

## New School of Applied Agriculture launched

By EMMA JOHNSON  
Editor in Chief

Despite being in the heartland of agriculture, Minnesota State has never had an official school within the university dedicated to agriculture.

Launching Monday, MSU announced the new school of Applied Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. The school plans on not only launching an agronomy degree but also to partnering with South Central College's Associate of Applied Science degree.

"Students from our campus will be taking classes at South Central which is almost unheard of. We'll have students at South Central that come to us later, but now we've got students going both directions," said Aaron Budge, the Interim Executive Director for the School of Applied Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

While Budge may be the new director, he isn't a new face on campus. For nearly 20 years, Budge has been a faculty member in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology with four of those years as the dean. However, Budge's background has several agricultural ties.

"I grew up on an Angus beef farm and my background is in geotechnical engineering, which is soils-related. There's a lot of overlap in some engineering work with infrastructure like designing hog



TROY YANG • The Reporter

Provost David Hood gives the speech at the event for the launch of New School of Applied Agriculture.

barns and water treatment opportunities for landowners, so when the ag world came up, it became a conversation point," Budge said.

A unique aspect of the school is it will not be assigned to a specific college at MSU. Budge said it will "be a bigger umbrella" to the College of Science, Engineering and Technology and the College of Business with associations to the colleges of Allied Health and Nursing, Education and Humanities and Social Sciences. Students will work with their college's respective dean and other faculty members if they choose to become a part of the school.

Budge said the reasoning for not

assigning the school to one college was to break down the silos of what the school could offer to students.

"One of the considerations was if the school was in a college, it could limit it and it would be the focal point," Budge said. "The hope of having it set up the way it is will include the leadership structure that will include folks from across campus in hopes of having a more collaborative experience."

While the school itself is new, some of the programs offered within the school have been around MSU for a few years.

"There's a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness and Food Innovation that's been around for five or six

years and a program in Agricultural Sciences that's been around for about the same time, but they haven't been very visible," Budge said.

A new agronomy program launched and while it isn't a bachelor's level program, Budge said there are micro-credentials and certificate programs students can obtain such as certification for flying drones for agricultural use.

One of Budge's goals is to have the school partner with other two-year programs that tend to send students out of state for college once their degrees are completed.

"We want to keep students within the system, within the state. As soon as they leave to go to school out of state, often they don't come back to Minnesota," Budge said. "We're hoping to grow that pipeline and to grow some relationships with local and regional partners to have additional support for students to get through the program and make some doors open for students to stay regional as they go on their career paths."

Other goals Budge has are to have a full cohort of agribusiness students by next fall and to provide students with external industry opportunities such as internships with CHS, General Mills and the Henze Ag Innovators program.

When people think of agriculture, they see a farmer maneuvering a tractor through a field. Budge said while that while that may be

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## MSU went up 7 places in U.S. News and World Report

By AMALIA SHARAF  
News Editor

In the annual U.S. News & World Report college and university rankings, Minnesota State ranked No. 60 among Midwest regional universities, based on tuition, enrollment, and acceptance rate. This year's ranking is seven spots higher than in the 2023 report. The university rankings "can help prospective students and their families compare institutions as they look for the best fit. There are plenty of reasons to attend a particular college or university," as stated on the U.S. News and World Report website. According to Director of Student Success Amy Staloch, U.S. News and World Report receives information from the university, which is considered when the ranks are created. Factors such as persistence and graduation also contribute to the overall ranking decision.

"When we look at student success in general, we are seeing an uptick in things like our retention rates, our graduation rates, our completion rates, which is a good thing. We're not where we want to be yet," said Staloch. "We want to increase that and continue to move forward with our different areas that I mentioned to different metrics. We are making some good progress."

Staloch said MSU is focused on putting the right support and people around students, so that the student success rate is increased. Staloch checks statistics, which show that there is an increase in the metrics for graduation and retention of students.

"They're small, incremental. But that doesn't mean that there isn't some really good foundational work being laid out to continue to see that upscaling in the coming semesters and coming years," Staloch said. "I think it's really important the things that we are doing now to ensure that we're setting students up as they get started, but then also as they continue, and look for that next step after graduation."

Nursing sophomore Jaden James transferred to MSU from Arizona about two years ago. **MSURANK on page 2▶**

## How to vote in Minnesota: a guide

By JEREMY REDLIEN  
Staff Writer

As a college student at Minnesota State in the year 2024, there's a good chance that this will be the first presidential election in which you'll be voting. Voting is obviously important as it's an easy civic duty that helps shape the government we all live under as Americans.

But it can also be a bit complicated for a variety of reasons. So here is a guide to help answer questions people might have about the voting process.

To start with: Election Day this year is Nov. 5, 2024. In case you forget that date just remember that in the United States, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November has been designated by Congress as the day national elections are held.

The first thing to know is that you have to be registered to vote in order to vote.

But good news! It is in fact possible to register to vote up to and even on Election Day! All you need to do to register to vote on Election

Day is present proof of identification and current residence at the polling place.

Furthermore, it is possible to register to vote online at the website for the Minnesota Office for the Secretary of State. You can also print out a paper ballot or for those not sure about if they are registered to vote, check your registration on the SOS site as well.

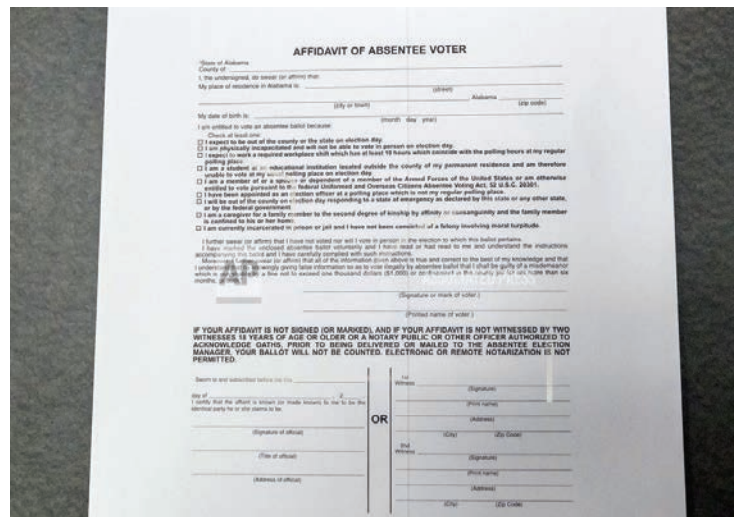
One thing to note is that voter registration data such as name and address are public information, although not everyone can obtain the data.

However, for those who have experienced family violence or intimate partner violence, programs such as Safe at Home can help ensure voter data is kept confidential. Some other things to know:

If you have been convicted of a felony, you can still vote in Minnesota unless you are currently serving a felony sentence.

Members of the military can have an absentee ballot sent to them anywhere in the world.

Homeless people can also vote in Minnesota even if they do not



VASHA HUNT • The Associated Press

An Alabama absentee ballot affidavit for the November election, is photographed Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, in Birmingham, Ala.

have an official address. Homeless individuals may need to bring an individual with them to verify where they sleep at night or a staff member of the shelter they are sleeping at to verify they are staying at a shelter.

Being a member of a residential

facility is also not a prohibition to voting but residents will need to bring a member of the facility to verify their residency.

If you want to vote in person on election day, you can find where to vote on pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

Simply put your address in to **VOTING on page 2▶**



# Soundtrack to spotlight: the Maverick Machine Documentary



MATT MILLER • The Reporter

Maverick Machine, a.k.a. “the soundtrack of MSU” are performing at the Homecoming football game.

By EMMA JOHNSON  
Editor in Chief

Unless viewers stick around during a movie’s credits, those who created the soundtrack are often forgotten. It couldn’t be farther from the truth for the Minnesota State Maverick Machine. Known as the soundtrack of MSU, they are moving into the spotlight in a new documentary created by the IT Solutions Video and Media Team called “The Return of the Machine.”

The 55-minute documentary covers the Maverick Machine’s biggest performances over the last decade along with the 10th anniversary of the Maverick Machine’s return.

Director of Athletic Bands Michael Thursby said he reached out to IT Solutions, which had helped them record their performances during the pandemic, to help highlight the Maverick Machine during the 2023-24 school year. Some of their biggest performances were at Chicago’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, at the Minnesota Music Education Conference and the championships of the men’s and women’s basketball teams.

“We didn’t want to take those moments for granted. We wanted to live in the moment, but then also document everything we do behind the scenes and in the public eye,” Thursby said.

Mentor and director Fabio Castel-Garcia helped work on the documentary.

He said after looking through amounts of footage, the documentary’s concept started to take place after conducting interviews

with students, faculty and alumni at Homecoming last year to encapsulate the Maverick Machine’s spirit.

“The documentary is like a story that tells a little bit of the past, where the band is now, their vision, how they see each other as a family and all the shows they’ve done,” Castel-Garcia said.

Kathryn Petzel is the graduate assistant for the video production team. Petzel jumped into the filming in the middle of the three-year process. She said getting to learn how to make a documentary has been special and like “creating a time capsule.”

“They can look back on this and remember and feel the nostalgia about their experiences in the band,” Petzel said.

Castel-Garcia said seeing the narrative come to life through interviews with the band and President Inch has been “entertaining” to come together.

“I think documentaries can sometimes go different ways by just following one person, but this time we have the subject of the band and how we’re showing them interacting with each other,” Castel-Garcia said.

The documentary premiered Saturday. Petzel said the scheduling of the premiere during Homecoming was in part due to how many people were going to be on MSU’s campus.

“Alumni were already going to be on campus along with band and community members, so they could easily attend,” Petzel said.

While Thursby saw the documentary a few times before the premiere to help with the editing,

he said it was a “raw and emotional” experience to see upon the first viewing.

“There were a few tears,” Thursby said. “It’s not about me, but about the experiences the students have had and how they’ve been able to make connections and build friendships through the Maverick Machine.”

While the band has seen evolution through the different trends in music and the addition of new instruments, Thursby said the one constant has been the bonds formed.

“There are alumni from 10 to 40 years ago that still have connections to this program and this university because of the program. I want people to see how deep those connections are,” Thursby said.

Castel-Garcia said he hopes viewers see the dedication and struggles the band goes through.

“They’re carrying all of their equipment, they’re in the cold before everyone shows up,” Castel-Garcia said. “Showing the behind-the-scenes and the human connection is so important.”

Thursby hopes viewers enjoyed the glimpses of behind-the-scenes work the Maverick Machine does in order to prepare for their performances.

“It’s a lot of work to be at all those events and I hope it gives everybody an idea of what it’s like to do the whole show and how much work these students truly put in,” Thursby said.

For those who were unable to attend the premiere, the documentary can be found on the Maverick Machine’s YouTube page.

# Students meet to discuss “The Broken Ladder”

By BEN LIVINGSTON  
Staff Writer

“The Broken Ladder: How Inequality affects the Way We Think, Live, and Die,” by Keith Payne is the most recent installment in the “Common Read” series, which marks 15 years since its inception.

Keith Payne is a professor of psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a leader in the psychology of inequality and discrimination. Payne’s research has been featured in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and on NPR. He has also written for *Scientific American* and *Psychology Today*.

In his book, which was published in 2018, Payne delves into the often-overlooked intersection of economic inequality and the human condition.

Economic inequality, which is currently at record levels, affects our psychology: how we think and respond to stress, the well-being of our immune system, and even concepts such as justice and fairness. Payne blames this inequality on a variety of factors, including a lack of good-paying jobs, lack of access to quality healthcare and education. He also gives possible solutions to these issues, such as raising the minimum wage, closing tax loopholes for the rich, and creating a universal healthcare system.

Payne’s work was even read and reviewed by former President Barack Obama, who called the book “a persuasive and highly readable account of how rising inequality, and not just absolute poverty, is undermining our politics, social cohesion, long term prosperity, and general well-being.”

MSURANK from page 1 ago. She said the university provided her with a great community.

“Everyone is so open to wanting to create relationships with each other. I was terrified that I would have the same atmosphere where I didn’t know anybody, and no one wanted to talk to me,” said James. “But the minute I came to

The Common Read series is hosted by the Honors Program, Learning Communities, Department of Psychology, and Library Services. According to Library Services, the goal of Common Read is “to build community through conversation and shared experiences,” and that, “books selected for the Common Read address themes related to diversity, citizenship, cultural diversity, life-transitions and coming of age.”

There was a host of events throughout late September and into October that covered many points of the book, featuring unique perspectives of alumni, expert faculty, and even Keith Payne himself.

On Sept. 3 there was a “Faculty Perspectives on Health Inequalities.” In this event, experts from university shared with attendees their expertise on health disparities. A month later on Oct. 3 there was an event focused on the perspectives of alumni about finances after graduation. The panel of former students gave current students a beneficial perspective of how money plays out in that post-university, especially in a time of rising tuition cost and student loan debt.

Students can mark the calendars for the upcoming events, as the campus community will have the opportunity to hear from Payne himself about “The Broken Ladder: How Inequality affects the Way We Think, Live, and Die.”

On Oct. 16 Payne will host an author question and answer session in Memorial Library Southwest Corner from 9-9:50 A.M. Later from 3 to 4:00 pm, Payne will give an author lecture in Ostrander Auditorium.

Mankato, I met my best friends, and I just thrived after that, and I didn’t think I ever would.”

The community helped James gain more confidence in public speaking skills and allowed her to give speeches for professors and students. As she developed her skills through community and student groups, James reflected

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## Two Events

**Mankato, Minnesota**

Tickets On Sale Now!

**1) Great Northern Viking Festival**

October 19th & 20th:  
10AM-4:30PM

**2) A Night in Vahalla 21+**

Saturday, October 19th:  
6PM-10PM

Want in Free?  
Volunteer at our Festival!

[GreatNorthernVikingFestival.com](http://GreatNorthernVikingFestival.com)



•VOTING from page 1 find out where your polling place is.

There will be one ballot measure to vote on in Minnesota in

2024 and that will be to extend the dedication of lottery-derived revenue to the Environment and Natural Resources Fund for 25 years.

More information on this

measure can be found on Ballotpedia.com.

Further information on voting can be found at [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/)



## Hurricane Milton is a Category 5. Florida orders evacuations



MIKE CARLSON • The Associated Press

Pasco County evacuees await the opening of the shelter at River Ridge High School in preparation for Hurricane Milton on Monday, Oct. 7, 2024.

By HAVEN DALEY & MIKE SCHNEIDER  
The Associated Press

Florida's storm-battered Gulf Coast raced against a Category 5 hurricane Monday as workers sprinted to pick up debris left over from Helene two weeks ago and highways were clogged with people fleeing ahead of the storm.

The center of Hurricane Milton could come ashore Wednesday in the Tampa Bay region, which has not endured a direct hit by a major hurricane in more than a century. Scientists expect the system to weaken slightly before landfall, though it could retain hurricane strength as it churns across central Florida toward the Atlantic Ocean.

That would largely spare other states ravaged by Helene, which killed at least 230 people on its path from Florida to the Carolinas.

"This is the real deal here with Milton," Tampa Mayor Jane Castor told a news conference. "If you want to take on Mother Nature, she wins 100% of the time."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Monday that it was imperative for debris from Helene to be cleared ahead of Milton's arrival so the pieces cannot become projectiles. More than 300 vehicles gathered debris Sunday.

As evacuation orders were issued, forecasters warned of a possible 8- to 12-foot (2.4- to 3.6-meter) storm surge in Tampa Bay. That's the highest ever predicted for the region and nearly double the levels reached two weeks ago during Helene, said National Hurricane Center spokesperson Maria Torres.

The storm could also bring widespread flooding. Five to 10 inches (13 to 25 centimeters) of rain was forecast for mainland Florida and the Keys, with as much as 15 inches (38 centimeters) expected in some places.

The Tampa metro area has a population of more than 3.3 million people.

"It's a huge population. It's very exposed, very inexperienced, and that's a losing proposition," Massachusetts Institute of Technology meteorology professor Kerry Emanuel said. "I always thought

Tampa would be the city to worry about most."

Much of Florida's west coast was under hurricane and storm surge warnings. A hurricane warning was also issued for parts of Mexico's Yucatan state, which expected to get sideswiped.

Milton intensified quickly Monday over the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

It had maximum sustained winds of 180 mph (285 kph), the National Hurricane Center said. The storm's center was about 675 miles (1085 kilometers) southwest of Tampa by late afternoon, moving east-southeast at 10 mph (17 kph).

The Tampa Bay area is still rebounding from Helene and its powerful surge.

Twelve people died there, with the worst damage along a string of barrier islands from St. Petersburg to Clearwater.

Lifeguards in Pinellas County, on the peninsula that forms Tampa Bay, removed beach chairs and other items that could take flight in strong winds.

Elsewhere, stoves, chairs, refrigerators and kitchen tables waited in heaps to be picked up.

Sarah Steslicki, who lives in Belleair Beach, said she was frustrated that more debris had not been collected sooner.

"They've screwed around and haven't picked the debris up, and now they're scrambling to get it picked up," Steslicki said Monday. "If this one does hit, it's going to be flying missiles. Stuff's going to be floating and flying in the air."

Hillsborough County, home to Tampa, ordered evacuations for areas adjacent to Tampa Bay and for all mobile and manufactured homes by Tuesday night.

President Joe Biden approved an emergency declaration for Florida, and U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor said 7,000 federal workers were called on to help in one of the largest mobilizations of federal personnel in history.

Milton's approach stirred memories of 2017's Hurricane Irma, when about 7 million people were urged to evacuate Florida in an exodus that jammed freeways and clogged gas stations.

Some people who left vowed never to evacuate again.

## FEMA continues pushback against false claims

By JOHN RABY & GABRIELA AOUN ANGUIERA  
The Associated Press

The head of the U.S. disaster response agency continued to forcefully push back Monday against false claims and conspiracy theories about her agency's response to Hurricane Helene as the death toll from the storm continued to climb.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell pointed to the agency's massive, collaborative effort that keeps growing, and she strongly urged residents in hard-hit areas to accept the government's offer for assistance.

"We have thousands of people on the ground, not just federal, but also our volunteers in the private sector," Criswell said at a news conference in Asheville, North Carolina. "And frankly, that type of rhetoric is demoralizing to our staff that have left their families to come here and help the people of North Carolina. And we will be here as long as they're needed."

Misinformation has spread over the past week in communities hit the hardest by Helene, including that the federal government is intentionally withholding aid to people in Republican areas. Former President Donald Trump and other Republicans have questioned FEMA's response and falsely claimed that its funding is going to migrants or foreign wars.

FEMA has dedicated part of its website to providing accurate answers to questions and addressing rumors on its response to Helene. On Friday, the agency put out a statement debunking rumors that it will only provide \$750 to disaster survivors to support their recovery. Criswell said that initial



JEFF AMY • The Associated Press

A worker cuts up a tree that impaled itself on a fire hydrant during Hurricane Helene, Friday, Oct. 4, 2024, in the Oak Forest neighborhood of Asheville, N.C.

money helps residents with expenses for medicine or food. She said additional funding will be available to reimburse them for the cost of home repairs, personal items lost, post-hurricane rental units and hotel stays.

"But I can't give it to them if they don't apply," Criswell said. "And if people are afraid to apply, then it is hurting them."

When asked directly about a circulating claim that FEMA would seize people's property if they don't pay back the \$750 in within one year, Criswell said that was "absolutely false." The cleanup and response to the storm that killed at least 230 people continued Monday, while Milton strengthened rapidly into a Category 5 hurricane on a path toward Florida, the same area battered by Helene less than two weeks ago. More than 130,000 customers in western North Carolina were still without electricity Monday, according to poweroutage.us.

Also in North Carolina, more

than 1,600 local and state search-and-rescue team members have been joined by about 1,700 members of the state National Guard, according to Gov. Roy Cooper's office.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon said Monday that an additional 500 active-duty troops have been deployed to North Carolina. Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon press secretary, said troops with advanced technological assets will be arriving, bringing the total number of active-duty forces to about 1,500. The troops are bringing surveillance equipment to allow officials to get a better overview of the region. Air Force Gen. Gregory Guillot, commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, said search-and-rescue aircraft were flying 10-hour sorties providing wellness checks, medical care and evacuations. He called the military's operations the "most important and honorable mission for us, which is to help fellow citizens."

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# Editorial

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## Feed Your Body and Mind

When it comes to being a college student, the first thing that invades our minds are essays, exams, presentations, and of course, tuition payments. With all of these due dates and deadlines, we often forget to complete the number one task that is on the top of our everyday to-do list: eat.

Meals are an important part of our lives. Even more significant, meals help us stay alive and function properly throughout the day. They can give us the energy needed to succeed during this both stressful and pivotal time in our lives as college students.

Eating healthy can help impact the immune system. Proper nutrition helps us build better health and development outcomes. Eating well can enhance the ability to think, learn, remember and pay attention.

According to Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, nutrition impacts brain development, memory and cognitive function, energy, attention and focus, all which are critical to the ability of absorbing and maintaining information. It can help us begin to focus on our well being. We may not prioritize it to develop a healthy lifestyle in the midst of our college lives but we have to understand the association between healthy eating and academic performance. Can someone actually fully function without some food in their stomach?

Skipping meals or eating poorly can have a negative impact and cause physical, emotional and mental challenges. It can lead to stress, depression, poor sleep quality, fatigue, lack of energy, headaches and irritability, creating a series of problems that can affect all aspects of our lives.

We need to eat, but we also need to eat well. Don't fully depend on ramen noodles and microwave dinners. Don't ever think that energy drinks and coffee will provide someone enough sustenance to get through the day. Eating fast food won't just affect your health but probably your wallet too. It's more important to maintain a balance between the foods we eat. Don't restrict too much; develop healthy habits. Having a variety of healthy choices can help us set up a foundation for a healthier lifestyle yet don't forget to satisfy your cravings.

However, sometimes, health groceries aren't affordable in this time of age. Fruit, vegetables and organic brands can sometimes be out of our price range. And again, sometimes those microwave dinners may be the cheapest option.

But if struggling with food insecurity, the Maverick Food Pantry is always open to help students. Working collaboratively with multiple departments, organizations and corporate partners, their main goal is to provide food for students that are in need.

Our bodies depend on us and we depend on our bodies. It is incredibly vital that we take care of them and our minds so remember to feed and look after both of them and most importantly, stay hydrated.

# Perspectives

## Redhead Ramblings: Things only redheads get



Courtesy Emma Johnson

Now that I've been writing this column for a couple of months, I thought I'd better address one of my key features: the vibrant mess of red hair I've had since I was born. If you exempt the baby baldness, the recessive trait of red hair took hold of both myself and my younger brother.

While looking like we were adopted growing up and hearing my mom's previous grievances about red hair before we were born, I've never hated the way my hair looked. However, I have heard it all when it comes to red hair. Allow me to explain the situations redheads go through at least once.

1. The nicknames redheads receive. Whether it's the basic ones like "Ginger" or "Red" or some of the more crass ones, I'd be shocked to hear one redhead nickname I haven't heard. You don't see me saying "What's up, brunette?" to all of my friends.



Emma Johnson  
Editor in Chief

Also, I will literally steal your soul if you assume I don't have one.

2. Talking about our hair color. My grandma told me when I was young and she would take me places, people would come up to me and touch my hair saying "I love this color! Is it natural?" First off, that's just creepy. Second, I don't know what bizarre parent would dye a two or three-year-old's hair. Yes, my hair is natural. I also don't have any plans on dying it since it's super hard to strip of natural color and besides,

people seem to like the color. Also, do not ask if my carpets match my drapes. I will redirect that question back to you with no shame.

3. The Redhead Association. It's truly laughable at the things people assume when they see a redhead. People assume you're Irish, even if there's not one strand of DNA shown. People assume you'll only date redheads if you are one. I'm a fan of brunettes, through and through. Most of all, people assume you are related to every redhead that's existed. While we likely have a very distant ancestor, that's the only relation we have.

4. The sun is an enemy, not a friend. Since redheads have the ability to produce Vitamin D naturally, we don't need as much from the sun. There's a fine line for us to get loads of freckles and burning easily. Each summer, I purchase the highest SPF sunscreen I can find, typically

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# Pulse

"What was your favorite part of Homecoming?"

Compiled by Alexis Darkow



MONICA BOLANOS,  
FRESHMAN

"Hanging out with my friend."



STANLEY STERN,  
SOPHOMORE

"Sleeping."



LUCAS RYAN,  
SOPHOMORE

"Gage hill run."



ORION SCHLOSSER,  
SOPHOMORE

"Being able to relax over the weekend."



CONOR CRAMER,  
FRESHMAN

"The concert."



AGATE DAVIS,  
FRESHMAN

"The concert."



# Supreme Court declines Biden's appeal in emergency abortion



MARK SCHIEFELBEIN • The Associated Press

The Supreme Court building is seen, June 28, 2024, in Washington.

By LINDSAY WHITE-HURST & JAMIE STENGLE  
The Associated Press

A court order that says hospitals cannot federally be required to provide pregnancy terminations when they violate a Texas abortion ban will stay for now, the Supreme Court said Monday.

The decision is another setback for opponents of Texas' abortion ban, which for two years has withstood multiple legal challenges, including from women who had serious pregnancy complications and have been turned away by doctors.

It left Texas as the only state where the Biden administration is unable to enforce its interpretation of a federal law in an effort to ensure women still have access to emergency abortions when their health or life is at risk.

The justices did not detail their reasoning for keeping in place a lower court order, and there were no publicly noted dissents. Texas had asked the justices to leave the order in place while the Biden administration had asked the justices to throw it out. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton called the decision "a major victory."

The Biden administration argues that a federal law, called the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, or EMTALA, requires emergency rooms to provide abortions if a pregnant patient's health or life is at serious risk, even in states where the procedure is banned. The law only applies to emergency rooms that receive Medicare funding, which most hospitals do.

The Supreme Court decision comes weeks before a presidential election in which Democratic nominee Kamala Harris has put abortion at the center of her campaign, attacking Republican challenger Donald Trump for appointing judges to the high court who overturned nationwide abortion rights in 2022.

"I will never stop fighting for a woman's right to emergency medical care — and to restore the protections of Roe v. Wade so that women in every state have access to the care they need," Harris said on social media Monday evening.

Texas' abortion ban has also been a centerpiece of Democratic U.S. Rep. Colin Allred's challenge against Republican U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz for his seat. At a campaign event over the weekend in

Fort Worth, Texas, hundreds of Allred's supporters broke out in raucous applause when he vowed to protect a woman's right to an abortion. "When I'm in the Senate, we're going to restore Roe v. Wade," Allred said.

At a separate event the same day, in a nearby suburb, Cruz outlined a litany of criticisms against Allred, but didn't bring up the abortion law. Katie Glenn Daniel, the state policy director of SBA Pro-Life America, applauded the Supreme Court decision and pointed to data showing Texas doctors have been able to provide an average of about five abortions per month to save a patient's life or health.

Still, complaints of pregnant women in medical distress being turned away from emergency rooms in Texas and elsewhere have spiked as hospitals grapple with whether standard care could violate strict state laws against abortion. Several Texas women have lodged complaints against hospitals for not terminating their failing and dangerous pregnancies because of the state's ban. In some cases, women lost reproductive organs.

◀MSURANK from page 2  
on how student success could be the reason MSU's rank increased.

Alumnus Haley Zinnel said faculty members, especially in the Department of Psychology, were

her favorite part of the college experience as they have always supported her and created friendly academic relationships.

"It was really influential for my mental health. I had faculty check

in on me when they noticed I did not appear well in class, and I had any professor I went to when I needed help with academics or graduate applications," said Zinnel.

◀COLUMN from page 4  
in the 70 range, to guarantee I don't burn. On the off-chance I do burn, it's not pretty and can take up to two weeks to heal depending on the severity (I already know there's some sort of skin cancer festering within me).

5. Knowing every cool fact about red hair. I could go on

for hours about the articles I've read highlighting facts specific to redheads, but I'll omit several of them.

I've learned redheads have higher pain tolerances which require more anesthesia before surgeries, red hair and blue eyes are the rarest combination in the world and while redheads

have the least amount of strands of hair at 90,000 strands, it's thicker than other hair colors.

As I've said before, I love my red hair and wouldn't change a thing about it.

While people say blondes have the beauty and brunettes have the brains, redheads have both, a win in my books.

## Don't expect human life expectancy to grow much more

By HAVEN DALEY & MIKE SCHNEIDER  
The Associated Press

University of Illinois-Chicago researcher who was lead author of the study published Monday by the journal Nature Aging.

Humanity is hitting the upper limit of life expectancy, according to a new study.

Advances in medical technology and genetic research — not to mention larger numbers of people making it to age 100 — are not translating into marked jumps in lifespan overall, according to researchers who found shrinking longevity increases in countries with the longest-living populations.

"We have to recognize there's a limit" and perhaps reassess assumptions about when people should retire and how much money they'll need to live out their lives, said S. Jay Olshansky, a

University of Texas researcher not involved in the study, called it "a valuable addition to the mortality literature."

"We are reaching a plateau" in life expectancy, he agreed. It's always possible some breakthrough could push survival to greater heights, "but we don't have that now," Hayward said.

Life expectancy is an estimate of the average number of years a baby born in a given year might expect to live, assuming death rates at that time hold constant. It is one of the world's most important health measures, but it is also imperfect.

◀ AGRICLTR from page 1  
one component of the agriculture industry, it's only a small fraction of it.

"There are different disciplines you wouldn't think of like manufacturing engineering, automation opportunities, the supply chain and safety of those products.

Whether or not it's direct or indirect, they're all associated with the agricultural sector,"

Budge said. "A lot of those jobs you don't necessarily think about being part of that industry, but it is a critical part."

Budge said he's excited to see where the school will go by growing the agricultural sector.

"It's a new school with a new format," Budge said. "We can really do what we think is best and have an opportunity to really push the envelope as far as doing things better differently."

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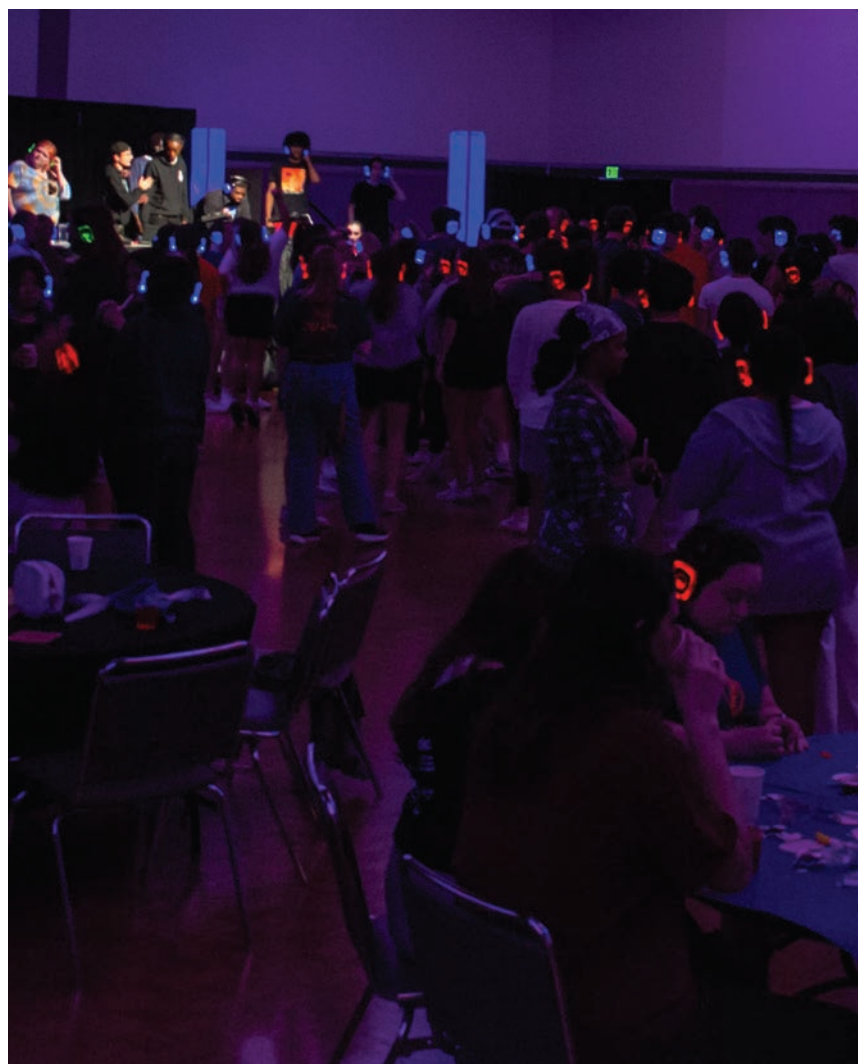
## MAVERICK MEMORIES AT HOMECOMING 2024

Thousands of Mavericks, current and alumni, celebrated traditions the past week for Homecoming. A kickoff early last week got students hyped with live music and sweet treats. As the week progressed, students got into the Homecoming groove with the Rich the Kid concert Thursday night. Friday's famous lip sync battle and coronation kicked off the night with the return of the bonfire, an event previously canceled the last two years due to weather. The good weather continued on Saturday, setting up the day with the Homecoming parade and the return of the Mavericks on the Mall, a carnival-like event where alumni and departments mingled with students. The Mavericks also took on the University of Sioux Falls Cougars. To end the weekend, a silent disco and a documentary premiere about the Maverick Machine took place.

Photos by MATT MILLER, TROY YANG, LOGAN SCHLOSSER, NATE TILAHUN and ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter









# SPORTS

## HOMECOMING HEARTBREAKER

### Last minute comeback comes up just short

By REPORTER STAFF

It came down to the last few seconds, but not even the second-largest crowd ever at Blakeslee Stadium could will the Mavericks to win their 2024 homecoming game and remain undefeated.

The Mavericks lost 40-36 to the University of Sioux Falls Saturday in front of more than 7,000 fans. With the loss the Mavericks plummeted in the rankings from No. 7 to No. 15, but they remain the lone Northern Sun conference team ranked in the AFCA top 25 poll.

Both teams were tied at 9-9 by the end of the first quarter. USF kicker Nick Hernandez kicked a 35-yard field goal, before Camden Dean connected with Hank Brown on a 64-yard touchdown pass. The ensuing extra point was blocked by Caleb Paulus. The ball was then picked up by Jamal Spiyee who then returned it 97 yards down field for the two-point conversion. On MSU's following drive, Hayden Ekern connected with Gabe Hagen on a 42-yard touchdown pass to tie the game at 9-9.

USF scored the only two touchdowns of the second quarter to take a 23-9 lead into halftime. Dean recorded a one-yard touchdown run, before hooking up with Carter Slykhuis on a six-yard touchdown pass. Dean then connected with Slykhuis on the two point conversion attempt.

A quick touchdown by the Cougars in the third quarter put USF up 30-9 with 11:04 to go.

MSU cut USF's lead to seven less than six minutes later. MSU



MATT MILLER • The Reporter

Caption caption caption Caption caption caption Caption caption caption Caption caption caption

finished a 66-yard scoring drive with a four-yard touchdown pass from Ekern to Hagen with 8:03 left to go in the third.

Then on the third play of USF's follow up drive, a Khai West pick set the Mavericks up on the Cougar 39. A 36-yard carry by Christian Vasser then set up a five-yard touchdown run by Tony Anger to cut USF's lead to seven with 5:53 to go in the third.

Early in the fourth, both

teams exchanged touchdowns and USF led 37-30 with 11:45 to go.

Sioux Falls then went up by 10 with 8:52 to go after Hernandez's 24-yard field goal. MSU responded with a 75-yard scoring drive that saw Grant Guyett catch a seven-yard touchdown pass from Ekern. The Maverick extra point attempt hit the upright as USF led by four at 40-36 with 4:17 to go.

USF tried to run out the clock but on a fourth and goal at the MSU 5, Karson Dunn intercepted a pass from Dean and returned it to the Maverick 18 with 1:07 to go. MSU completed four passes to drive up to the USF 14 with four seconds to go, and Ekern's final pass into the end zone intended for Hagen fell incomplete, and USF held on for the win.

Ekern finished his day completing 26-of-41 passes for 317

yards and three touchdowns. Hagen caught eight passes for a career-high 125 yards and two touchdowns. Vasser recorded a career-high 113 rushing yards and a touchdown.

Antonio Alzheimer led the Maverick defense with 11 tackles, while West and Dunn each recorded an interception.

Minnesota State continues its season on the road on Saturday as it takes on MSU Moorhead. Kickoff is scheduled for noon.

## Mavericks start season with split at Michigan

By REPORTER STAFF

Year two of the Luke Strand era for the Minnesota State men's hockey team got off to a roaring start over the weekend as the Mavericks – sparked by a pair of newcomers – took game one of a two-game series with Michigan Friday, earning a split for the weekend.

The win – which was followed by a loss the following night – was enough to earn

enough votes to climb into the national rankings at No. 19 in two polls.

The Mavs bested the Wolverines 5-2 Friday. Michigan came back Saturday and prevailed 4-1 in Saturday's game.

Minnesota State scored four unanswered goals Friday to upend the Wolverines the road. The Mavericks had five different goal scorers and goaltender Alex Tracy made 32 saves in the winning effort.

The Mavericks return home to host Merrimack College this weekend. The two-game series opens a six-game non-conference homestand. Merrimack (0-1-0) fell 3-2 to Stonehill College at home on Sunday to open its season.

The two teams have not faced one another since January 2-3, 2000 in Mankato. The Mavericks are 1-5 all-time against the Warriors.

## Women's Hockey sweeps Long Island U

By REPORTER STAFF

The Minnesota State women's hockey team swept a weekend home series against Long Island University, a pair of wins that marked the first and second wins for first-year head coach Shari Dickerman.

The sweep was a dominant performance for the Mavericks as the team allowed LIU to score just one goal all weekend.

On Friday Whitney Tuttle scored twice while Claire Vekich and Taylor Otremba

scored a goal apiece. Otremba scored again Saturday, as did Lilie Ramirez, Madison Mashuga and Kamryn Van Batavia.

Senior Suzette Faucher got the shutout win in goal Friday for her first win of the season. On Saturday, senior Jessie McPherson allowed only one goal in her first win of the season.

Minnesota State looks to continue its streak as they host St. Thomas on Oct. 11th for a 3 p.m. puck drop.



## NCAA's \$2.78 billion settlement with colleges to allow athlete payments gets preliminary approval



JOHN BAZEMORE • The Associated Press

Georgia quarterback Carson Beck (15) throws from the pocket in the first half of an NCAA college football game against Auburn Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, in Athens, Ga.

By EDDIE PELLIS  
The Associated Press

A judge granted preliminary approval Monday to the \$2.78 billion legal settlement that would transform college sports by allowing schools to pay players.

U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken released an order setting a timeline for a deal that would put millions of dollars into the pockets of college athletes, who can begin applying for payment on Oct. 18.

A final hearing is set for April 7, 2025, the day that one of college sports' biggest moneymakers, March Madness, comes to a close with college basketball's national title game. If finalized, the deal would allow the biggest schools to establish a pool of about \$21.5 million in the first year to distribute money to athletes through a revenue-sharing plan. Athletes would still be able to cut name, image and likeness deals with outside groups.

Former college athletes from as far back as 2016 would be able to apply for their share of \$2.576 billion set aside to help them recoup money they could've made from NIL deals, which weren't allowed until 2021.

"We are pleased that we are one step closer to a revolutionary change in college athletics that will allow billions in revenue sharing," said plaintiff attorney Steve Berman.

The judge's approval comes 11 days after attorneys tweaked wording in the original settlement agreement to address Wilken's concerns. The main change involved getting rid of the word "boosters" and replacing it with a better-defined description of whose potential NIL deals would be subject to

oversight by a neutral arbitrator once the deal goes through.

That did not, however, strike to the heart of the settlement, which sets up a revenue-sharing arrangement between schools and athletes who, for decades, played for scholarships, a few expenses and little else, while coaches and athletic departments brought in millions. The \$21.5 million figure comes from the 22% of average revenue that power conference schools generate through media rights, tickets and other sources. It will be recalculated periodically through the 10-year window the agreement covers.

Not every school will chip in the full amount. Those that will be hurrying to find ways to replace what they'll pay out to athletes. They worry it could impact their overall sports programs, especially the "non-revenue" sports that play an outsized role in populating U.S. Olympic rosters.

"We are thrilled by Judge Wilken's decision to give preliminary approval to the landmark settlement that will help bring stability and sustainability to college athletics while delivering increased benefits to student-athletes for years to come," said NCAA President Charlie Baker. "Today's progress is a significant step in writing the next chapter for the future of college sports."

In addition to creating a payment system, the settlement sets up a framework to regulate future NIL deals and replaces scholarship caps with "roster limits," which will grow to 105 for football, the biggest sport at most major universities, and also the sport that brings in the most money while incurring the most expense.

How those new roster caps

and everything else will impact Title IX has yet to be seen. Plaintiffs lawyers have estimated around 90% of the money will go to football and men's basketball players whose sports bring in the lion's share of the revenue. Critics of the settlement have suggested that could be in violation of Title IX.

This settlement resolves three major antitrust lawsuits filed against the NCAA, including one spearheaded by Grant House, a former swimmer at Arizona State. Berman's law firm says the value of new payments and benefits to college athletes is expected to exceed \$20 billion over 10 years.

The \$21 million that the biggest schools will dole out represents not even 10% of an NFL salary cap, but is considered big progress for college sports, which are undergoing a revolution with an expanded football playoff (with its \$7.8 billion TV contract) and a related move to mega-conferences; the Southeastern and Big Ten Conferences now have 34 teams between them.

"For far too long, these athletes have been deprived of their economic rights in an unjust system that will now, finally, be fundamentally reformed," plaintiff attorney Jeffrey Kessler said in a news release that was part of the court filings.

Still unknown is how long the terms of this deal will last. Litigation regarding the rights of players to unionize and potentially be considered employees remains unsettled. Meanwhile, the NCAA is pushing for federal legislation to knit together a streamlined policy for NIL, which is currently regulated by a patchwork of state laws, legal settlements and NCAA rules.

## Utah hopes to follow in the steps of other NHL teams



RICK BOWMER • The Associated Press

Members of the Utah Hockey Club development camp intrasquad skate during their scrimmage at the Delta Center, Friday, July 5, 2024.

By MARK ANDERSON  
The Associated Press

Utah Hockey Club management insists it's an expansion team and, as far as the NHL is concerned and the way records will be kept, that's true. But in a more practical sense, Utah is a relocated franchise.

It's mostly the same team that took the ice last season as the Arizona Coyotes with the same head coach overseeing and the same general manager.

Utah opens its first season in Salt Lake City on Tuesday night against the Chicago Blackhawks.

If previous relocated franchises are a guide, Utah also fits the definition because it could be on the verge of becoming an annual playoff contender given its core of young players. History has been kind to other teams that have changed cities, many clubs winning right away and even capturing championships not long after arriving in their new homes.

"I think it's just been when (teams have) moved, they've generally been bought by bigger, richer organizations that can support them better than where they were," said award-winning hockey historian Eric Zweig, who has authored several books on the NHL. "Arizona wasn't always terrible when they first got there. But they never really had stable ownership."

"There aren't many organizations in the NHL outside of the Coyotes that aren't run by wealthy companies anymore. I mean, it's almost impossible not to."

Ryan and Ashley Smith, who head up the Smith Entertainment Group, own the UHC as well as the Utah Jazz and are power players in a downtown Salt Lake City redevelopment project.

They bought the club from Alex Meruelo, who tried and failed to find a new arena in the Phoenix area. The Coyotes played their final two seasons at Arizona State University's arena before being sold, with

the NHL agreeing that Meruelo could retain the Coyotes nickname and intellectual properties in case another team is awarded to the area. So Salt Lake got a relocated team disguised as an expansion franchise.

"It's one of the fastest-growing markets in the country," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said. "It's an affluent market. It's a sports-centric market, particularly as it relates to winter sports. Ryan had been in touch with me for a couple years 'selling' — I use the word in quotes — Utah as a place that would be great for us."

"He made a lot of promises as to what he was going to get done, and everything they've needed to do, they've done and it's been incredible. And remember: This all came about in like six weeks, including the fact that the lawyers were drafting documents that nobody had ever done before because this was kind of a hybrid transaction."

One of the carryovers from Arizona, general manager Bill Armstrong, has been working on a slow build to make the roster not only competitive, but one that is capable of making deep runs in the postseason.

Utah might not be there yet, but Armstrong has put together a club that could at least challenge for a playoff spot. And given the often wide-open nature of the NHL postseason, Utah might be able to succeed sooner than later should it find a way into the playoffs.

No matter what happens this season, Armstrong has kept his eyes on the long term and trying to make sure any success is sustained.

Clayton Keller, the 26-year-old who last season led the Coyotes in scoring with 78 points, was named Utah's first captain. Armstrong supplemented the returning players with what should be an upgraded defense that included trading for two-time Stanley Cup champion Mikhail Sergachev.



# VARIETY

## Rich the Kid hypes up Homecoming Week



American rapper Rich the Kid performed at this year's Homecoming concert Thursday night in Myers Field House. TROY YANG • The Reporter

## Spooky Season: Sounds of the Halloween Spirit

By TINA DOLAN  
Staff Writer

Halloween is a time for people to celebrate the beginning of the Autumn season by dressing up in costumes, spending time with friends and just maybe getting a fright.

Whichever way you like to spend the season of ghouls and goblins, creating a playlist of your favorite Halloween songs and sounds will surely get you into the mood of the spookiest time of the year.

Now is your time to log on to your favorite music streaming platform and assemble a list of creepy music suitable for any Halloween party or general hangout. For inspiration, take a look at this directory.

**Dead Man's Party (1985).** This catchy tune by Oingo Boingo is perfect for any Halloween party because of its upbeat and electrifying melody. The song may be a little kooky, but don't hesitate to get up and start dancing when it blasts through the speakers!

**The Exorcist Theme (1973).** Imagine leaning on your date's shoulder right before you watch one of the scariest movies of all time, 'The Exorcist.' Once the main theme song 'Tubular Bells,' by Mike Oldfield blasts through the TV, you know you're in for a scare and hide behind your dates back, wondering what will happen next. The grand piano and organ sounds will send a chill down your spine, making you wonder why you chose to watch this spooky film in the first place.

**Monster Mash (1962).** If you are looking to add an actual Halloween song to your playlist, look no further than Bobby "Boris" Pickett's smash hit 'Monster Mash.' This fun song is a Halloween staple because it describes every traditional monster depicted in early horror films, such as Dracula, Frankenstein, the Wolfman, and zombies.

**Disturbia (2008).** For a more modern take on spooky music, superstar Rihanna brings us an eerie pop hit about a mental disturbance brought on by isolation and life's pressures. But don't worry—the only thing this song will make you want to do is get up and dance and sing along to the lyrics.

**This Is Halloween (1993).** As some may be familiar, 'This Is Halloween' is the opening song in Tim Burton's *A Nightmare Before Christmas*. Written and composed by Danny Elfman, the goofy tune introduces the Halloween town residents. The fun lyrics and instrumentals will bring you into the town itself.

**Time Warp (1973).** The cult classic movie 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show' has an eccentric and

## Showing off Homecoming Pride at Lip Sync

By ANAHI ZUNIGA  
Variety Editor

Who doesn't love a good dance battle?

Well, how about a lip sync dance battle?

MSU students filled up the Bresnan Arena Friday for MSU's annual lip sync battle, Homecoming week's most popular event. Several organizations competed and danced their hearts out to win the cherished first-place trophy.

In the midst of the battle, the coronation was also in effect as the Homecoming Royalty court was greatly supported by the competing teams for representing them and were even involved in the performances.

Many of the teams included music from famous comic-book films' soundtracks to their performances due to this year's homecoming theme being *Mavericks: Endgame*.

Homecoming Chair Bethel Gebregiorgis was in charge of planning several Homecoming events throughout the week including the battle and explained the process of planning the 12-year old tradition.

"We had to make sure that all the competition teams were registered and all set and good to go. And we had a kind of a hard time choosing the order for the lip sync because there were royalties, performing and kind of settling that. It



Several campus organizations competed and danced at MSU's annual lip sync battle, Homecoming week's most popular event, at the Bresnan Arena Friday night. NATE TILAHUN • The Reporter

was hectic, but it was fun for sure," Gebregiorgis said.

The scoring rubric was based on overall performance, originality, choreography, lip syncing at all times, correlation to the homecoming theme and knowledge of the song lyrics. All these components determined which team won first, second and third place.

Gebregiorgis discussed how the Student Events Teams selected the judges for the competition.

"We usually select judges that

have a lot of involvement on campus, know the students in one way or another, and kind of have the experience of being a lip sync judge overall," Gebregiorgis said. "It was a really, kind of obvious decision for us. And the one new thing we did this year was we bought two alumni royalties, one from Student Events Team, actually."

Homecoming week is all about celebrating *Maverick* pride among the student community with Gebregiorgis saying the lip sync battle

gives "the competition teams a chance to express themselves."

"You can be on campus and showing spirit and regarding the homecoming theme, but the lip sync is where all the competition teams actually shine and show their creativity and all aspects of their performances. So I believe that for a homecoming tradition, lip sync is probably one of the critical points of that."

Overall, Gebregiorgis shares

LIP SYNC on page 11▶

SPOOKY on page 11▶



# Mavericks close out Homecoming Week with Silent Disco



MATT MILLER • The Reporter

Minnesota State University, Mankato's Residence Hall Association hosted a Silent Disco in the CSU Ballroom Saturday night, an event newly added to this year's homecoming schedule.

By EMMA BENJAMIN  
Staff Writer

Minnesota State University Mankato's Residents Hall Association added a Silent Disco to this year's homecoming schedule to capture the excitement of homecoming.

In an interview with the President of the Residence Hall Association, Andrew Colleran, he explained that the party shouldn't have to end after the game.

"If people are still hyped up and excited about the homecoming game and the results that came with that homecoming game, why should the party stop," Colleran says.

With Silent Disco finishing homecoming week, Colleran and the RHA wanted to offer an opportunity to continue the homecoming celebrations while allowing time to decompress from the week's festivities by including crafts and mocktails.

"There are people who want to join the hype and want to join the energy of homecoming, but there

are also people who have already put so much energy into homecoming," says Colleran. "Some people might be burnt out, like maybe we could just have an event to add to this aspect, that can help people decompress, destress from homecoming."

To follow the homecoming theme, the event offered DC and Marvel coloring sheets, and disco beads for bracelet-making.

Colleran also explained that Silent Disco offers a safe, controlled environment for students to celebrate homecoming.

"We are trying to replicate the atmosphere of a club, but a lot more safe, a lot more controlled area, and giving people the option to choose if they want to interact with that kind of environment," Colleran says.

The Silent Disco offered an opportunity for students to mold their homecoming celebration experience by offering a safe, controlled environment and including three music stations to listen to: DC and Marvel, Top 40, and Throwbacks.

Colleran worked with the Student Event Team last fall, and he

explained that there's a high demand for Silent Discos on campus, and after September's Silent Disco event, he wanted to keep it going.

"Last fall there was like, some traction. Now we got a lot of traction in September and I want to keep that traction going this October, and maybe in the upcoming years we will see more Silent Disco events," Colleran says.

Colleran and the RHA were very excited about this event and hoped students would have a fun, safe time and hope to host more events in the future.

"I hope students will have a fun time. RHA is a large organization that puts on large-scale events for people," says Colleran. "We want people to have fun whenever RHA has the resources and the people power to create these events."

If students want to attend more events hosted by the RHA, they are currently working on Fall Fest which is planned to take place in November. The RHA is hoping to have pumpkin painting and other fall-themed activities at this event and a mini RSO fair.

being Mavericks: Endgame.

After a night of unforgettable performances, Mavsians had reigned once again as the battle's winners while royalty candidates Edward Nguyen and Kalina Vandeputte were crowned Homecoming king and queen.

Nguyen shared how it felt to be named Homecoming king and to now represent the student body, saying "It's an incredible honor and a unique experience."

"It often feels like a celebration of school spirit and community. Representing the student body brings a sense of pride and responsibility, as you get to embody the values and traditions of your school. I did feel a mix of excitement and nervousness, especially during events and parades," Nguyen said. "But there's also joy in connecting with fellow students and alumni. It's a chance to be a role model and inspire

others, while also creating lasting memories and friendships. It's a fulfilling experience that allows you to contribute to the culture of your school."

Nguyen also participated in the battle with his fraternity Alpha Sigma Chi and shared how preparation for the event was like for everyone.

"Preparing for the lip sync battle was a lot of fun. My fraternity paired up with a sorority and getting the slow introduction to a bunch of new people is always fun. It started off with making a plan of what times and days of the week that we could all get together and practice," Nguyen said. "I myself am not a dancer so I was having a rough time preparing, however, due to the duo of Hailey Elmhurst and Abby Cano, they broke up the dances into very easy steps and made sure everyone could succeed."

# Florence Pugh and Andrew Garfield on living through 'We Live in Time'



MATT LICARI • The Associated Press

Florence Pugh, left, and Andrew Garfield pose for a portrait to promote the film "We Live in Time" on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, in New York.

By JAKE COYLE  
The Associated Press

In "We Live in Time," Florence Pugh and Andrew Garfield act an entire life of a relationship — a gamut of dating, falling in love, having a child and reckoning with cancer. So when Garfield recently went on a six-day retreat in the woods without his phone, one of his first texts was to his co-star.

"I came out and I sent Florence a message. I just felt compelled," Garfield says. "When you reconnect with yourself, you reconnect with a bunch of stuff that matters to you. And I was just like, man, I haven't let Florence know for a few months how much this film and this time with her meant to me."

"We Live in Time," directed by John Crowley ("Brooklyn," "The Goldfinch") and penned by playwright Nick Payne, is the kind of movie that provokes an emotional response, including for its two stars. In playing their characters, Almut and Tobias, across a decade of time, "We Live in Time" poignantly condenses, and remixes into a non-linear narrative, a wide spectrum of life. Right alongside each other are sex and heartbreak, stolen moments and life-changing ones, birth and death.

It was enough to go through together as actors that Pugh and Garfield, when they spoke the morning of the film's premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival last month, were still mourning it.

"I've never had this happen before in this way. We've literally spent the last two days trying to unpack it and everybody wants us to unpack it. And we don't know," says Pugh. "When we finished the movie, every scene that got closer and closer to the end, it became harder and harder to process that we weren't going to be able to do it anymore."

As two of the most in-demand actors of their generation, Pugh, 28, and Garfield, 41, have transformed themselves into all kinds of roles. They have donned Marvel costumes and joined period ensem-

bles. Pugh was memorably outfitted in an elaborate flower dress for "Midsommar." But "We Live in Time," which A24 opens in theaters Friday, is a particularly unadorned view of two of the best actors working. It's the first film in which Garfield has used his real voice.

"They're two very beautiful creatures to look at, and have looked fantastically beautiful on screen — and do look very beautiful in this, by the way, just not in a glammed-up, aspirational fashion," says Crowley. "They're also both British actors who have made significant inroads in American cinema, and to some eyes, people might only know them from that. To have them speak in their own accents allowed those roles to fall back much closer to them."

Chemistry can be a tricky thing to pin down. Crowley, whose 2007 film "Boy A" was Garfield's feature film debut, cast Garfield first. After that came Pugh. Crowley prefers to keep dress rehearsals subdued in order to save the energy for shooting. But there were, he says, "flickers of something very special" between them.

"Much like two championship tennis players warming up, they couldn't not once in a while hit the ball in an extraordinary way and have the other person hit it back," says Crowley.

In an interview together, the connection between Garfield and Pugh was abundantly clear. Their reaction to the meme that sprung from the movie's first image (in which a carousel horse appeared to be their uninvited co-star), was, itself, a viral video that hinted at their natural comic patter. But whatever chemistry is, Garfield is more inclined to attribute it to staying present as actors.

"You can't predict it. I knew Florence was a magnificent actor. But that's all I knew. I didn't know whether we'd work together well. Neither of us did," Garfield says. "But for me, honestly, it exceeded my expectations. It's an incomparable thing. There's no way of comparing my experience with Florence with any other experience."

◀SPOOKY from page 10

sometimes random plot, including the scene when the characters line up, dance, and sing to the "Time

Warp.' The song's lyrics teach you how to do the dance, so grab some of your friends, line up, and dance the "Time Warp."



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