associated Press

Miami Heat center Bam Adebayo (13) drives to the basket against Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, in Miami.

By TIM REYNOLDS  
The Associated Press

With the game on the line, the Milwaukee Bucks were just about perfect.

And they're headed to the In-Season Tournament quarterfinals.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 33 points, Damian Lillard added 32 and the Bucks rallied in the fourth quarter to beat the Miami Heat 131-124 on Tuesday night and clinch a home quarterfinal game in the NBA's inaugural in-season event.

"The one thing that we do have going for us is we know how to win the game," Lillard said. "We know how to do the things to win a game."

The Bucks closed the game on a 16-6 run, going 5 for 6 from the field and 5 for 5 from the line in that stretch. Khris Middleton scored 17, Malik Beasley had 16 and Brook Lopez 12 for the Bucks, who won East Group B with a 4-0 record.

They'll host wild-card New York next Tuesday, with East Group C winner Boston going to Group A winner Indiana for the other quarterfinal before the Final Four in Las Vegas.

"Let's focus on Chicago and go from there," Bucks coach Adrian Griffin said, noting that his team still has games against the Bulls and Atlanta before the quarterfinal game against the Knicks.

Bam Adebayo scored 31 points

for the Heat, who got 21 from Kyle Lowry and 20 from Josh Richardson. Jaime Jaquez Jr. and Caleb Martin each scored 14 and Duncan Robinson added 13 for the Heat.

"I felt like we played a very good basketball game," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "A very good offensive game, in particular."

Miami was without Jimmy Butler (ankle) and Haywood Highsmith (back); Butler averaged 37.6 points in Miami's five-game ouster of Milwaukee in last season's playoffs, with games of 56 and 42 in the final two matchups of that series.

The Bucks lost Pat Connaughton to a sprained right ankle late in the second quarter.

Lowry made a 3-pointer with

◀**CONTENDERS** from page 9  
best roster in the NFL, and as long as they stay healthy, they will be competing for a Super Bowl. This has been the case with the 49ers over the past few years.

They have either made the Super Bowl or NFC Championship game in three of the last four years.

The only time they didn't during that timespan, was when they had several injuries to key players in 2020.

They even botched a first-round pick after spending two additional first-round picks to get that player and it didn't matter.

Instead of the guy that they thought would be their quarterback for years to come, Trey Lance, Mr. Irrelevant, Brock Purdy, is under center and thriving.

Purdy has completed 70.2% of his passes, thrown for 2,871 yards, thrown for 19 touchdowns and has a quarterback rating of 112.3.

He has an all-star team of weapons around him, with the likes of Christian McCaffrey, Deebo Samuel, Brandon Aiyuk and George Kittle.

He also has Kyle Shanahan calling plays. Purdy just needs to keep doing what he is doing for the most part.

The only question I have about him is if he can come through when they are trailing in a big moment.

#### 4. Dallas Cowboys

Going into the year, it seemed like the AFC was way tougher than the NFC.

As the season has gone along, it has become clear at the top of both conferences, the NFC has the better teams. The Cowboys can absolutely get to the Super Bowl.

I believe they matchup well with the Eagles, as we saw a few weeks ago and will see when the two teams play again in Week 14 on Sunday Night Football.

The issue that the Cowboys have is the 49ers.

Considering the way the last three matchups have gone between the two teams, it is hard to find anyone that would be confident in the Cowboys if the two teams meet in the playoffs.

The biggest hope for the Cowboys is Dak Prescott. If you ask me, he is currently the MVP.

Prescott has completed 70% of his passes, thrown for 2,935 yards, thrown for 23 touchdowns and has a quarterback rating of 107.4. He is also currently the highest-graded quarterback by Pro Football Focus, with a grade of 92.1.

If he can continue playing the way that he is in the playoffs, and their defense that can wreck games for offenses, continue to make key plays and stops, then the Cowboys have a legit chance at making the Super Bowl.

#### 5. Baltimore Ravens

The Ravens are the biggest threat to the Chiefs making it out of the AFC.

They are currently the number one seed in the AFC with a 9-3 record.

The biggest thing that the Ravens have going for them right now is their defense.

They are ranked second in opponents points per game, second in opponents yards per game, first in opponents points per play and first in opponents yards per play.

Similarly to the Chiefs, when you combine a great quarterback and a great defense, you will almost certainly be in the mix for a Super Bowl.

The biggest difference is, I know what Mahomes is capable of in the playoffs.

We have seen Lamar Jackson mostly struggle in the playoffs in his career thus far.

He will need to be playing at his best for the Ravens to win the Super Bowl, especially after the season-ending injury to Mark Andrews.

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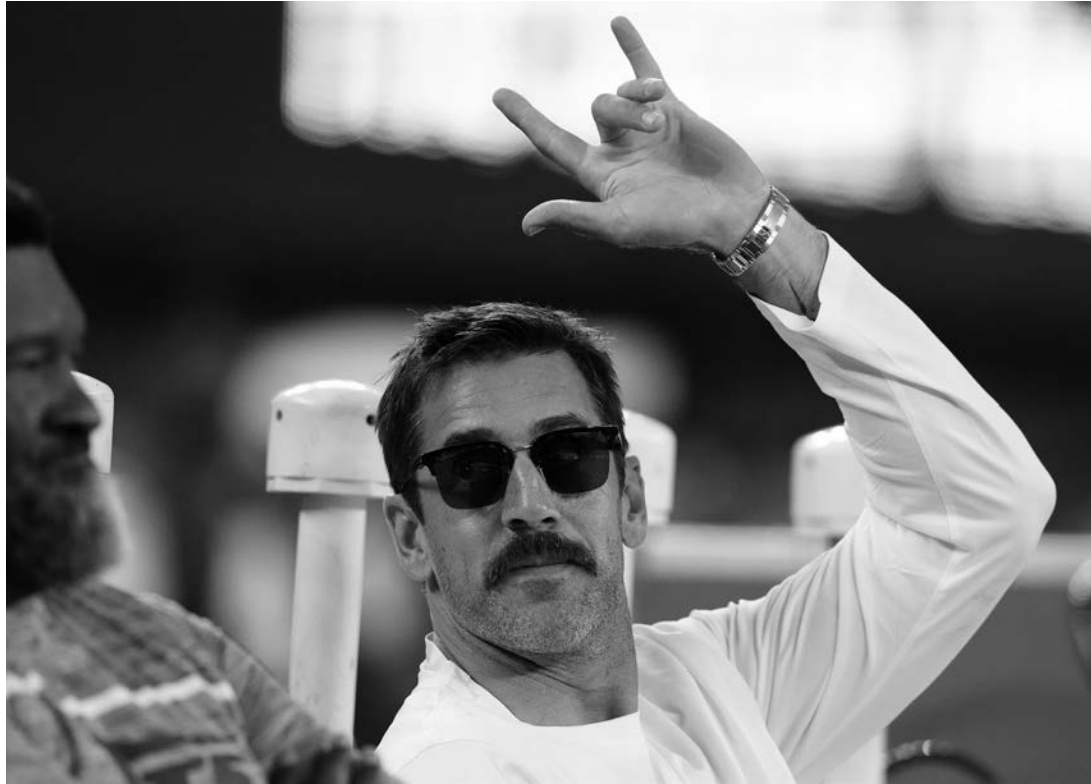
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# Jets begin Aaron Rodgers' 21-day practice window



FRANK FRANKLIN II • The Associated Press

New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers waves to football fans before an NFL football game between the Jets and the Kansas City Chiefs, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, in East Rutherford, N.J.

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.  
The Associated Press

Aaron Rodgers' improbable comeback from a torn Achilles tendon has taken the next step.

The New York Jets opened the 21-day practice window for the quarterback on Wednesday — exactly 11 weeks after he had surgery — with Rodgers cleared for some football activities.

Coach Robert Saleh said the four-time NFL MVP, who turns 40 on Saturday, will be limited at practice — as he was listed on the team's injury report — and is not cleared for contact. Saleh said there's "no added risk" in taking this step, emphasizing it's not necessarily a signal that Rodgers will play again this season as much as it is the next part of the quarterback's rehabilitation process.

"Instead of throwing with staff members," Saleh said, "he's throwing with teammates."

At the end of the 21-day period, the Jets will have to make a decision whether to activate him or he'll spend the rest of this season on injured reserve. That period will expire on Dec. 20, which is four days before the Jets' home game against the Washington Commanders.

"We're not there yet," Saleh said. "A lot of guys coming off (injured reserve) are usually not ready to play football. There's usually still a little bit of a health concern there. So you use these 21-day windows to see where they're at."

"We're so far away from that. But the mindset for this is more of a progression in his rehab. He's been cleared for functional football activity. He's not cleared to

fully play football."

During the early portion of practice open to reporters, Rodgers walked onto the field in his red No. 8 noncontact jersey during warmups and embraced left tackle Mekhi Becton in the trainers' area. Rodgers found his way to the quarterbacks group during individual drills, tossed some short passes and took a few dropbacks.

"Science rules," wide receiver Allen Lazard said with a laugh. "Being around him the time I've been around him, knowing his mindset — more so his stubbornness — just to kind of prove everyone else wrong, it's very on brand."

Rodgers tore his Achilles tendon four snaps into his debut with the Jets on Sept. 11 and had surgery two days later. The operation included a "speed bridge" procedure, which helps expedite the go-

# 49ers and Eagles head into NFC title game rematch



LINDSEY WASSON • The Associated Press

San Francisco 49ers running back Christian McCaffrey (23) pulls away from Seattle Seahawks safety Quandre Diggs (6).

By JOSH DUBOW  
The Associated Press

The Philadelphia Eagles and San Francisco 49ers haven't let last season's postseason disappointment become a hangover in 2023.

Both teams head into Sunday's rematch of last season's NFC title game with a chance to turn those recent failures into success.

Philadelphia, coming off a Super Bowl loss last season to Kansas City, is the fourth Super Bowl runner-up to start the following season 10-1 or better, joining the 1991 Bills, the 1975 Vikings and the undefeated Dolphins in 1972.

The goal for Philadelphia (10-1) is to match those 1972 Dolphins, one of three teams to win the Super Bowl the year after losing the title game. Dallas did it the previous season with a win over

Miami, and the Patriots did it in 2018, after losing to the Eagles the year before.

The Eagles are the fourth team in NFL history to win at least 10 of their first 11 games in back-to-back seasons. They joined the Colts (2005-06), Dolphins (1972-73) and Bears (1941-42).

The Niners have two years of playoff close calls hanging over them, losing the NFC championship game in 2021 to the Rams and last season to the Eagles.

San Francisco has won three straight games to improve to 8-3 and will try to become the fourth team to follow two straight conference title game losses with a Super Bowl crown.

The Patriots did it in 2014, the Niners in 1995 and the Raiders in 1976.

New England followed up a 10-6 loss to Indianapolis in Gera-

# Thunder guard Josh Giddey being investigated

By CLIFF BRUNT  
The Associated Press

The Newport Beach, California, Police Department said Wednesday that its detectives are conducting an investigation into an accusation that Oklahoma City Thunder guard Josh Giddey had an improper relationship with an underage girl.

In a since-deleted post, an anonymous social media user last week said a girl who is seen with Giddey in videos and photographs was a high school junior at the time. The social media account has since been deactivated.

Giddey, an Australian, turned 21 in October.

The Newport Beach Police said in a news release that it is "actively seeking additional information related to these allegations and



ABBIE PARR • The Associated Press

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Josh Giddey (3) stands on the court during the first half of an NBA basketball In-Season Tournament game.

pursuing all leads and evidence to obtain the facts of the case."

NBA spokesman Mike Bass said Wednesday the league's inves-



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**TIRES**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tire Installation</li> <li>• Tire Rotation</li> <li>• Wheel Balance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TPMS Services</li> <li>• Wheel Alignment</li> <li>• Flat Repair</li> </ul>
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## Sands casino family says they'll buy majority of Mavs



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI • The Associated Press

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban applauds as Mavericks are introduced for an NBA basketball in-season tournament game.

By TIM REYNOLDS  
The Associated Press

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban has entered into an agreement to sell a majority stake in the NBA franchise to the family that runs the Las Vegas Sands casino company, it was announced Wednesday. The deal could be completed in the coming weeks.

The agreement would be in the valuation range of \$3.5 billion, according to a person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because that detail was not being made public. Cuban would retain control of basketball operations in the deal.

The company controlled by Miriam Adelson, widow of casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, announced earlier Tuesday it was selling \$2 billion of her shares to buy an unspecified professional sports team. It revealed Wednesday that the team was the Mavericks.

"The families are targeting a closing of the transaction by year-end, subject to the satisfaction of customary closing conditions and approval of the NBA Board of Governors," said the statement released by the Adelson and Dumont families.

Patrick Dumont, Miriam Adelson's son-in-law, is President and Chief Operating Officer of the Las Vegas Sands company.

Cuban said almost a year ago he was interested in partnering with Sands. He has been a proponent of legalizing gambling in

Texas, an issue that didn't make it out of the state Legislature in a biennial session that ended earlier this year.

The 65-year-old Cuban, who just announced he was leaving the popular business TV program "Shark Tank" after a 16th season next year, rose to fame quickly after buying the Mavericks in 2000.

Dallas was one of the worst franchises in pro sports in the 1990s, but turned into one of the best under Cuban, with a lot of help from star forward Dirk Nowitzki — now a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame and the leader of the team that won the 2011 NBA championship.

Miriam Adelson is the controlling shareholder of Las Vegas Sands Corp., a publicly traded Las Vegas company that built the Venetian and Palazzo resorts but now only has casino operations in Macau and Singapore. Sheldon Adelson, the billionaire founder and owner of Las Vegas Sands, died in 2021 at 87.

The company revealed the sale of \$2 billion in stock in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The filing identified Adelson and the Miriam Adelson Trust as sellers but didn't specify a team, league or location.

Given the \$2 billion stock sale figure, along with the cash addition, it would mean Adelson could be acquiring at least 57% of the NBA team based on the \$3.5 billion valuation. The Adelson and Dumont family would also have the right to serve as



PATRICK SEMANSKY • AP File Photo

## Pro Picks: Cowboys will keep rolling

By ROB MAADDI  
The Associated Press

Dak Prescott is rolling and so are the Dallas Cowboys.

The Cowboys (8-3) enter Thursday night's game against Seattle (6-5) with three straight wins by a combined margin of 127-47. They've won seven games this season by at least 20 points. Prescott has thrown for 300-plus yards and three or more touchdowns four times in the past five games.

Meanwhile, the Seahawks are skidding. They've lost three of four, including lopsided games against Baltimore and San Francisco. Geno Smith and the offense are struggling over that span, scoring just three TDs as a unit.

In a week that features seven road favorites, this one is the second-biggest spread. The Cowboys are 9-point favorites, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

Home teams are just 23-35 against the spread on Thursday nights since 2020.

Pro Picks expects Seattle to avoid a double-digit loss.

COWBOYS, 26-18  
KANSAS CITY at GREEN BAY

Line: Chiefs minus 6  
Patrick Mahomes plays his first game at Lambeau Field and the Chiefs (8-3) could take over the No. 1 seed in the AFC with a win. Jordan Love and the Packers (5-6) have won three of four to climb into the wild-card race.

BEST BET: CHIEFS, 27-16  
SAN FRANCISCO at PHILADELPHIA

Line: 49ers minus 2 1/2  
Somehow the Eagles (10-1) are home underdogs coming off impressive comeback wins against Buffalo and Kansas City. The 49ers



JULIO CORTEZ • The Associated Press

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott warms up before an NFL football game against the Washington Commanders Thursday.

(8-3) aim to avenge a blowout loss in the NFC title game.

UPSET SPECIAL: EAGLES, 26-24

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS at NEW ENGLAND

Line: Chargers minus 6

If Bill Belichick is coaching next year, his best option might be the Chargers (4-7). So, he should be extra motivated to lead the Patriots (2-9) to a victory and help improve Los Angeles' draft positioning.

CHARGERS, 24-13  
ARIZONA at PITTSBURGH

Line: Steelers minus 5 1/2  
The Steelers (7-4) offense finally got going last week after offensive coordinator Matt Canada was fired. The Cardinals (2-10) have averaged just 11.1 points on the road this season.

STEELERS, 23-16  
DENVER at HOUSTON

Line: Texans minus 3 1/2  
A five-game winning streak has the Broncos (6-5) in the AFC

playoff picture. The Texans (6-5) are right there thanks to quarterback C.J. Stroud's impressive rookie season. He'll be without starting left guard Tytus Howard, who suffered a season-ending injury.

BRONCOS, 19-17  
DETROIT at NEW ORLEANS

Line: Lions minus 4 1/2

The Lions (8-3) aim to rebound from a Thanksgiving loss to the Packers. The Saints (5-6) have lost two in a row, but are in the chase for the division title in the weak NFC South. Behind QB Jared Goff, the Lions are 14-8 against the spread after losing the previous game.

LIONS, 27-20  
INDIANAPOLIS at TENNESSEE

Line: Colts minus 1 1/2  
Colts QB Gardner Minshew has won three straight games for the first time in his career, but Indianapolis (6-5) won't have RB ug

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# VARIETY

## Finals are such a DRAG

By LAUREN VISKA  
Staff Writer

Finals week is upon us and it can be very stressful for some.

Exams that are worth more than half your grade. Papers that are seven pages long. Inconvenient exam times that mess up work schedules. Luckily for students, the LGBT Center will host a drag show at 7 p.m. today in Ostrander Auditorium that should help get students' minds off final exams.

Zeke Sorenson, director of the LGBT Center, said this event is a great way for students to get their minds off finals. They said drag shows are important as it gives representation to the queer community, and drag is an outlet for the queer community.

"Historically, drag was one of the first spaces that LGBT folks could enter and feel like it was their space and feel safe in those spaces," said Sorenson. "There's a lot of misinformation out there about what drag shows are, and it's important to continue to show people that information is not accurate."

The group performing is Drag Me With A Spoon, a Mankato-based drag company founded in 2020 by drag queen Wanda Gag. Gag wanted to create fun, inclusive shows and digital content and be a community space for all.

"Our goal is to bring people together to have fun, uplift each other and bring our community together no matter your background," said Gag.

Gag is one of the performers for tonight's show. Her ancestor's name was Wanda Gag, so choosing it as her drag name was fitting. She said her partner, Miss Ava Cado, inspired her to do drag.



Courtesy Drag Me With A Spoon

The LGBT center is hosting the annual drag show featuring Drag Me With a Spoon, a premier drag show production company in Minnesota. The show will take place tonight at 7 p.m. in Ostrander Auditorium to relieve stress from finals.

"(The original Wanda Gag) wrote children's books, illustrated beautiful drawings, and fought for women's rights in the 1920's. Her name was not only an incredible pun but was similar to my boy name," said Gag. "Drag to me is being your most authentic self no matter the expectations and limita-

tions imposed on you by society."

Gag advises those who want to do drag but don't know where to start. She also said that "whether you're queer, straight, cisgender, or trans, everyone is allowed to do drag as long as they do it with respect."

"Go grab that eyeshadow palette and some lipstick, find a sparkly outfit, maybe grab a cheap wig, and just go for it," said Gag. "As artists and performers, we're always growing and improving, and you're never gonna do it perfectly the first time, and that's OK There's **DRAG on page 14**

## Call your mom and dad

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN  
Variety Editor

I will never forget the look on my mom's face while I waved goodbye outside of the Crawford dorms freshman year. The day she had been dreading since I popped out the womb — sending her only daughter into the real world, alone, without any home-cooked meals and unsolicited advice to guide her.

For the past four years I have seen my mom reenact this face each time we separate for university. Sometimes accompanied with tears, sometimes not. Her look resembles the emotion of missing someone before they are really gone. And once I leave the driveway and head down the road toward Mankato, my face starts to look a little more like hers in more ways than one.

College fulfills some of the busiest days of our lives. Between balancing multiple classes, a part-time job, organizations on campus, and a social and personal life, it's hard to catch a break. Multi-tasking is a life skill not everyone possesses, and I am one of those unlucky people. Only as I spent more time walking past my phone and avoiding a call to home, my mom was eagerly anticipating her screen to light up with my name on it. Or my brothers, but this isn't really about them (no offense).

One time I was visiting home from college, and my mom and I were sitting together, sharing stories and a bottle of wine like we typically do on a night together. She told me, "I just love it when you're home." And though it was a simple phrase, I felt how much our moments mean to her. As I've gotten older, I've grown to really appreciate every second of time we share. I've grown to thank her more for who she created me to be: strong, witty, smart, and never too serious.

If you're anything like me, I tend to call my mom up during any minor inconvenience. She tells her coworkers and boss, "Sorry! It's my daughter," and sneaks into her office to chit chat about my current dilemma. There's been moments where I've tiptoed to a MavPod in between classes to call her about the latest tea. Although she is still learning slang, I think she knows that tea means drama. I also call her when I have to do anything that an adult has to do such as taxes, car maintenance, and letting her know that my tabs were expired and I had to pay a \$200 ticket. She keeps up with me, and I try my best to keep up with her.

Senior year has been the most difficult year so far. I'm busy every day and my itinerary is tricky to navigate. It's been harder to

## Mankato singer Mal Murphy to release "Grow Up"

By ELLIE MESCHKE  
Staff Writer

Mal Murphy, a songwriter and singer from Mankato, will release her first album, "Grow Up," Dec. 13, 14, and 16. On these dates she will perform in Mankato.

"My inspiration for music mostly came from my mother, Tracy. Although a lot of my family members are musical, my mother and I have the most similar taste in music. That is probably because I grew up listening to her music, which was a combination of Ani DiFranco, The Cure, Neil Young, The Indigo Girls, The Decemberists, The Beatles, and many more. I grew up singing because my mother was always singing, so it came naturally to also sing myself, and then later on I taught myself to play the guitar on her guitar from when she was young.

"I first taught myself a few chords on the ukulele when I was around 14 or 15 years old, and



Courtesy Mal Murphy

Mal Murphy, a songwriter and singer from Mankato, will be releasing her first album, "Grow Up" on December 13th, with performances in town to follow.

then a few months later, taught myself the guitar. I got good enough at guitar and singing at the same time once I was introduced to the musician, Brandi Carlile. I learned the guitar by watching Brandi's live

concerts on YouTube and mimicking her hands on my own guitar. I never learned to read music, and still can't. If I want to follow along to a new song I often use the phrase 'let me see their hands' so I

can mimic them. It wasn't until I met my current musician friends that I learned that each hand shape I knew from Brandi Carlile's hands, was a different note. Once I could play and sing at the same time, I played my first open mic at The Bluebird Cakery, which is now RiverRock in Mankato when I was 17 or so. After high school, I played all the open mics I could find until I booked my first official gig at the Coffee Hag in 2018. So, I have been playing music for live audiences for about five years.

"My inspiration to release 'Grow Up' came a lot from the artist Jade Bird. I am a huge fan of that spunky British singer, and in a lot of ways, see myself in her. Jade released her first EP 'Something American' at 20 years old. Once I learned this, I thought 'That means I can do it too.'"

Nate Boots and Scott Helgerson were also a big reason this EP was created. They were the first people

**SINGER on page 14**

**CALL on page 15**



# The COVID-19 pandemic: We witnessed the world turn upside-down

By GRACE ANDERSON  
Staff Writer

I was over halfway through my senior year of high school when the COVID-19 Pandemic hit my hometown. In January 2020, I looked at my classmates and told them that they were overreacting and the disease would not likely spread to where we lived. In April, teachers were crying and sending us home for an extended spring break. By May of 2020, I was graduating outside in a parking lot as my parents' truck dropped me off and picked me up at the podium where I would receive my diploma. Months of news reports dragged on with no end in sight.

My first year of college I was determined to spend out-of-state so I ended up in Kentucky, majoring in Musical Theatre and keeping in touch with a long-distance boyfriend. Classes were almost completely online. I played video games while my astronomy professor droned on about the science of stars, then had a meltdown because somebody played a prank on our Zoom class. I took ballet while wearing a mask, then dropped the class due to hopelessness. I had two friends and my phone with no real social life outside of this. The campus remained an isolated ghosttown. The people around me went home on the weekends to be with family while I remained stuck in a prison resembling a dorm room.

Once the first spring semester rolled around, I was newly single, hating life and moving home to Minnesota where at the very least I would have my family. Classes were barely beginning to transition back to in-person with social distancing and masks in mind. It was hard to focus on anything when my glasses were fogging up with every breath I took. Arriving at MNSU, my major switched to something more broad, Communication Studies, as I worried about money and how I would obtain a job after college. I minored in Creative Writing since I have always had a knack for hiding in my imagination until the world eases its grip on me.

In my first creative writing course, I sat next to a girl who seemed eager to begin the class.



GRACE ANDERSON • The Reporter

Grace Anderson is pictured above in a COVID-19 mask she wore during her final performing arts project during her spring semester in Kentucky.

With masks, it is hard to seem approachable or have the courage to approach someone else. It is as if masks act as a social barrier, despite their purpose being to protect us from disease. Yet, she made conversation with me completely out-of-the-blue. With every class that followed, I followed in suit and became less afraid of talking to others as the girl became my best friend. I overcame the barrier that had dominated my face for years.

The year of 2022 brought the freedom many desired: the removal of the mask mandate. With it, classrooms sprung to life. Students became more outgoing and social as professors sighed in relief when they could finally have more of a connection with their students. I found myself engaging in

class discussions more than ever and getting involved in different organizations to make friends and do what I love; creative writing. I decided to pursue my love for storytelling and change the world with my words.

In 2020, we witnessed the world turn upside-down unlike anything we had ever encountered before. Our lives and fates were tossed and twisted. We learned that everything can be taken from us and our lives can change in an instant. As I am about to graduate in a week, I have reflected on the realization that has been presented to me time and again that nothing is promised to be permanent and tomorrow is not guaranteed. In our new days without masks, fear and death, the only thing that is holding us back is ourselves.

## ◀DRAG from page 13

no one way to do drag; you can be a queen, a king, or anything in between."

Drag shows have come under fire in recent years as conservative groups have made attempts to silence them.

Drag queen readings for children in libraries across the country have attracted protests from conservative groups who believe

the story times are inappropriate for children. Last summer in Chaska, a drag queen story hour at a children's boutique store called Little Roos drew both protesters and supporters. Minnesota Public Radio reported that more than 200 people showed up for the event, while a handful of protesters remained outside.

Gag said it is a drag performer's job to be on the front lines, advocating, organizing and being

as loud as possible to show them drag performers won't be silenced.

"We're called drag queens and kings and royalty for a reason because we are leaders in the community and must act as such. Drag is important because we have to be loud and visible and show that we will not be forced into the status quo and that we are free to be our most authentic selves and express that publicly."

public."

As said at the beginning of this article, Mal will be in Mankato to perform and release the album. On the 13th, she will be at the Arts

Center of Saint Peter at 7 pm, on the 14th, she will be at the 410 Project at 7 p.m., and on the 16th, she will be at the Wine Cafe at 7 pm.

## A sneak peek into annual Maverick Holiday Carnival



Courtesy Crystal Watts

The Mankato Holiday Carnival welcomes the entire Mankato community to MSU's campus to celebrate the holiday season Saturday, Dec. 2 at 1-3:30 p.m.

By ANAHI ZUNIGA  
Staff Writer

Minnesota State's Student Activities' Community Engagement Office has once again organized the Maverick Holiday Carnival, an event where the Mankato community is invited to celebrate the holiday season on campus.

The purpose of this event is to engage with the families of Mankato and the community children where games will be provided for them.

With the holiday season finally beginning and December just right around the corner, Community Engagement Interim Assistant Director Crystal Watts says this annual event is a special get-together for Mankato families.

"This carnival happens every year, it's one of our Maverick traditions. And it's a really special time of the year to invite the

Mankato community families onto our campus. It's totally free of charge. It's just a fun family day that runs for an hour and a half. And it's a great way to kick off the holiday season and we don't focus on any one particular holiday," she said. "Just recognizing that there's lots of diversity out there, and lots of reasons to celebrate in winter time. So that's why we call it the Maverick Holiday Carnival. And we try to stick with fun themes that almost any child would identify with."

Watts shared the process in how the volunteer team planned the event and how this year's holiday carnival would look like for the Mankato community and MNSU campus.

"Mavs in Action is our student volunteer leadership team and we start the planning process probably around the beginning of October, and we talk about what we

**HOLIDAY on page 15▶**

## ◀SINGER from page 13

to show me how recording works, and once we recorded a song or two, it only made sense to put together an EP to release to the



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## Tony Award-winning actress Frances Sternhagen dies at 93



RICHARD DREW • The Associated Press

Actress Frances Sternhagen holds her award for best featured actress in a play for her performance in "The Heiress" during the Tony Awards in 1995.

By MARK KENNEDY  
The Associated Press

Frances Sternhagen, the veteran character actor who won two Tony Awards and became a familiar maternal face to TV viewers later in life in such shows as "Cheers," "ER," "Sex and the City" and "The Closer," has died. She was 93.

Sternhagen died peacefully of natural causes Monday her son,

John Carlin, said in a statement posted to Instagram on Wednesday. "Fly on, Frannie," he wrote. "The curtain goes down on a life so richly, passionately, humbly and generously lived." Sternhagen's publicist confirmed the death and said it occurred in New Rochelle, New York.

Sternhagen won a Tony for best featured actress in a play in 1974 for her role in Neil Simon's "The Good Doctor."

### ◀CALL from page 13

reach out and call my mom as much as I would want to, and it's hard to not be able to blink and be back home, sitting on the couch watching Hallmark movies.

As a college student, this is a reminder to call your parents.

### ◀HOLIDAY from page 14

want, like a theme for the event and how we want to put it on. So in years past, we've had a lot of the same types of games and this year, we decided to switch it up," Watts said. "Instead of having student groups bring their own games, we found that we had a lot of materials and supplies already. So we're going to kind of turn it into a classic recess yard style, including parachutes and a bowling game."

Watts also shared that the event will have traditional carnival activities that the Mavs in Action have set up for the kids of Mankato along with a few new additions.

"We're having our usual popular ones, which are the rubber duckies, ring toss and then the fishing game that's always a favorite classic carnival game. We're really excited about that and then we're also going to have a temporary tattoo station and a coloring station," she said. "New this year, we're having photo opportunities so we are creating a classic fireplace scene with a giant fireplace mantel and a giant cardboard Christmas tree so children can decorate or make paper ornaments to put on the tree. And then we have a holiday wishes paper chain started and children can add to it so they get a little strip of paper they get to write

They can't wait to hear your voice, and are probably waiting for their phone screens to light up with your name on it. Cherish every moment you have with them as if it's your last; someday some of us will want our phones to light up, too.

down a holiday or winter wish and they get to add it to that chain so they get to be part of the voice on campus."

To make it all come together, Mavs in Action is part of the team that was able to make the carnival happen. The group, along with other volunteers, plan events and take the opportunities to help out and create impact on campus and their community.

"This is all volunteer run. Our Mavs in Action team is the board for that. We've got six board members on that. And then we have many regular attendees every week that the last couple of weeks they've been helping us plan and put together all the crafts and decorations so we probably have about 30 different volunteers helping plan and put it in place," she said. "If they sign up to volunteer, that's great. We have been using the MAVCentral app that launched this year. And it has been wonderful, people are signing up for volunteer opportunities before I can even get digital graphics done. So a lot of it has been really popular on campus because of that platform because students are looking for ways to plug in that are meaningful"

The anticipated holiday celebration is to take place in the CSU Ballroom on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm.

# How a group of ancient sculptures sparked a dispute

The Associated Press

For decades, Britain and Greece were able to differ, largely politely, over the world's toughest cultural heritage dispute: What's the right place for some of the finest ancient Greek sculptures ever made, which have been displayed in London for more than 200 years but which Greece vocally wants back.

Diplomacy failed when U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak abruptly called off a London meeting scheduled for Tuesday with Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

Mitsotakis publicly voiced annoyance. Sunak's spokesman linked the snub with the Greek leader's using British television to renew his call, a day earlier, for the 2,500-year-old masterpieces' return.

Here's a look at what the dispute's about, and what could come next.

WHAT ARE THE SCULPTURES — OR IS IT MARBLES?

They were carved in 447-432 B.C. to adorn the iconic Parthenon, a temple of the city's patron goddess Athena, on the Acropolis hill.

Free-standing statues filled the triangular pediments that stood above the marble columns on the building's short sides. Just below, sculpted panels stood at intervals along all four sides, while an unbroken strip of relief sculpture — the frieze — depicting a religious procession ran around the outer wall inside the colonnade. They were originally painted in bold



PETROS GIANNAKOURIS • The Associated Press

The moon rises in the sky behind the 5th century B.C. Parthenon temple at the ancient Acropolis hill, in Athens, July 31, 2023.

colors that have since vanished.

All survived mostly intact for more than 1,000 years, despite war, earthquakes, foreign invasions and the temple's makeover first as a church and then a mosque. But in 1687, the Parthenon was blown up by a besieging Venetian army, and many of the works were lost.

The survivors are now roughly split between the British Museum and the Acropolis Museum in Athens — with little fragments in a handful of other European museums.

London holds 17 pedimental figures, 15 panels and 247 feet (75 meters) of the frieze.

For decades, these were known as the Elgin Marbles, after the Scottish nobleman who started the trouble more than 200 years ago. Now even the British Museum goes by the preferred Greek form — Parthenon Sculptures.

Besides, "marbles" lends itself to too many bad puns.

WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Ancient Greek sculpture has been admired for millennia, serving as a key artistic point of reference. For many, Parthenon Sculptures are its most striking example.

They form a coherent group designed and executed by top artists — the Leonardo da Vincis of the day — for a single building project meant to celebrate the height of Athenian glory.

HOW DID THEY END UP IN LONDON?

More than a century after the destructive explosion, British ambassador to the Ottoman Empire — of which Athens was still an unwilling subject — Lord Elgin obtained a permit to remove some of the sculptures.

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