



MINNSTATE CLASSES MOVE ONLINE



Atwood sits empty due to suspension of classes. Photo credit: Tim Speier

By **Bethanie Barrios**
Managing Editor

Minnesota State Chancellor Devinder Malhotra announced in an email March 12, to faculty, staff, and students that all Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MINNSTATE) campuses have their in-person classes suspended.

The reasoning of suspension is due to the pandemic of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and its exponential spread throughout Minnesota.

“Minnesota State is continuously

reviewing a range of strategies to limit the spread of COVID-19 and its impact on our campuses and the communities in which we live and serve,” wrote Malhotra.

All MINNSTATE campuses including St. Cloud State University had classes suspended an additional two weeks after their initial Spring Break. St. Cloud State’s Spring Break ran from March 9-13, but didn’t resume classes again until March 30.

Malhotra wrote that the main purpose of the suspensions was for faculty and staff on the campuses, so they can prepare for accommodations

of coursework and otherwise during the pandemic of the Coronavirus.

“While there will be no classes during each campus’ extra week, administrators, faculty, and staff will spend that week exploring alternative modes of delivery and adjust campus learning spaces to ensure the safety of our communities,” wrote Malhotra.

However, even though classes were not in session, Malhotra also announced that other services on campuses will remain open to help provide students with the resources that they need.

“All campuses, including residence halls, dining facilities, and student

support services will remain open and appropriately staffed, including student workers,” wrote Malhotra

Minnesota State also suspended any travel outside of Minnesota for school purposes which took effect March 16. **Minnesota State’s Plan of Action for Health and Safety**

The Minnesota State system is stating that any students who believe they were in contact with someone who is diagnosed with the Coronavirus to self-quarantine and contact your primary doctor until further notice.

They also recommend that these students let their campus services know of the situation as soon as possible and to get in contact with all

professors to find accommodations so classwork can still be submitted.

Malhotra closed by writing Minnesota State’s commitment to maintaining welcoming campuses.

“The diversity of our student body and employees is one of our greatest strengths,” wrote Malhotra. “As such, we are committed to ensuring welcoming and supportive campus environments for all of our students, faculty, and staff. It is vitally important we work together, follow the practices recommended by the public health officials, and proceed with preparedness, calm, and understanding.”

EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER, HISTORIC CANCELLATIONS AT SCSU

By **Tim Speier**
Investigative Reporter

Students left their classes in early March to go on spring break. Most did not think twice about leaving for a week, and for the graduating seniors, they didn’t realize that March 6 would be the last time they stepped foot on campus.

St. Cloud State University has been teaching students since 1869 and for the first time in its long history, the graduation ceremony has been cancelled.

The tradition of commencement has come to an abrupt end as the ceremony, previously scheduled for May 8, was cancelled due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This announcement came via email sent out by the office of

President Robbyn Wacker in mid-March, and the decision came down from Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MINNSTATE) Chancellor Devinder Malhotra.

“We also have been instructed by the Chancellor to cancel any in-person commencement ceremonies scheduled for this spring,” wrote Wacker in her email to all of SCSU.

The loss of tradition does not carry much weight when we fail to understand what has been lost. What was lost and how did we get to the point of losing such a valued tradition in collegiate tradition? What is being done to try and carry on these traditions that we hold so dear? These are not simple questions to answer, nor should they be. But they are questions that deserve answers.

The Legacy

With over 150 years in operation,

St. Cloud State University has never canceled a graduation ceremony according to SCSU Archivist Thomas Steman.

“I am pretty sure that graduation hadn’t been cancelled, even during the two World Wars. From the first graduation in 1871 to spring 1968, graduation ceremonies were only held in the spring. After that, they were often held four times a year (spring, summer, fall, winter) until 1993, then three times a year (spring, fall, winter), and then in 1998, twice a year (spring and fall, which coincided with the change from quarters to semesters),” Steman wrote in an email to the *University Chronicle*.

This is not the first time the university has dealt with a pandemic on campus and even through the numerous changes to

commencements over the years, this will be the first time that the ceremony would be cancelled.

In 1918, the Spanish Flu ravaged the world infecting over 500 million people worldwide, about one third of the world’s population, and an estimated over 50 million people passed away from the virus, according to the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) website.

During the 1918 Spanish Flu, the university was allowed to continue operations due to its isolation from the rest of the town. On Oct. 17, 1918, the St. Cloud City Mayor, Daniel H. Freeman made a proclamation not unlike the announcements made by our current Mayor Dave Kleis and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. In an article from the St. Cloud Daily Times, dated Oct. 18, 1918, the school was allowed to stay open.

department of the State Normal School, shall be closed until further notice,” wrote Freeman in his proclamation.

From 1873 to 1921, St. Cloud State University was known as the State Normal School at St. Cloud.

Even with its continued operation during the Spanish Flu, the university had to set up quarantine for those that were infected. However, it is unclear if the university remained open to keep the students at school to help curb the spread of the infection.

“The Mayor, in explaining different parts of the proclamation, said that owing to the isolation of the State Normal school and the fact that the four hundred students came from 280 townships, it was thought best not to

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GAME CONTEST!
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MAYOR KLEIS DECLARES ST. CLOUD UNDER LOCAL EMERGENCY



Mayor Dave Kleis announced that the City of St. Cloud is under a State of Emergency due to COVID-19. Photo credit: Tim Speier

By **Tony Langfellow**
Editor-In-Chief

St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis signed a declaration on March 16 that the City of St. Cloud is under a local emergency due to the growing outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Kleis said this declaration of a local emergency gives city officials the authority to distribute important human resources to wherever they are needed to keep everyone safe.

“What this allows us to do, when and if it is necessary going forward to allocate resources in different areas,” Kleis said. “We have contingencies

in place; we need to make sure that we provide public safety. We need to make sure that our first responders continue to do their job. We need to make sure that the delivery of essential services, water, sewer, and our public works [continue to operate].”

Kleis’ announcement was made during a press briefing in the St. Cloud City Hall Council Chambers. It is the mayor’s plan to hold press briefings daily at 2 p.m. in city hall to keep the public informed on how the city will move forward with the continuing growth of COVID-19, until further notice.

On Friday, March 13, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz declared

Minnesota under a state of emergency and at 5:30 p.m. on March 16, Walz announced temporary closure of dine-in options of all restaurants, bars and businesses of public entertainment to help contain COVID-19. Despite those closures, pharmacies and grocery stores will remain open.

A key reason for the local emergency declaration made by Kleis is to allow the city and emergency services such as hospitals, ambulances, police officers and other resources to remain open and more available as the need becomes higher.

“This is something that we plan for, and we implement as it is necessary based on what’s happening around

the world [and] around the country,” Kleis said. “With guidance from the CDC, and the Minnesota Department of Health, we follow and work in coordination with those entities.”

Kleis said the city and all of its public buildings will be following the necessary guidelines put out by the CDC and state in order to keep everyone safe. To date, the mayor also announced the closure of the St. Cloud Area YMCA Community Aquatic Center and the Great River Regional Library.

The local emergency also puts restrictions on how many people should be gathering in one area, which is now 10 people, as suggested

by President Donald Trump March 16.

“Planning is not panic. We don’t want people to panic or to be afraid, but we want people to be concerned, cautious and plan,” Kleis said. “And planning takes place whether it’s in your home or whether it’s in your neighborhood, or whether it’s in your or whether it’s in your government, and the city continues to plan, and will keep people safe.”

Kleis reminded everyone that even though you as an individual may not be sick, it’s important to get through the pandemic as a team and to take the necessary precautions so that no one becomes sick from others’ misdeeds.

“We want to make sure our community, those who are vulnerable, those who are elderly, those who are our first responders, we want to make sure that we can contain and not spread this,” Kleis said.

Kleis also highlighted the workload that medical workers are dealing with during the spread of the Coronavirus and to date, there are three cases of COVID-19 in Central Minnesota.

He said medical employees also have to help the needs of people with other health related issues other than COVID-19, which indicates the importance of following emergency procedures and limiting the work for hospitals.

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PRESIDENT WACKER ADDRESSES SCSU; CHANGES MADE TO ALL CLASSES

By **Tim Speier**
Investigative Reporter

An email was sent out early March 13 at 10:21 a.m. from St. Cloud State University President Robbyn Wacker to address and provide more details regarding the email from MINNSTATE System Chancellor Devinder Malhotra sent out on March 12.

The email sent out amid the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was to address the concerns of students, faculty, and staff at SCSU by providing them with more centralized information that pertains specifically to St. Cloud State University. Wacker addressed the constantly changing and evolving situation related to how the school will disseminate information.

“Due to how the COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, we will be providing frequent updates when we have more information to share. These updates will come in the form of an email (our official communication channel), Star Alert, posts to Facebook and Twitter and the website,” wrote Wacker.

The website links to an SCSU page that contains relevant information concerning the Coronavirus along with a copy of all emails sent out regarding the MINNSTATE system



President Robbyn Wacker speaking during the Spring 2020 convocation in early January. File photo: University Communications

and SCSU. The site also contains a link to update your star information to receive alerts from the school.

Wacker went on to discuss how the university will continue to stay in contact with health officials and any changes will not be of the university’s own decisions, but will be made in collaboration with multiple agencies.

“The health and safety of our community is our top priority. We continue to be in daily contact with Stearns County public health officials (our county) and Minnesota State Department of Health. Any

action we undertake to change our operations will be in consultation with these experts and our MN State leadership,” wrote Wacker.

Misinformation and rumors related to the Coronavirus on social media and Listservs, mass message distribution services, are discussed and Wacker encourages everyone to obtain information through credible sources.

Students were originally told that classes will be suspended March 16 through March 22. All face to face classes will resume

in an alternative format. Students should expect to hear from their professors no later than March 19. Professors will provide students with instruction on how classes will be implemented. As the situation progressed, students were later told that classes would be suspended through March 29 and resume on March 30.

Due to an error, a corrected email was sent out March 13 at 11:22 a.m. that stated, “UPDATE: To clarify, online courses will not meet March 16-22 during the extended Spring

Break. All courses, including online, will resume March 23. Face-to-face classes will resume in an alternative delivery format.”

The original email stated that online courses were “suspended.” The update has online classes resuming at the same time as all other classes, March 23.

The email also informs students enrolled in clinicals, practicums, or internships will be contacted by faculty on how to proceed.

For those students returning to campus, the email addresses campus facilities and student workers.

“Our campus offices, student support services, residence halls and dining services will remain open regular business hours. You have the option of returning to your resident hall this next week. Our facilities and Resident Hall staff have worked to ensure that our residence halls have been cleaned per health and safety guidelines,” wrote Wacker. “Finally, if you are student workers, we’d love to have you back on campus working. Please contact your supervisor to discuss your situation with him or her.”

Campus faculty with questions about pay or benefits are told to contact their “business partner” or

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close the school. Among the 400 in attendance at the Normal, only twelve are afflicted with the disease and they are quarantined in the old Smart building that stands on the bank of the river, with two nurses attending them," wrote the St. Cloud Daily Times, on Oct. 18, 1918.

On June 5, 1919 the State Normal School had 149 students graduate according to the commencement program. Steman said the chances of having a commencement program printed without holding a ceremony are, "slim to none," and given the costs associated with printing during that time, this would seem likely.

"In my almost 13 years, I haven't seen any instance in the records in which the university closed due to pandemics, world wars, national emergencies, or something else," said Steman.

The Cancellation

In early January 2020, the world started to see the effects of COVID-19 as the virus began to spread. Although the information was slow to get out, the virus was not and things that people took for granted began to change. *Jan. 22 worldwide death toll: 17*

The first indication that the situation was getting worse was Feb. 1 when SCSU sent out an email regarding a Coronavirus update.

"St. Cloud State University is closely monitoring the recent outbreak of [the] 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in China," said the email. "Other cases have also been identified in other countries, including the United States. We are in discussions with public health officials and the current risk to our campus is low."

The email also said the university is continuing to monitor the situation and lists actions to practice to help prevent the spread of the virus and encourages everyone to get a flu shot. In the last paragraph of the email, it states that staff and students should review travel notifications from the CDC and watch the news if planning on traveling to China. *Feb. 1 worldwide death toll: 304*

It was not until Feb. 6 that plans began to change at SCSU. In a pop-up seminar held in the Atwood Memorial Center, the university announced that the May trip to China would be cancelled due to the recent outbreak of COVID-19. This was the first cancellation the university would make and it would not be the last. *Feb. 6 worldwide death toll 638*

On Feb. 27, St. Cloud State University President Robbyn Wacker sent out an email to inform the Husky community that SCSU had begun preparing and making decisions based on the Coronavirus and information related to it provided by the Minnesota Department of Health and the CDC. The email

also listed recommendations to help prevent the transmission of the Coronavirus. Along with washing and cleaning tips, everyone was recommended to go to the clinic if they had a fever of more than 100.4 F. *Feb. 27 worldwide death toll: 2,858*

After that weekend on March 3, Wacker sent out an email that started to drive home the true nature of things to come. The university established a core team to monitor the situation, announced that all Minnesota State-related international travel was cancelled, provided links to get accurate information, and started to warn of risks associated with international travel during spring break. They stated in the email that they were not asking students who were in State Department Level 1 and 2 countries to return home. *March 3 worldwide death toll: 3,202*

On March 6, MINNSTATE Chancellor Devinder Malhotra sent out his first system-wide email to talk of the changes that were announced on March 3. The email discusses monitoring the situation, hygiene, and symptoms related to the virus. The email states that there have been no positive cases in Minnesota. March 6 was the last day classes were held before SCSU went on spring break, March 9 through 13. Little did anyone know that this would be the last time all in-person classes were held at SCSU for the spring semester. *March 6 worldwide death toll: 3,494*

The update from President Wacker on March 11 states class had not yet been canceled. The tone of the emails changed. Students and staff returning from spring break that visited Level 3 countries should self isolate for 14 days. Everyone is told to expect campus emails regularly. The Medical Clinic now requires students that feel sick to call first and students are asked to stay home if not feeling well. What was once so far away, has now come home.

There are now "presumptive" cases in Minnesota, with none in Stearns County. *March 11 worldwide death toll: 4,628*

With the rates of infection continuing to increase at an alarming rate in the states, Malhotra sent a message to all MINNSTATE schools on March 12 extending their spring breaks by a week. For SCSU, this pushed back the start of classes to March 23. This extension was to allow faculty time to "prepare, plan, develop alternative delivery, creative options, etc. in response to the COVID-19 pandemic," according to the Inter Faculty Organization (IFO) email.

MINNSTATE had begun preparations to teach outside of their classrooms. *March 12 worldwide death toll: 4,981*

In a follow up email March 13, Wacker reiterated what was sent out by the Chancellor the day prior. SCSU campus remains open and

student workers are encouraged to come to work. Facilities and residence halls are being cleaned to maintain health and safety guidelines. *March 13 worldwide death toll: 5,429*

To help disseminate critical information to students quickly and accurately SCSU set up a phone hotline on March 15. The hotline is operated 24/7 by administration and if they don't have the information readily available, they will call you back. *March 15 worldwide death toll: 6,519*

On March 16, Malhotra sent out an email which contained a link to his video message directed to all universities and schools in the MINNSTATE system. Wacker then sent a message stating that the university would hold a town hall meeting March 17. It was announced that classes are now pushed back to March 30 and will resume in an alternative delivery format. *March 16 worldwide death toll: 7,161*

The emails sent out March 18 would change long held traditions at St. Cloud State University. At 2:50 p.m., President Wacker informed students that in-person graduation commencement would be cancelled for the spring semester.

"We also have been instructed by the Chancellor to cancel any in-person commencement ceremonies scheduled for this spring," wrote Wacker via email. *March 18 worldwide death toll: 8,951*

The Reaction

The Spring 2020 graduating class will make history, though not the history they set out to make when arriving at St. Cloud State University.

This cancellation of the commencement ceremony came as a blow to many students that had worked hard to graduate. To lose the chance to be recognized for what they had accomplished hit Maddie Cooper, a PSEO student who is graduating with her Associate in Arts degree, harder than most.

"[I] was really looking forward to being able to walk in graduation. I am homeschooled, so I will not be able to have a high school graduation either. I understand why the university had to cancel it, but I hope they are able to postpone," said Cooper.

As most of the country moves to distance learning, Cooper will join many others in the Class of 2020 in graduating at home. With school systems closing daily, she joins many others across the country and the world in transitioning to distance learning. Though it may be easier for some, this decision to move away from classrooms and large

gatherings to distance learning and the cancellation of in-person graduations was not taken lightly.

With St. Cloud State University being a part of the MINNSTATE system, the decision to cancel would come from the top. Responsible for 37 colleges and universities and the safety of almost 350,000 students, Chancellor Devinder Malhotra said the decision was not without merit, nor was it made without thought.

"I understand that suspending traditional graduation ceremonies is a great disappointment to many, many students, and I have empathy for their situation," wrote Malhotra. "I also want to assure you that this decision was not taken lightly. Allowing commencement ceremonies under the current circumstances could put the health and safety of our students, their families, and the faculty and staff of our colleges and universities at risk."

Though the decision is widely understood, the commencements were a way of being recognized for what you had accomplished. Graduating from SCSU may be used as a stepping stone, some may be the first in their family to graduate college, and others may be following in their family's footsteps of graduating from SCSU, but all will miss out on being recognized for their accomplishments during commencements. To be there with friends, family, fellow students, and professors is not something that can be so easily translated to a digital format.

"Finding out there will be no graduation commencement was very difficult for me," wrote Sabrina Busby who will be graduating with a degree in Special Education. "I struggled in high school and there were a lot of people that didn't think I would make anything of myself in college. Here I am, my final semester, I have received 4.0 GPA's for the last three semesters with an overall GPA of 3.68! I wanted nothing more than to walk across that stage with my other classmates and in front of the people that pushed me and never let me give up! This is a difficult time for seniors all around the United States and we can only hope the schools will find a way for us to still have this moment."

With SCSU working to find an alternative to commencement, some students wanted to show the university that a digital commencement ceremony was not the graduation they had worked for.

"A graduation ceremony symbolizes immense accomplishment, not only for the many awaiting students but for their loved ones," stated a petition Sabrina Nkajug Yang created to keep the spring 2020 graduation ceremony. "This petition is to push for

postponing SCSU's Class of 2020 graduation."

Yang, who will be graduating with a degree in Communication Studies, created the petition to show SCSU that she and many others still want to walk at commencements.

"Although, I understand that COVID-19 is the main threat and reason for canceling graduation," wrote Yang. "I think there are other possible options."

Those other options may soon become a reality at St. Cloud State University as administration moves forward with planning the momentous occasion. Commencement is meant to be a celebration of all the work that was put into graduating. Graduation and the experience of graduation was not lost on Wacker.

Joined by Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management Jason Woods, and Executive Director of Marketing and University Communications Adam Hammer, the *University Chronicle* sat down for a conversation about the cancellation of in-person commencements.

"Commencement is one of the most joyous and emotional events that we have on campus and we really want to make sure we're celebrating the accomplishments of the students," said Wacker. "We're committed to making sure we have something to honor the accomplishments of our students. It's one of those milestones that deserves recognition and attention."

With the passing of time, the Coronavirus will become part of our long history at St. Cloud State University. Although plans are still being worked out, Wacker wants to get the information out to the students.

Having an alternative format with no explanation is not helping those who have been planning for this day to come. That sentiment was not lost on Woods, who also remembers when he walked across the stage during his graduation.

"I think that whatever we can do to try to allow students to feel some of the emotion [of walking across the stage], we're going to try [and] do it," said Woods. "We just don't know what that looks like at this time."

Though no answers were given, Wacker was able to make one promise to the Spring 2020 class. When asked if Wacker would let them walk in a future commencement to have that experience that they worked so hard for, she said, "for this graduation class, I think if they want to walk in 10 years from now the answer is, you bet. Let us know and we'll see you on stage. So the answer to that is, yeah, we're going to do the unexpected."

UNIVERSITY CHRONICLE

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University Chronicle holds meetings every Monday and Thursday at 10 am in 13B Stewart Hall. If you are interested in writing for us or have a story idea, please come visit us.

The newspaper is funded with student activity fees through the Student Government Finance Committee. Editorial, production, and office facilities are in 13 Stewart Hall, SCSU.

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Although restaurants, bars and social gathering areas may be off limits until late March, Kleis said all general services including garbage pick-up, and the public works department will continue its regular operations.

"If it snows, we'll plow the streets, your refuge will be picked up, all the services will continue to take place as they have. It's just in some cases, we will make adjustments and those adjustments may come in the future," he said.

St. Cloud's city hall hours will remain the same during the pandemic, however, the city suggests residents take care of as many services as possible remotely. Additionally, Kleis said all in-person services will be taking place in the city council chambers as a way to take advantage of social distancing.

Kleis announced March 17 that the public establishments in St. Cloud including the River's Edge Convention Center, the Municipal Athletic Complex, the Lake George community complex, among others will not be permitting events to groups larger than 10 people.

As the situation develops each day of COVID-19, the City of St. Cloud will be following any directives given by President Donald Trump and Governor Tim Walz.

Kleis said anyone with a current St. Cloud parking permit that may have expired in recent days will be able to use it until April 15 and won't have to worry about buying a new one until Kleis makes an announcement.

Kleis also emphasized the importance of people resisting the urge to hoard food, supplies and water and said stores will remain open for people to do regular shopping. Hoarding food, supplies and water is not suggested since the supply chain of items isn't changing and hoarding takes away from people that may be in need.

ANN ANDERSON SHARES 50 YEARS OF GROWTH AT SCSU

By Anna Panek
Staff Writer

Dedication, wisdom, and pride all describe Ann Anderson's 50 years of service at St. Cloud State University. Anderson started at SCSU on Aug. 4, 1969 as a support staff for the associate dean of Graduate Studies. She worked her entire 50 years for the department and helped it grow into the thriving office it is today.

Although she always worked with a team of five or six people, with years of experience she became the office manager and oversaw more and more of the programs.

Anderson said the reason she stayed for so long was "I had fantastic colleagues and I loved working with the students."

The School of Graduate Studies first started in Stewart Hall, with many more offices in there as well. The Administrative Services (AS) Building wasn't built until 1975. After a few minor moves, the School of Graduate Studies main office finally found its home in AS 121.

While the physical location of the school changed places, a lot of changes happened within the school too.

When Anderson first started at SCSU, "We had some programs that aren't available anymore, but we have added a lot of new ones too. Back then we might have had only 35 [programs]."

The School of Graduate Studies now offers roughly 90 graduate programs and certificates.

Anderson was able to see a lot of changes take place at the university, with the most notable being the physical changes of the buildings. One of the first changes Anderson saw was the movement of the university library.

"Kiehle was opened in 1952 as



Ann Anderson looks back on 50 years at SCSU. Photo credit: Ann Anderson

St. Cloud State's first building built as a library. It served as the campus library until 1971. Since 1974, Kiehle has served as home to the Department of Art," according to the University Archives.

The library was then housed in Centennial Hall until 2000.

The university has had 24 presidents, with Robbyn Wacker being the current president. When Anderson started, Robert Wick was the president of the university. Working in an administration office, Anderson had the opportunity to interact with almost half of the presidents to serve St. Cloud State.

"Personalities varied largely with

each president. Looking back over my tenure it sometimes seemed kind of comical when one problem was solved, of course there was another but because of new people making the decisions, the solutions seemed to go around in a circle after so many years," Anderson said.

Anderson remembers that Lowell Gillet, who acted as president from 1981 to 1982, was very personable and the person that hired her in 1969 when he was the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Technology has changed drastically in the last 50 years.

"I have been very lucky. After beginning with a manual typewriter,

it has been easy for me to pick up the changes as technology advanced," she said.

Anderson said that not all her coworkers have been that lucky. One of the biggest changes has been registering for classes. She recalls the university used to hold a mass registration day in the gymnasium and that she would lose her voice by the end of the day because of having to yell just to communicate with the students in front of her due to the masses of people in the gymnasium.

After a decade of doing that, registration became something students could complete over the phone sometime in the 1980s, and eventually evolved into the online system students use today.

Enrollment has become a growing concern for post-secondary institutions around the nation.

"Back then it was a circumference of 50 miles, beyond that it was Mankato State College territory... Now it doesn't matter because of the change in offering education. It comes down to better advertising and trying to keep the lowest tuition," Anderson said.

Anderson truly loved her job and although adapting had come easy to her, she saw a lot more changes coming in the near future and decided now would be a good time to retire.

"The last year I was feeling a lot of pressure. [The School of Graduate Studies] was like my baby. I worked on creating how-to pages for many of my responsibilities to hopefully assist the next person in my position," she said.

While 50 years of working with students may be more than enough for some people, Anderson is still helping students with their thesis and helping professors format their books in her retirement. She has also been enjoying going swimming regularly with a close friend at her local gym.

WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THE CORONAVIRUS?

By Anna Panek
Staff Writer

Overview

As explained by the Minnesota Department of Health, the Coronavirus is a family of viruses. However, in most cases, Coronavirus is referring to COVID-19.

It "is a viral respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus that has not been found in people before."

Cases

The first outbreak of COVID-19 was in China. The virus spreads person to person. As it is a respiratory virus, it can be spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

As of Sunday, April 5, there are 935 positive cases of the coronavirus in Minnesota, in

60 counties, including Stearns County, according to the Minnesota Department of Health.

In a situation report on April 5, World Health Organization (WHO) shared that there are 1,133,758 confirmed cases and 62,784 deaths from the virus. The entire world is now at a very high risk for having cases in the area.

Symptoms/Prevention

"The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, tiredness, and dry cough," according to the WHO.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also adds that shortness of breath is a symptom of COVID-19. These symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure.

Like the flu, to help prevent the spread: wash your hands, stay home if you are sick, and cover your sneezes and coughs.

How is it spreading?

The spread of COVID-19 seems to be quick in the U.S. It was declared a pandemic on March 11.

"A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect people and can spread between people sustainably. Because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads worldwide," according to the CDC's website.

The virus spreads primarily from person-to-person through the respiratory droplets in the mouth and nose. While people who are showing symptoms are contagious, a person can carry and transfer the disease without showing any symptoms. The virus can also be spread from contaminated surfaces. It is not known presently how long the virus stays on objects.

According to WHO, the spread of the virus has stopped in China and is

being contained.

Am I at risk?

People under the age of 20 are the least at risk with this virus, and the elderly and those with a pre-existing condition are at the highest risk. Young people without pre-existing conditions may test positive for COVID-19; however, they are less likely to show symptoms or need intense medical care because of it.

"Around 1 out of every 6 people who gets COVID-19 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty breathing," according to WHO.

If you have the symptoms and difficulty breathing, you should see a medical professional.

Should you wear a mask?

Many people have started to wear masks and WHO advises against that for most people.

"If you are not ill or looking after someone who is ill, then you are

wasting a [N-95] mask. There is a world-wide shortage of masks, so WHO urges people to use masks wisely," WHO's website said.

The CDC recommends that if you choose to wear a mask it should be homemade.

Vaccine

There is currently not a vaccine for COVID-19; however there are multiple vaccines in clinical evaluation according to the WHO on March 20.

Shelter-in-Place

On March 25, Governor Walz announced that Minnesota would be under Shelter-in-Place beginning on Friday, March 27 at 11:59 p.m. for two weeks through April 10. For a current list of executive orders by Walz, please see his newsroom page.

PRESIDENT WACKER HOSTS TOWN HALL MEETINGS TO INFORM STUDENTS

By Bethanie Barrios
Managing Editor

St. Cloud State University President Robbyn Wacker hosted a town hall meeting in mid-March. The meeting was set in place to address questions and concerns of SCSU's plans of action amid the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The meeting consisted of a PowerPoint from Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Daniel Gregory, SCSU Medical Clinic and Pharmacy Medical Director Brent Nielsen, Interim Vice President of Student Life and Development Clare Rahm, Deputy Chief Information Officer Phil Thorson and Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management Jason Woods.

Everyone presented at the meeting gave updates of the happenings on campus from academics, all the way to student services.

During the presentation, Wacker addressed some of the more growing concerns to faculty, staff, and students. Afterward, there was a Q & A forum for faculty, staff, and students to be able to ask questions to the panel.

Wacker said that there are still some topics in which the university is still in the process of making decisions on, such as how to keep day to day operations running, how to provide student support remotely, working with facilities and General Maintenance Workers (GMW) and deciding upon which buildings will be closed or which will remain open and limiting access.

SCSU Academics

Classes began March 30 through an alternative platform, with no sign that the spring semester would be extended. Final exams will also occur as scheduled during the week of May 4.

A change in the withdrawal

deadline for courses were discussed but has not yet been determined. As of late March, it was announced that there would be no reimbursement for those who withdrew from courses.

The limited number of courses that require students to be on campus, such as those with programs and equipment that can only be accessed at SCSU, are allowed to return while taking the proper safety precautions.

Faculty communicated the names of students who do not have technology access to fully integrate courses online.

Testing centers were said to remain open, however, proctoring will not be available across campus as of now. SCSU also worked with accreditation or licensure programs that require proctored exams. The licensure and accreditation companies that hold the requirements became more flexible with traditional requirements to work with colleges and universities, so students can reach their academic goals.

In light of the announcement by the Minnesota State system (MINNSTATE) on March 18 to cancel commencement ceremonies at all MINNSTATE institutions, Wacker said that the university is looking at various options for commencement to be delivered. It was also noted that graduating students should hold off buying caps and gowns.

Gregory noted however, the default for students is to stay at their permanent residence if at all possible. For students who wish to return to campus, they are asked to practice the safety precautions as outlined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

SCSU Employment

An executive order made by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz in mid-March, stated that state employees who are unable to work will be provided paid leave.

SCSU made the announcement on the same day that said all employees



President Wacker and other members of SCSU administration are hosting online town hall meetings weekdays at 9 a.m. Photo Credit: University Communications

who are not required to be on campus are to work from home.

Gregory said that for faculty who need access to systems that are only available on campus, that they would be welcome to return.

There are currently options for faculty and staff to access calls and emails while working from home. These individuals are encouraged to reach out to Information Technology for more information.

Facilities and GMWs are encouraged to keep in touch with Human Resources, to figure out assignments and responsibilities.

Wacker said that she is not certain if and when all workers will be allowed back on campus.

SCSU Student Services

Between 200 to 300 students are registered to be on campus during this time.

Residential halls are open for students who still wish to return, however, all students who live on campus are encouraged to move to their permanent address.

Refunds for housing and dining will be applied to student accounts in April. Parking permit refunds will

be prorated. Mail and packages will still be delivered and processed throughout the campus.

Buildings such as the library, bookstore, and Atwood Memorial Center will be closed or have adjusted hours.

Students, faculty, and staff who are locked out of a building that they need access to can use campus keys and campus cards to get in. There are no plans to restrict card access to on-site buildings.

Community members will be directed to visit the St. Cloud State University website to find contact information for the department they need to contact.

SCSU Health and Safety

Nielsen suggested that everybody should exercise the option to not return to campus at this time.

The SCSU Medical Clinic and Pharmacy will remain open. In the case that someone is ill, the clinic has established a hotline that students, faculty, and staff can contact at 320-308-3191. Also, if a student recognizes that they or their roommate may have been exposed to the Coronavirus, they must contact

officials at SCSU to report it including the residential hall director at the dorm they are residing in.

Final Thoughts

There is still uncertainty when everything will be back to normal.

However, this is a time for people to look out and care for each other and SCSU will work to "Do the unexpected by finding creative ways to go above and beyond in how we [SCSU] serve out our students," said Wacker.

It was also said by the panel that students are encouraged to show some grace, as situations are changing daily and there may be some confusion during communication.

Since Zoom is experiencing an overwhelming amount of business, publishing of the meeting may take up to 48 hours, but the administration is working to make it available to the public as soon as possible.

For more information on updates and plans, visit the St. Cloud State University website or contact the 24/7 helpline at 320-308-1588.

NEW POLICIES FOR HEALTH SERVICES IN AND AROUND ST. CLOUD

By Tim Speier
Investigative Reporter

Health services in and around St. Cloud have enacted new policies to protect patients and staff.

CentraCare

CentraCare announced on their website March 12 that they will no longer be allowing visitors at their locations.

"Effective immediately, we are no longer allowing visitors at CentraCare hospitals, long-term care facilities, senior housing, hospital outpatient departments, ambulatory surgery centers, and sites where individuals are housed in large numbers," the website said.

The announcement goes on to

say that exceptions will be made for visitors under special circumstances.

SCSU Medical Clinic and Pharmacy

On Wednesday, March 11, St. Cloud State University sent an email to faculty, staff, and students announcing changes to the clinic's procedures. In the email, SCSU's Medical Clinic and Pharmacy has made changes to their intake policy.

The Medical Clinic and Pharmacy is moving to a phone triage system in which they are requiring sick students to call ahead before going into the clinic. Students are also able to uptain medications by curbside pickup.

St. Cloud Veterans Affairs (VA)

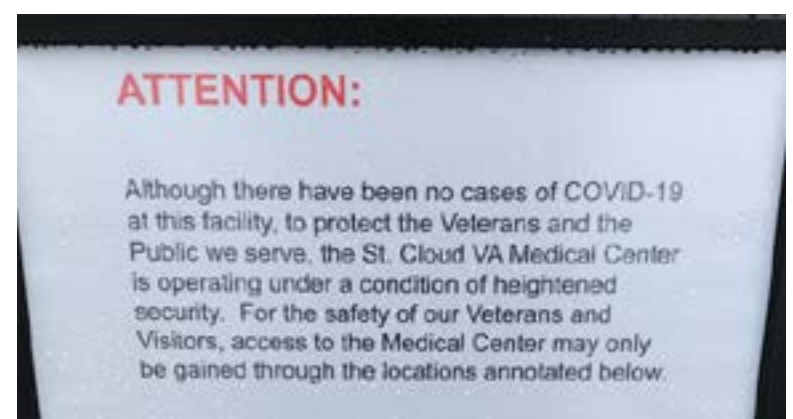
Beginning March 15, all veterans without an appointment or those with flu-like symptoms are asked to

call ahead before arriving at the St. Cloud VA Health Care System.

"We are open for business, but if you do not have a scheduled appointment or have flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough and shortness of breath, call us at 320-252-1670 and select Option 2, or, if after-hours, select Option 3 before you visit the medical center or local clinic. In addition to calling first, consider using virtual care options such as telehealth or My HealtheVet Secure Messaging," said the email.

There will now be limited entry to the facility along with vehicle screenings, said the email.

"In concert with CDC and MDH guidelines, the St. Cloud VA HCS is conducting screening of everyone at our facilities prior to allowing entry. Individuals arriving at St.



Sign outside VA hospital in St. Cloud. March 12, 2020. Photo credit: Tim Speier

Cloud VA facilities can anticipate altered vehicle traffic patterns and roadside screening points:

- All vehicle traffic must enter the St. Cloud Medical Center campus via the two Veterans Drive entrance roads. The 44th Ave. N/12th St. N. entrance is closed to all traffic except for MetroBus vehicles.

- All arriving vehicles will be routed through a roadside checkpoint

and met by a staff member. They will greet you, ask some screening questions, and guide you to the next steps of your visit. Please follow the instructions provided to you.

- After passing through the checkpoint, on weekdays all interior campus roads and parking lots are available for use. Some parking lots will not be available on weekends," said the email.

SCSU STUDENT TRAVELING ABROAD COMES HOME EARLY

By Anna Panek
Staff Writer

Spencer Rojas, a third year political science and international relations major, is currently studying abroad in Arnhem, Netherlands. Due to recent events around the Coronavirus, he has decided to end his trip early and return home to Dallas, Texas.

Rojas spoke to the *University Chronicle* through the phone of his plans to come back to the U.S., and the situation he is facing.

Rojas is studying at the HAN University of Applied Science. He is one of 94 students around the world studying abroad at that university; he is the only student from St. Cloud State University studying there.

Rojas was originally supposed to be returning in July as he was there for the spring semester, however, with the recent travel ban, he wanted to make sure that he would be able to return home.

Rojas said that SCSU and the Center for International Studies (CIS) has been very helpful throughout this process.

"St. Cloud has not recalled me. They haven't told me I need to come home," said Rojas.

With confirmed cases in the Netherlands continuing to rise, Rojas reached out to CIS to start discussing the protocol for this situation.

According to Rojas, the Netherlands has been taking a

different, more relaxed approach to the spread of the Coronavirus. Grocery stores were originally scavenged for supplies, but calmed down after a week.

According to the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment for Netherlands, there were 614 positive tests as of March 12, just days before he left for home.

Rojas said his biggest concern is what he will face when he returns to the U.S. next week. When he returns, he will be self-isolating for two weeks. This is to avoid potentially contaminating anyone if he had been unknowingly exposed to the virus.

In contrast to the panic in the media, Rojas said he is just taking it one day at a time.

"I can't do anything about the situation, so there is no point in me getting worked up. ... I am handling it well. St. Cloud [State University] is handling it well," said Rojas.

When reflecting on his decision on studying abroad, Rojas was glad he did.

"I am so grateful for the time I've had here. I wouldn't trade it for the world. If I knew what was going to happen, I still would have gone."

Rojas also stated that while he won't have time to study abroad again during his degree, he plans on traveling internationally after graduation.

For anyone traveling, it is important to check with the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention for the most current regulations regarding travel.



SCSU student Spencer Rojas studying abroad travelled back to his home state of Texas due to the Coronavirus. Photo courtesy: Spencer Rojas

CORONAVIRUS AFFECTING ST. CLOUD TRANSPORTATION

By Matt Auvil
Variety Editor

As Stearns County faces its first positive case of the Coronavirus, the question of local and student transportation comes to concern. As Uber, Lyft, taxi services and the Metro Bus system are used daily, the safety risk is nearing its height.

Uber and Lyft rates for rides have remained at a standard rate in Saint Cloud. However, the Uber website has laid out any and all information regarding rides, Uber Eats and driver health. Uber has stated that any driver that has been tested and have found their results positive will be required to self quarantine for a minimum of 14 days and will be offered financial assistance.

With the worries of face to face contamination, Uber has said anyone who has ordered through Uber eats will have the option for the customer

to have the driver to leave all food near the door or waiting in the lobby of their building.

In the case of Lyft, they are working in a similar manner but have taken an initiative to keeping all vehicles clean. The Lyft website has partnered with the company *Everyone*, who has been placing hand sanitizers and cleaning supplies in over 200,000 of their driver's vehicles.

The St. Cloud Taxi Service had told the *University Chronicle* that the taxi cars will now be carrying lysol wipes and hand sanitizers and will continue to serve the community regardless of the virus.

The Metro Bus system had released an announcement on their website which stated the buses will be working at regular times and all buses will be equipped with the proper cleaning supplies. All buses will remain on their original schedule unless supervisors are told otherwise.



Metro Bus cuts hours but continues to run. Photo credit: Tony Langfellow



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WALZ CLOSES BARS AND RESTAURANTS, ENACTS SHELTER IN PLACE

By Brendan Janostin
News Editor

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has issued several executive orders during the month of March aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 to vulnerable populations and preventing the number of hospitalizations from expanding beyond the state's capacity to provide medical care.

On March 16, Walz issued executive orders 20-03, 20-04 and 20-05. Executive order 20-04 ordered the closure of all restaurants, bars, clubs, theaters, performance venues, fitness centers and entertainment facilities, including amusement parks and bowling alleys. The order does contain exceptions for dine in services that are deemed "essential" and takeout, curbside and delivery food services.

Executive order 20-05 expands

Minnesota's unemployment trust fund to grant benefits to workers who are left temporarily unemployed by executive order 20-04. The order also suspends the surcharge made by employers and removes the wait period so workers can receive benefits immediately. Workers affected by executive order 20-04 can apply for unemployment benefits at uimn.org, and are encouraged to apply online rather than call the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Program.

Executive order 20-03 takes steps to protect residents of veterans homes, giving them the power to eliminate all in person visitations, denying admission or readmission to any resident or potential resident that hasn't been screened for symptoms of COVID-19, or is under investigation for COVID-19, prohibit people from working or volunteering at a veterans home unless they've been screened for symptoms at the start of every shift and show no symptoms

associated with COVID-19.

Walz issued three new executive orders on March 20 which sought to prevent individuals from price gouging "essential consumer goods or services," which the order defines as "goods or services vital and necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the public" and expanded the power of the Minnesota Department of Human Services to "seek federal authority to change or waive all federal requirements applicable to its programs and services" and waive restrictions and regulations that limit who can access their services, which aims to extend coverage to Minnesotans most likely to be affected by COVID-19, such as the elderly, the disabled, and those with mental illnesses.

On March 26, Walz issued a statewide stay at home order during an online press conference, which mandates that all Minnesotans who don't work for an essential

industry stay indoors as much as possible and limit contact with others to a bare minimum.

"We're going to limit movement outside the home beyond essential needs. Effective Friday, March 27 at 11:59 p.m. to Friday, April 10 ... we have weighed out the variables here, we believe at this point in time, as of today, that buys us enough time," said Walz during the press conference in late March.

Walz stressed during the conference that the key objective of the stay at home order is to reduce the number of infected people that require hospitalization at any one time so that Minnesota doesn't have a shortage of ICU beds or ventilator masks, which would prevent the state from a shortage of providing lifesaving care to hospitalized patients.

"What we do know is that 15 percent of the population will require some type of hospitalization. And

of that, the most concerning piece is, five percent require ICU... The objective of everything we're doing here is, it's too late to flatten the curve ... so what our objective is now is to move the infection rate out, slow it down and buy time," said Walz.

During the stay at home order, Minnesotans will be strongly advised to remain indoors as much as possible and avoid close contact with other people, with exceptions for activities like grocery shopping, outdoor exercise and essential travel. Minnesotans are also encouraged to practice social distancing whenever possible while outside.

Workers who provide critical services are exempt from the stay at home order. This includes jobs in healthcare and public health, law enforcement, child care, food and agriculture, news media, water and wastewater and critical manufacturing.

CHANGES from Page 2

call the Human Resources office at 320-308-3203."

Campus operation will continue as usual, including offices, will be

open to provide the service that they offer.

The end of the email contained a reminder from Wacker that this is a

fluid situation and the university will continue to make decisions based on the evolving situation with help from public health officials and

the Minnesota State leadership.

"Remember, if you feel sick, stay at home or in your residence hall. Be hyper vigilant about washing

your hands and not touching your face. The Minnesota Department of Health has asked that we practice social distancing if possible," wrote Wacker in the close of her email. "We will be in touch!"

STUDENTS FOR CHOICE SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD

By Jessica Charpentier
Staff Writer

The Students For Choice organization came to show their support for the services that Planned Parenthood offers to the community and to display their pro-choice viewpoints.

The event was also sponsored by the St. Cloud State Women's Center.

Planned Parenthood offers emergency contraception, birth control, mammograms, Pap tests, pregnancy testing, Transgender Hormone therapy, testing for STDs, abortions, and education.

Each year, Planned Parenthood educates more than 70,000 people in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North Dakota. Planned Parenthood has programs to educate elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities, substance abuse facilities, and more.

Topics of education include human growth development, healthy relationships, sexual health behaviors, society and culture, and planned parenthood.

"That's why we're here because we feel that people should have access and feel safe ... and be able to get the full spectrum of care whether that's vaccines, testing, screenings, checkups, or reproductive services," said President of the Students For

Choice organization McKenna Klaphake.

The Planned Parenthood rally has been happening consistently since 2017. Students For Choice has partnered with Planned Parenthood in the past as well as National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), Pro-Choice Minnesota, the Women's Center, and College Democrats. Students For Choice also works to educate others about reproductive health and rights.

"Every week we do educational programming and talk about a different topic ... You learn more and I think at the end of the day, we're always learning as activists," said Klaphake.

The Women's Center helped start Students For Choice and the organization "It's On Us." Students For Choice was started out of the Women's Center, but doesn't meet there. Students For Choice also spend time raising awareness about "fake women health centers," one of which they believe to be the Pregnancy Resource Center in St. Cloud.

"The Pregnancy Resource Center is across our campus and they're a fake reproductive healthcare facility and they don't provide people all of the options that they deserve when facing an unwanted pregnancy or even just to get basic check ups and screenings," said Klaphake.

Klaphake also said that Students for Choice went to Student for you,"



Planned Parenthood supporters took to the street to support reproductive rights across the street from the Planned Parenthood in St. Cloud on Saint Germain Street Feb. 29. Photo credit: Jessica Charpentier

Government and to the university administration about the Pregnancy Resource Center and how the association doesn't disclose that they're religiously affiliated.

Students For Choice also believe that the Pregnancy Resource Center doesn't provide enough services to people, but Planned Parenthood does.

"Planned Parenthood does, they're nonjudgmental ... they're educators ... At the end of the day they don't care what you decide, they're going to help you decide whatever is best

Klaphake said.

Pregnancy Resource Center Executive Director Julie Spore commented on the matter.

"Pregnancy Resource Center is a Christian non profit medical clinic," said Spore.

The pregnancy Resource Center offers pregnancy testing, STD testing, ultrasounds, parenting classes, bible study, and other services.

"All of our services are performed under the medical license of a local physician. We have a Nurse

Manager who oversees our medical clinic and employ five nurses, two volunteer nurses, a volunteer Physician Assistant, a volunteer Nurse Practitioner, and a volunteer OB/GYN Doctor," said Spore.

"That's why we are here because we feel that people should have access and feel safe." McKenna Klaphake said.



MAKE THE UNEXPECTED THE EXPECTATION

By Bethanie Barrios
Managing Editor

Hello to all of our readers who have been keeping up with the news from the *University Chronicle*. On behalf of all staff, we are thankful and humbled by your attention to our reports.

While the nation is working through these trying times, as an editorial staff we are working around the clock to update students with the latest and most accurate information possible.

However, I am writing this article as a message to all students from a current student.

I am a junior at St. Cloud State University. I am also living at home, for the time being, awaiting

the inevitable outcomes of not only my third year but the outcomes of all of my friends experiencing their first or last year at SCSU.

I can understand how news, broadcasts, e-mails and the endless line of empty grocery shelves make it seem like the world and our lives are coming to an end.

We can't seem to be released of the constant breaking news headlines and press conferences that tell us how much worse the situation is becoming.

However, after a conversation I had, someone pointed out to me that while we are in the middle of the biggest international crisis since 2001...it's not all bad.

Just take a look around on any social media platform. For every

post or article that expresses the severity of the situation, there is another talking about community members extending their hands and hearts to help friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

School buses are delivering food to kids who may have food insecurity at home.

Everyone in education is offering help to parents who may not know the technology, or how to help their kids through certain assignments.

Citizens all around the world are doing their part to help each other.

We must not forget that for the last four years, the citizens of the United States have been divided and conflicted with everything and everyone around them. This includes culturally, socially, politically and in

many other ways.

However, it's enlightening and refreshing to hear of strangers in communities practicing common courtesy and kindness. After every interaction, you will often hear the words, "I wish health for you and your family."

So, while the world may be in disarray living in isolation and sanitizing all of the crooks and corners of their homes, we are also in a constant state of thinking and caring about other people.

One of the most important phrases I am hearing comes from our St. Cloud State University President Robbyn Wacker.

"Do the unexpected."

It's by this motto that we should all be asking ourselves, "What's

something unexpected I could do to help the people around me?"

It can be a gesture as simple as a text message or phone call to check in on how people are doing. It can also be something as far reached as donating food, supplies, or money to assist those families or individuals who may need more care.

While this motto seems to be very fitting for a time like this, I encourage anyone who reads this to exercise it not only now, but even when the Coronavirus is in our past.

Because the best thing we can do in a community is care for one another and be there for each other.

Let's help make the unexpected become the expectation for us, our communities and for the next generations.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
SENIORS**



Congrats to the class of 2020!

Hans Bristol

Tony Langfellow

Francis Jae Hyuk

Caitlyn Jordan

Jeremy Lagos

Mark Wasson



Sincerely,

University Chronicle Staff

How COVID-19 IS IMPACTING THE MOVIE INDUSTRY

By Jake Mussman
Staff Writer

In case you haven't noticed, we're in a bit of a situation right now. Since the Coronavirus strain known as COVID-19 began to appear in the United States, things have been weird. Specifically, in the movie industry, we are seeing things that haven't occurred in decades. AMC, Marcus, and Regal Theaters—three of the largest chains in the country—are all closed indefinitely.

Movie releases are being pushed back to the fall or simply moved to streaming. What does this mean for an industry that was already enduring a bit of a transformation?

The first sign of industry concern was when the new James Bond film, *No Time to Die*, had its release date pushed back to November. The immediate take from critics was that this was an overly cautious move by a franchise concerned about its worldwide audience's ability to see the film. Fast forward to March 12, the NBA suspended their season and the United States as a whole has been in quarantine ever since.

Big budget blockbusters have gone the way of *No Time to Die*, while smaller budget movies are being released as in-home rentals. Universal was the first studio to make this call, releasing *The Hunt*, *The Invisible Man*, and *Emma* for \$20 on sites like iTunes and Amazon. Future releases, like the new *Trolls* movie, will be available online at the time of their original release date.

After movies started to change release dates, it was only a matter

of time until the theaters themselves started to close. With the onset of social distancing, gatherings at movie theaters were a necessary cut to be made. Marcus Theaters, the owner of Waite Park's Parkwood Cinema, showed its last movies March 17.

The U.S. hasn't seen mass closures like this since the Flu Pandemic of 1918. According to the book, *The History of American Film* by Benjamin P. Hampton, movie production and releases during the pandemic were brought to a halt. Movie theaters were forced into closure, similar to what is happening today. People saw the pandemic as the end of movies. But the industry bounced back and went on to keep bouncing back through every major historical event, from the Great Depression to The Great Recession.

This brings to light the major question being asked right now, is this the final blow to the theater business in its war against streaming?

In 1918, there was no competition for the theaters. Streaming services were a century away, so people were left to wait around for the theaters to reopen. There's no telling when theaters will open their doors again because we do not know when this pandemic will end. But when they eventually do reopen, will there be movies to show? Can studios afford to play the waiting game or will they cave to the online market?

Simply put, the movie industry is in trouble. Box office returns are already down over 11 percent from last year, and that margin is only going to widen. We might see some smaller studios close, as well as smaller theaters. The industry has already asked for a federal bailout, but it's a crowded field for help right



Marcus Parkwood theater remains empty amidst the Coronavirus. Photo credit: Jake Mussman

now.

My prediction is this will affect the movie industry throughout the next decade. We will see smaller production lineups from the major studios, and maybe a boom of independent films in the coming years. Similar to the New Hollywood Era of the 1970s, studios may look to smaller budgets—better profit margin projects.

As for the theater chains, it may take some time, but they will be back. There is still a considerable difference in the viewing experience of the home versus the theater. As long as there are movies to see, people will go to see them. As Mark Twain said, the reports of the death of movie theaters have been greatly exaggerated, or something like that.



DELTA PHI EPSILON RAISES \$951 FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH EATING DISORDERS

By Jessica Charpentier
Staff Writer

Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD) week was held in the last week of February. The sorority, Delta Phi Epsilon did a different theme everyday and had an "All Shapes and Sizes Fashion Show" to raise money for ANAD. The Fashion show had a silent auction, a speaker who talked about their personal experience with an eating disorder, and a candlelight vigil for those who lost their lives and those recovering from eating disorders.

\$951 was raised by Delta Phi Epsilon.

Delta Phi Epsilon kicked off the week with "No Makeup Monday" which offered makeup wipes for those who wanted to remove their makeup, and a mirror to write a positive message on.

"We encourage people to go out bare-face and embrace their natural beauty as they are," said Delta Phi Epsilon member Kris Johnson.

"Trash Your Insecurity Tuesday" allowed people stopping by at the booth to write down an insecurity of

theirs, crumple it up, and throw it in the trash.

Wednesday's "Why You're Better Than Barbie" was all about the unrealistic expectations Barbie promoted in the past.

"In the past, they promoted this as the perfect woman, in reality... if Barbie was a real person, she would most likely be labeled as anorexic," said Delta Phi Epsilon member Morgan Woodward, who hosted the event.

"Post It Up Thursday" gave people the chance to write something down that makes them feel beautiful and stick it to a poster board. "By pointing out something that you like about yourself it's statistically proven that it makes you feel better about yourself," Woodward said.

"Fearless Friday" allowed people passing by to sign a pledge of acceptance. Parts of the pledge read "I will accept myself as I am" and "I will accept others as they are."

ANAD offers help for those struggling with free services including support groups, an eating disorder helpline, screening tools, recovery, and treatment referral.

"Eating disorders are one of the

most deadly mental illnesses and there's not a lot of people in this world that specialize in that and know how to help people with eating disorders," said Woodward.

ANAD also works to educate people about the statistics related to eating disorders. Johnson acknowledged the side effects and facts about eating disorders that most people don't know about.

"If you lose too much weight and you don't have a lot of fat on your body, your body needs to retain heat somehow, and without the fat on your body, you grow a lot of hair," said Johnson.

On Friday, Delta Phi Epsilon had a poster board with facts about eating disorders and listed many of the different disorders including Anorexia Nervosa, Avoidant-Restrictive Food Intake Disorder, Bulimia Nervosa, Binge Eating Disorder, and more. Woodward said that only 1 in 10 people with eating disorders find treatment, statistics can be found on the ANAD website.

"When you bring awareness and show people the signs and how to help somebody, it can help save lives," said Woodward.



Delta Phi Epsilon supported the Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD) organization to illuminate body positivity and the reality of eating disorders. Photo credit: Jessica Charpentier

ANNA'S DECLASSIFIED COLLEGE SURVIVAL GUIDE: TIP #6

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR NEWLY ONLINE CLASSES

By Anna Panek
Staff Writer

Recently, our university has converted to an alternate online learning format. Instead of trying to force normal into our current situation, it is better to start adapting so we can start thriving in this new normal. For some students, suddenly having online classes is a blessing, but for others this is uncharted territory. Today, we will focus on how each of us can adapt and thrive to our new class format.

Step 1: Have a device that you can use to comfortably access your courses

For classes where writing is necessary, it is probably best to have a laptop or a desktop computer, but if you just need to access Zoom, a tablet, or even your phone might suffice. If you do not have your own device, contact your school or college (i.e. the College of Liberal Arts), as they have been reaching out to students and offering support in any way

they can.

Step 2: Have a consistent internet connection.

For students who relied on campus internet to complete their coursework, not having the university open can be a big problem. Local companies like Spectrum and Xfinity are offering free wifi to students who qualify due to income and situation.

Step 3: Keep a routine

While this may seem a bit impossible with many cancellations and changes, it is important to keep a routine to stay on track in your classes. At St. Cloud State, if professors would like to still meet synchronously (everyone meeting at the same time via Zoom or D2L), they must meet during the regularly scheduled time. Even if you are now attending classes in your pajamas, try not to sleep in until noon every day.

When classes resumed in their alternative format on March 30, there were only five weeks left of the semester before finals. While professors may adjust their previous requirements and assignments, content will still need to be covered

and students still need to be assessed.

Even with online classes, professors may expect up to two hours of studying time for every hour of class time. It is possible that your professor may leave even more work up to you now that classes are not face to face, so make sure you schedule that time in now.

Step 4: Get organized

It is much easier for students to keep track of their assignments when our professors are reminding us two or three days a week when we sit in class. For most of us, that will no longer be happening. Unless all of your classes are meeting via Zoom for the full time, a lot of deadlines and reminders will be left up to you.

Through our Outlook accounts provided by the university, there is a calendar feature that you can use to keep track of Zoom meetings, assignments, and assessments. Otherwise there are other virtual calendars, such as Google Calendar. Some of you may be old school like me and keep a paper planner. I prefer paper planners because of the satisfaction of crossing off items

when they are completed.

Step 5: Create a study space

This tip is especially for those who moved back home from living on or near campus. For those who no longer have their own room to study, it is important for you to find a new quiet place to work. Trying to work on homework or attend Zoom classes at your dining room table will likely be filled with distractions and reduce your productivity.

Maybe there is a spare bedroom you can convert to your office, or maybe there is a quiet corner of the basement, or maybe you simply need to create shifts with your new "roommates" on who gets to use the dining room table as their office throughout the day. In this time of constant change, creativity is a necessity.

Step 6: Create virtual study groups

Humans are social beings and that need for social interaction will only increase the longer we are social distancing. Borrowing from a previous survival tip, study groups are one of the keys to success in

college. While those need to be online now, there are many options from messaging groups, email chains, Zoom meetings, or maybe your professor even created a discussion board for students to answer each other's questions.

Step 7: Get motivated

You can do this! While we may not have survived a pandemic before (and hopefully never need to again), we have survived interruptions to our classes before, namely standardized testing and spring break. Every day is one day closer to our graduation and one day closer to our future careers. American author, H. Jackson Brown Jr. advised, "The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today." Our future careers depend on us being adaptable and life-long learners.

Everyone is a different style of learner, but this a basic framework of how to be successful in online classes. We can learn and adapt for the remaining five weeks of the semester. Our hard work will pay off. Stay healthy, my fellow Huskies.

If you enjoyed these tips, please check out my previous ones at universitychron.com.

ANIMAL CROSSING: NEW HORIZONS MAKES A CRAFTY RETURN

By Ryan Schoonover
Contributing Writer

The *Animal Crossing* video games by Nintendo are popular for their simple take on the life simulator genre, putting players in the shoes of a human character who is moving into a village where all the residents are anthropomorphic animals.

Once they move in, players can play the game any way they want. They can pay to expand and decorate their house: befriend the residents: fill up the local museum with bugs, fish, and fossils: beautify the neighborhood: partake in a "turnip" stock market: and so much more. The variety means there's bound to be something everyone will find appealing.

The latest entry in this series is *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* which just released on the Nintendo Switch. Unlike the previous games where the player is moving into an existing village, they're creating one by flying to a deserted island where they'll gradually grow a community on it. As a result of starting from scratch, the game starts much differently from the other games, but fundamentally, the game is very much the same as its predecessors.

The main difference *New Horizons* has from past games is the introduction of a crafting system where items like tree branches and stones can be used to build tools and furniture. This changes how the game is played, since resource management has never been something players had to worry about.



The latest entry in this popular series is *Animal Crossing: New Horizons*. Photo credit: Nintendo

Tools break after they're used in this installment, which is a mechanic that hinders the experience. In the earliest days of playing, the fishing rod will become one of the most important tools for players trying to earn "bells" quickly and having to replace it every 10 times it's used can get annoying quickly. Eventually, more durable tools can be acquired, but having access to indestructible tools would be welcome from the beginning.

That's the main problem with the crafting system, it is constantly used to create things that already existed in previous games. It helps make the concept of living on a deserted island more immersive, but it takes away features that longtime players to the series are used to.

One key feature to *Animal Crossing* games are the characters

that players will live with. Initially there are two characters who move onto the island with the player character. These characters can be enjoyable to chat with, but most of their dialogue is one-dimensional.

For example, the athletic characters will talk about working out every other sentence, which is disappointing, but fortunately, players don't have to spend much time with them if they don't want to. These characters do serve some purpose, as they make the island feel inhabited just by their presence and interacting with them can provide items as rewards.

Speaking of rewards, the game has a point system that can be very addictive to collect. These points are called Nook Miles which are easily earned just by playing the game, but a few simple missions are always

available to entice players into playing for just a few more minutes to complete the task.

Nook Miles are first introduced as an alternative currency to pay for the player's house, which makes the first few hours of the game turn into an opportunity to try everything there is to do in order to earn enough Nook Miles to pay the house bill, but they can also be spent on features like a larger inventory, trips to new islands to collect more resources, invite new characters to move onto the player's island.

Fortunately, the core of *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* is still a blast to play despite the crafting system.

Rate:



4/ 5 Huskies

DONATIONS SOAR IN PAPER AIRPLANE TOURNAMENT

By Ryan Schoonover
Contributing Writer

The Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) Fraternity hosted a paper airplane tournament fundraiser in early March at the Atwood Memorial Center Ballroom.

The event was open for anyone to participate in as long as they brought a \$5 entry fee that would be donated toward suicide research through the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

A total of \$77 was raised during the event.

“Suicide prevention is a very close cause to us, so we support it

as much as possible,” said Arthur Taracks, the organizer of the event. “We had some wiggle room with our events this year and decided to do something out of the box and try something new.”

This was the fraternity’s first time hosting a paper airplane tournament.

Entrants had until 6:45 p.m. that evening to fold their paper airplanes. During this time, people could make multiple airplanes to try several different models and to pick their best planes for the tournament.

“I was really into origami when I was in elementary school and middle school,” said Luke Hill, one of the competitors as he was folding an airplane.

Some people were using this time to search for complicated airplanes on the internet to increase their odds, and one “plane” that made the rounds was shaped like a ring.

Before competing in a competition for the grand prize of a \$25 Visa gift card, two trials were held to let the entrants practice throwing their paper airplanes for distance, as well as accuracy. In both of these trials, everyone participating stood behind a line marked on the floor and took turns throwing their planes.

In the first trial, practicing for distance, some of the planes flew more than 50 feet from the starting point.

In the accuracy trial, a small target

was put on the floor about 30 feet from the starting point. Nobody was successful with landing on the target, with the closest plane landing a couple feet away from it.

After the two trials, an announcement was made that five paper airplanes were needed for a tournament.

While the competitors rushed to fold more planes, new markers were being added to the arena. In place of the target from the accuracy trial was a larger target with a five marked on it. In between this target and the starting line were two targets with a two marked on each of them.

The entrants now had to combine

their skills in achieving distance and accuracy to win. Landing on the targets awarded points identical to its number marker, and missing the targets, but traveling 15 feet awarded one point. If anyone was daring enough to throw their plane 70 feet far, they would earn 10 points.

When the tournament started, each competitor would throw all five of their paper airplanes one after another to set their score. Many people were able to land a plane in one of the targets, but nobody was able to reach the 10-point mark in the back.

With the highest possible score of 50 points available, the winner with a score of 13 points was Jefferson Mboutchom, one of three children competing in the tournament.

THE WAR NEVER STOPS FOR CALL OF DUTY - CoD WARZONE

By Dominique Gadacz
Staff Writer

Once again, the world of gaming returns to the franchise that never ends, Call of Duty. It really wasn’t too long ago when the new mobile version of the game released, which was the franchise’s initial attempt at entering into the vastly expanding ‘battle royale’ genre.

It was a massive hit with over 148 million total downloads in just the first month alone, beating every other battle royal themed mobile launch, such as Fortnite and Player Unknown Battlegrounds, by a landslide. It was just an interesting turn for them to start off by creating a phone app for such an action-packed category of gaming first, as opposed to a computer update or a console before moving on to a smaller screen.

Luckily, working in reverse seemed to pay off as the success of their mobile app has prompted the most recent developers, Activision and Infinity Ward, to shift to bigger screens with their latest addition to the series, Call of Duty: Warzone.

As a staple of the franchise, Warzone follows the basic first-person shooter gameplay mechanics, but that’s not the only thing similar. This new title centers around the world and aesthetics from the 16th installment of the series, CoD: Modern Warfare, which told the story of an American CIA officer teaming up with the British SAS forces along with a group of rebels to help defend them from Russian invaders trying to take over the fictional country Urzikstan.

In Warzone, the developers brought back some of the most popular fan-favorite locations from within Verdansk, as well as new original ones for the fans to explore and keep overall gameplay exciting.

Obviously, after a while of so many different companies pumping out their own version of the same style of game all at once, they all

start to feel like they’re not just similar in genre anymore, but almost like they’re the same game just with different wallpapers on them.

After all, the battle royale theme includes names like Fortnite, Player Unknown, Apex Legends, H1Z1, Minecraft Battle Royal (for all the OG gamers), and even Tetris 99 could be considered a part of the category. With this abundance of battle royale games, the real question becomes how does one truly set themselves apart from all the others?

Warzone intends to tackle that question starting with the feature that makes any royale game what it is, the free-for-all mechanic. While most typical battle royale modes are 1v99, Warzone has decided to up the ante with a 3v147 method. That’s right, there are a total of 150 players in a single server, and when the game first dropped, gamers would get randomly paired with two ‘squadmates’ if they couldn’t fill in the two extra spots in the pre-game Play menu themselves, and together they had to work as a team to achieve victory.

The teamwork dynamic is not necessarily a new concept, as squads can be formulated all the time in similar games, it is just the fact that one couldn’t play solo if they wanted to that’s not so common. When you have to look out for fellow teammates, interesting strategies must be formulated to accommodate everybody, which makes things more interesting.

But, after a few days’ time, the developers decided to add a solo option, much to the delight of many Warzone fans. Of course, true to battle royale form, there is a slowly constricting zone – this time consisting of poisonous gas – forcing all the players together as time goes on.

What’s also new is their second game mode. Now, introducing various modes of gameplay is nothing new in an online game, as the internet allows for new and



Call of Duty is back with a new free to play opportunity. Photo activation

progressing updates to be made to the software at any time, keeping the game relevant.

So it’s no surprise that Warzone is kicking off its debut with two different options to play between, the basic Battle Royale mode, as just described, and the fresh Plunder mode. Plunder is unique, nevertheless, as it is all about collecting that sweet cold hard in-game virtual cash, something that hasn’t been seen before. Sure, a lot of royale games can allow players to collect some form of in-game currency, but never have they dedicated an entire mode to it before.

You still drop down into battle, but the risks are significantly lower. The toxic gas zone is eliminated granting gamers the freedom to explore the map leisurely, players respawn after every time they die so they can continue competing, and instead of a fight to the death, it’s the first squad or player to make a million dollars, wins.

Due to the focus being on the money and not so much the killing, looting for weapons is not a priority in Plunder mode, although it doesn’t hurt to pick up a few anyway as there is the chance you can take any cash an enemy player might

drop after shooting them, as well as defend yourself. There are many ways to obtain cash, from acquiring cash drop crates, stealing from other players, and even robbing the in-game banks, but be warned, those banks are outfitted with anti-theft alarms. But Warzone prides itself on the mantra, ‘the greater the risk, the greater the reward.’

If gamers can successfully pull off a bank heist, the payoff is enormous. Caution must be headed, as the more money a squad accumulates, the greater the danger they put themselves in. Players with the top three highest cash amounts on hand will appear as red dots on others’ Tac Maps, or mini map, making them easier to be tracked and eliminated, forcing players to rethink their own tactics.

To combat this issue, the money can be deposited at either a Cash Deposit Site, or in a portable Cash Deposit Balloon. Cash Deposit Sites are basically what they sound, a safe spot to deposit cash making sure it never gets lost. Sounds simple enough, but with 150 players trying to get to the same place simultaneously, it can be a bloodbath just trying to ensure your money is secure.

That is why players can also invest in the Cash Deposit Balloon, a portable deposit dispenser to place money in. No matter where on the map one is, if they possess one of these, they can deposit cash discreetly from anywhere. These, too, come with limitations though, as they come in a limited supply that costs money to obtain, before anything can be deposited into them, then when you do, there is a maximum amount per balloon deposit. If a player plans on buying one, it’s recommended it gets used as soon as possible, cause the longer one holds onto it, the higher the chances of having it looted if they get killed.

If that’s still not enough, the game also comes with a series of challenges for gamers to complete. Although Warzone is essentially a free to play game, one can purchase the iconic battle pass which allows players to unlock all kinds of special perks including approximately 100 tiers of new content, CoD points, new weapons and their blueprints, more skins, tons of in-game prizes, and even release a new playable character known as Ghost.

Since its release, Call of Duty: Warzone has already proven itself

PIXAR CASTS A SERVICEABLE SPELL WITH ONWARD

By Myles Hoglund
Staff Writer

Ever since their 1995 debut with *Toy Story*, Pixar has been churning out creative and imaginative films like it was nothing. True, they have a couple of snags (I'm looking at you *Cars* franchise), but you can't deny that their legacy of films will last for a long time (for better or worse).

The best element of *Onward* is surprisingly the story, I mean Pixar is known for having great stories, but this one in particular stood out to me. Without giving too much away, the story goes from a father-centered direction to more of a brother-centered direction and it surprisingly works.

There are quite a few moments where the two brothers Ian and Barley really start to connect and that did make me care for them rather quickly. The third act especially makes this element even stronger; it even plays up more of the fantasy element in a more creative way that was sorely lacking up until this point.

But that story and third act doesn't make up for the rest of the film. The more suburban-fantasy world the filmmakers created is shockingly not that creative, it's not as lazy as something like Netflix's *Bright*, but it's still not that engaging. Most of the fantastical elements in this film are merely surface level, instead of raccoons you have unicorns, instead of people you have elves and trolls, instead of cops you have cyclops and centaurs.

Comparing this world to a similar idea in another Disney film, *Zootopia*, it's very weak. The world of *Zootopia* is filled with little details

like different homes, different modes of transportation and even different weather to cater to all those animals. It was a world you wanted to know more about, you're genuinely curious how everything works, but I can't find anything creative or intriguing about the world of *Onward*.

Another problem about the film would be the comedy. Not that it's ever annoying or obnoxious, but it never felt like it wanted to be a comedy. Which is fine, don't get me wrong, but if you're going to have comedic elements in your film, either go all the way with it or just don't do it.

The jokes in this film weren't clever or interesting and again, compare this to *Zootopia* and you have tons and tons of visual gags, wordplay, and animal specific puns that make the world not only engaging, but hilarious.

One minor, but significant element of the film is Specter (played by Lena Waithe), Pixar's first openly gay character. Now when article after article started talking about this subject, I was interested but also skeptical. Disney had a similar situation with 2017's *Beauty and the Beast* with LeFou being paraded as Disney's first openly gay character, but instead of it contributing to the story in a meaningful way and give the LGBTQ community valid representation, it's a blink and you'll miss it.

I was hoping that Pixar wouldn't make the same mistake but surprisingly, they did. This cyclops who's a cop has only one line that makes a reference to her homosexuality and that's "It's not easy being a new parent. My

girlfriend's daughter got me pulling my hair out, okay?"

Like with LeFou, it doesn't further the story and the line is needlessly censored in Russia and the film itself being banned in several middle eastern countries, according to Deadline. Now does it bother me that Pixar has an openly gay character in their movie? Absolutely not. But what bothers me is that it feels more like pandering to the LGBTQ community rather than giving them meaningful representation, I genuinely think that the LGBTQ community would be very happy if their representation wasn't just a throwaway line from a very minor character, but instead a major player in the story that gives the LGBTQ community someone to root for.

It's actually sad that animated television shows like *Arthur* and *Steven Universe* and films like *Brokeback Mountain* have better representation than a Pixar film.

But overall, *Onward* is alright. It's nowhere near Pixar's terrible quality like the *Cars* films or *Monsters University*, nor does it reach the Oscar worthy heights like *Wall-E*, *Finding Nemo* or *Inside Out*. I'm glad Pixar is pushing itself away from making sequels and instead going in a more original direction, but I'm hoping their next film, *Soul*, is better.

If you have kids then I'm sure they'll have a good time, but if you're looking for an imaginative, funny and interesting film, then you'll be instead feeling empty and wanting more. With this in mind, *Onward* gets a score of 2 out of 5 huskies.



Onward is Disney Pixars newest surprising release. Photo credit: Disney Pixar All Rights Reserved

Rate:



2/ 5 Huskies

HIGH FIDELITY IS THE REMAKE WE DIDN'T KNOW WE WANTED

By Jake Mussman
Staff Writer

"What really matters is what you like, not what you are like," and I like *High Fidelity*. An unlikely redux of the 1995 novel and 2000 film of the same name, *High Fidelity* stars Zoe Kravitz as Rob—the replacement for John Cusack.

The show trades Chicago for Crown Heights, New York City, but chooses to keep a record store as the centerpiece. Rob works through heartbreak in the only way she knows how, by breaking down her top five all-time heartbreaks, of which there is a new addition. Rob announces in the pilot, "coming in at number 5 with a bullet, Russell McCormack."

Besides the location change and the gender swapping of the lead character, much of the same beats of the original are present. The fourth wall breaking narration by Rob, constant "Top 5 All Time..." rankings, and an endearing supporting cast, are once again the draw of *High Fidelity*. People come for the familiarity of the novel and movie, but Kravitz is the reason they stick around.

The show is basically a 30-minute hangout with Kravitz every episode, and that is all that is needed for a successful series. She is interesting, withholding, and above all, cool as the lead. It honestly shocked me when I did an IMDB deep dive, this is her first true lead role. It feels like she has been the biggest star on screen for years by the way she commands the show.

In the movie, I liked Cusack as Rob, but I never really bought him as a good boyfriend worthy of the affection he seemingly demanded (that felt mean, but he's a fictional character so whatever). Kravitz's Rob, on the other hand, is more self-reflective and self-reflexive. She is not without her faults, but she is easier to root for.

High Fidelity is accessible for those who haven't seen the movie or read the book. The original plot points are still present, but simply spread throughout the show and given space to breathe. The breadth of TV allows peripheral characters to have new and distinct arcs and gives us more time with Rob as she analyzes every life choice. When a familiar plot point does come up, it feels like an Easter egg rather than

a boring rehash of the same story. Overall, the show is the perfect balance of new and old that can be so hard for remakes to achieve.

It would be impossible to talk about *High Fidelity* without mentioning the music. Being that Rob is a record store owner and a music savant, the music on the show was bound to be amazing. All tastes of music are catered to with care. From Celine Dion to Frank Zappa, there is quite literally something for everyone.

Highlights of the list include the use of David Bowie's *The Man Who Sold the World* as a needle-dropping to arguably the best episode of the show, and the unstoppable force that is *Come on Eileen* by Dexys Midnight Runners as Rob is unable to ignore the song before a dance party breaks out in the store. Luckily, there is a Spotify compilation of the soundtrack which includes nearly nine hours of music. I suggest waiting until after finishing the show to dive headfirst into the ocean of music that *High Fidelity* offers.

In a streaming world dominated by remakes, cinematic universes, and adaptations, *High Fidelity*



Zoe Kravitz stars in High Fidelity. Photo credit: Hulu

wasn't exactly on the radar of ripe IP for the picking. Nevertheless, chalk this up as another win for the world eater that is Disney. The show

feels just familiar enough to draw in an audience, while still adding a new spin on the story. The new *High Fidelity* is like a hit record, you know it when you hear it.

'FULL HAND' FROM KEVIN KRAUTER IS A SOARING SYNTH DREAMLAND



'Full Hand' from Kevin Krauter is a soaring synth dreamland. Photo credit: Bayonet Records

Rate:



4/ 5 Huskies

By Sydney Wolf
Staff Writer

Indiana based multi-instrumentalist Kevin Krauter has released his second full length record *Full Hand*. Krauter, normally the bassist for indie band Hoops, has now shifted focus to his solo career. Nearly two years after debut album *Toss Up*, the latest release brings change, both good and bad.

Krauter's signature synthesizer melodies and baritone vocals sweep through this record. The *Intro* to the album into the first track *Opportunity*, is a mix of beautiful, weaving sounds. Tame Impala-like falsetto vocals float through the songs, all while underlying bass drives the tempo.

His classic reverbed piano and synthesizer mix are a tasteful treat to the ears, as they sound both near and far.

Twangy guitars make their way into the music during the third and fourth track. The main single *Surprise* sounds very similar to the sounds on debut album *Toss Up*. Although the sounds of the song are familiar, the lyricism has a newfound positivity. Krauter's debut record was excellent, with themes bouncing in between love and happiness, and loneliness and sorrow. *Full Hand* seems to hover around a tone of positivity, while still feeling a twinge of melancholy.

Other stand out tracks for the record include the pensive *Pretty Boy*. Clean guitar riffs, shakers, and just a touch of percussion are able to round out the song, to give it Krauter's signature mellowed out feel. Another hidden gem is *Treasure* which seems to have heavy 1980s influence.

One of the criticisms of this record is easily the question of, is Kevin

Krauter a one trick pony? *Full Hand* is a solid sophomore release, but it's very similar to his debut in both sound and lyricism.

Toss Up is easily one of the best records of 2018, but *Full Hand* simply doesn't reach the high caliber its predecessor did. It's still a good release, but it needs to expand on sounds, tones, and lyrics.

Krauter has an opportunity to continue on the path of beautiful indie shoegaze, but if it stays similar, it'll get old fast.

Although the record is overall a success, the use of drum machines can be distracting. Drum machines worked well on Krauter's previous work, but can seem out of place here.

Tracks like *Piper* would have benefited from live percussion, instead of repetitive and one-dimensional snares and hi-hats. It'll be interesting to see if Krauter brings a live drummer on tour, or if a recorded track with drums will be present instead.

Some good news is, if you're looking for instrumentals that are tasteful and to the point, Krauter also has that with *Intermission*. The four minute song has fast paced percussion, and soaring piano. It'll keep your attention the full duration of the song, along with conveying the mood of the record.

All in all, Kevin Krauter has done it again. A luscious indie-shoegaze record that won't go out of style for a long time. There are some flaws and criticisms of the newest release, but the good outweighs the bad. It isn't as good as *Toss Up*, but it's still a great effort, and one that people should take notice of.

Krauter may just be the diamond in the rough everyone's looking for. This record receives a 4/5 Huskies rating. Krauter will tour.

SOCCKER MOMMY CONTINUES TO GROW ON 'COLOR THEORY'

By Sydney Wolf
Staff Writer

Women in the alternative/singer-songwriter music scene tend to have a bad reputation. Critics say they are one-dimensional, boring, and only write about boys and sadness. *Soccer Mommy* is just one of those people who is throwing that stereotype to the wind.

Soccer Mommy also known as Sophie Allison, has released her fourth record *Color Theory*, and continues to showcase her skills as both a storyteller and a musician. *Color Theory* is easily the most dynamic release from Allison, and shows immense growth as an artist.

After Soccer Mommy released her third record *Clean* which received immensely positive reception, the follow-up album would obviously come with lots of pressure. Although the new album can rival the last, their feel in both lyrics and instrumentals are completely different.

Allison's lyrical content has

taken a very different turn on the latest release. *Clean* was a record of catharsis about toxic relationships, and longing for the one you love when you can't have them. *Color Theory* is much different.

It is more of an inner feelings record. One that discusses depression, personal morality, and not living up to expectations. The growth in lyricism is undeniable. The new record may be more of a downer, but in a realistic and relatable way.

The singles of the record immediately stand out. *Circle the Drain* is a beautiful piece of work and is undeniably catchy. The blend between acoustic and electric guitars proves that singer-songwriters can be dynamic and can still make great songs with a full band.

The track discusses how mental health can be easy to fake to others, when in isolation it can take over someone's life. Allison sings *Things feel that low sometimes/Even when everything is fine* to demonstrate the

feeling of sadness even when things might be alright.

Lucy, another great song off the record, demonstrates the growth in instrumentals of *Soccer Mommy*. The guitars weave in and out of each other perfectly. The track sounds more upbeat and fun than others, although it discusses the strength one needs to not succumb to *bad things* or *Lucy*.

The final single *Yellow Is The Color Of Her Eyes* also is on par with the rest of the singles. This seven minute monstrosity fulfills its time in a more melancholy manner. Upon first glance, one may think this is a love song, but it's actually a track about losing time with your parents.

Allison sings of the woes of losing time with her mother, as her increasing popularity also means increasing touring and time away from home. A unique concept that works out perfectly.

See SOCCER on Page 16



Soccer Mommy continues to grow on 'Color Theory'. Photo credit: Loma Vista

SNAPSHOTS OF OUR QUIET CAMPUS



Enjoying the beautiful day. Photo credit: Tim Speier



With graduation around the corner, students wait to see what becomes of it. Photo credit: Tim Speier



Garvey maintaining social distancing while staying open. Photo credit: Tim Speier



SCSU President Robbyn Wacker working to keep the university moving forward after the extended spring break. Photo credit: Tim Speier



Campus was quite empty during the first day back from spring break. Photo credit: Tim Speier



Students maintaining social distancing and enjoying the first day of classes. Photo credit: Tim Speier



Skateboarders taking advantage of a quiet campus. Photo credit: Tim Speier



For a school day, the parking lots were empty. Photo credit: Tim Speier



Huskies showing support and looking to get through this together. Photo credit: Tim Speier



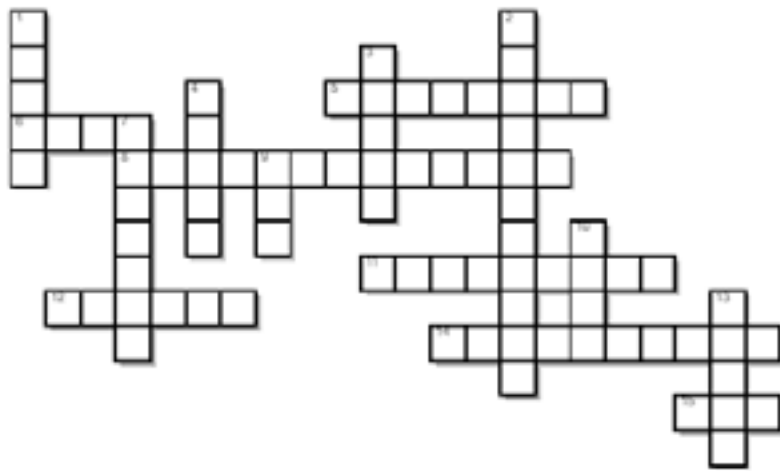
Most offices were closed, and access to some buildings was restricted. Photo credit: Tim Speier



Coronavirus

Crossword Puzzle:

With all of us in isolation, what else would we be doing? Here's a Coronavirus crossword to keep you entertained!



ACROSS

- 5 Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when _____ or sneezing
- 6 Avoid touching your _____, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- 8 Something used (other than soap) to keep your hands clean
- 11 Another word for loneliness
- 12 When washing your hands, scrub with soap for at least ____ seconds.
- 14 Center for Disease Control and _____ (CDC)
- 15 Stay at home if you are _____

DOWN

- 1 One symptom of the Coronavirus
- 2 Lots of supermarkets ran out of stock for this popular household item
- 3 Another name for the Coronavirus (_____-19)
- 4 WASH YOUR _____
- 7 Governor Witz's executive order 20-20, _____-in-place
- 9 Stand _____ feet apart when you're around others.
- 10 According to WHO, you should "do the _____"; one of which being stay home if you can.
- 13 _____ Health Organization (WHO)

Wuzzle:



Sudoku:

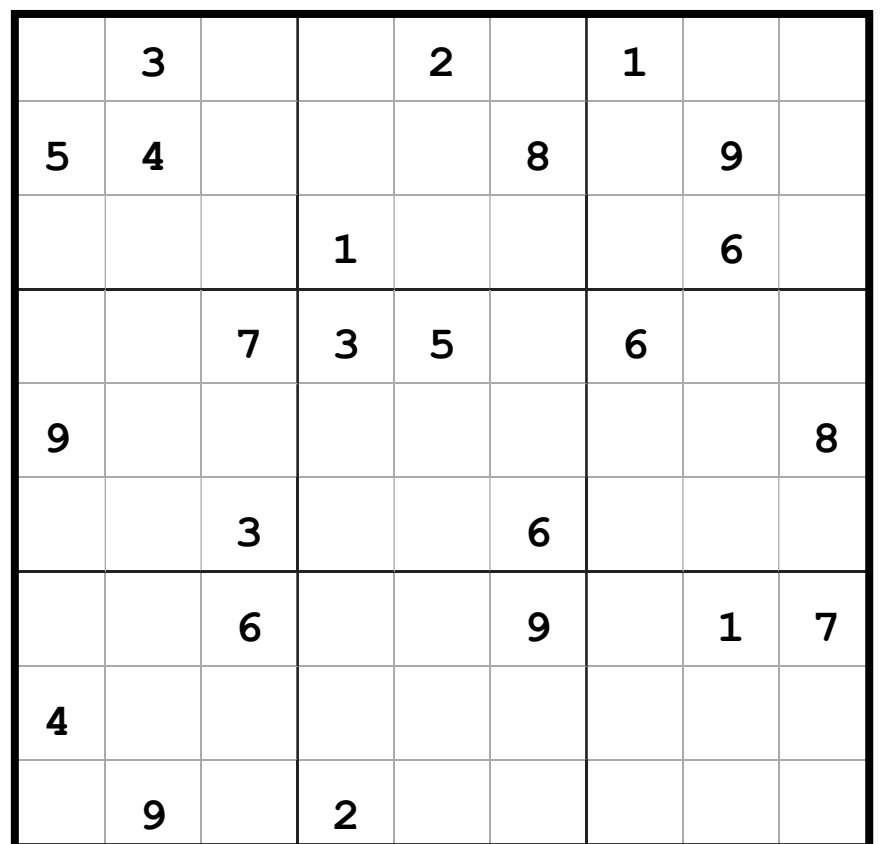
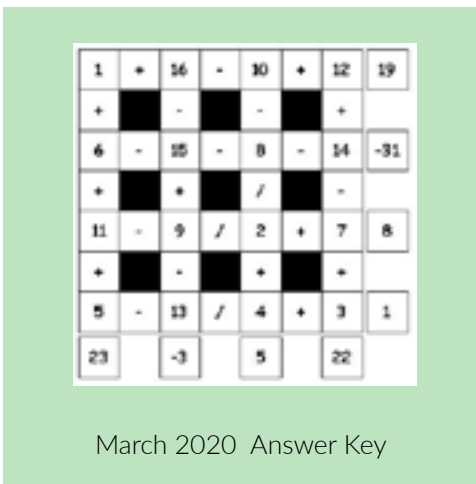
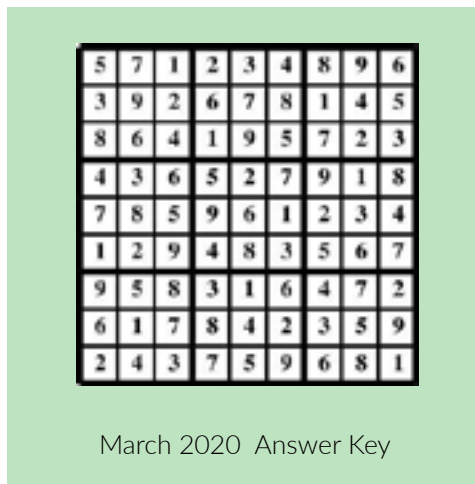


Photo Credit: Sudoku.com



March 2020 Answer Key



March 2020 Answer Key

*** Congratulations to Elatia Zaffke for winning the March Sudoku Contest!

First person to correctly solve this Sudoku by **May 1st** gets mentioned in the next edition of the University Chronicle and gets a surprise SCSU item! *** Prizes will be rewarded after the reopening of campus.

To win: Post your solution to our Facebook page (@universitychron) or Twitter (@UniversityChron). Good luck!



St. Cloud State won 275 games under Mike Gibbons, including four different conference titles. Photo credit: Husky Athletics

HUSKY HOCKEY ASSISTANT COACH MIKE GIBBONS RETIRES

By Jeremy Lagos
Sports Editor

After 13 seasons with the St. Cloud State men's hockey team, Assistant Coach Mike Gibbons announced his retirement on March 19.

Former Head Coach Bob Motzko hired Gibbons as his assistant coach before the 2007-2008 season and was retained by current Head Coach Brett Larson when he took over before the 2018 season after Motzko left to coach at the University of Minnesota.

Larson was quite complimentary of Gibbons' time spent behind the Huskies' bench.

"Mike Gibbons has played a pivotal role in the success of the hockey program here at St. Cloud State since his arrival in 2007-08," Larson said. "The Huskies have been very fortunate to have Mike as part of our staff. His ability as a coach on the ice, recruiter and mentor for our players has helped position St. Cloud State among the best in college

hockey. We wish Mike the best as he begins this new chapter of his life."

St. Cloud State hockey was a formidable program under Gibbons' tutelage, amassing 275 wins since the 2007 season, leading to four different conference championships, going back to back twice. The cardinal and black won the final WCHA conference title in 2013 before being the first team to win the NCHC regular season title in 2014.

In 2016, the team won the NCHC Frozen Faceoff. St. Cloud State also won back to back Penrose Cup titles in 2018 and 2019 and went to the NCAA national tournament eight times. During the 2013 season, Gibbons and the Huskies won the NCAA Midwest Region title and advanced to the NCAA Frozen Four.

St. Cloud State men's hockey has also seen 46 different All-Conference team participants, 11 different Huskies earned All-America team honors, seven Huskies finished in the Top 10 of Hobey Baker finalists, with forward Drew LeBlanc winning the award in 2013, and 16 different Huskies have gone on to play in the

NHL.

Gibbons couldn't say enough good things about his time spent with St. Cloud State.

"In the 14 years I have been associated with the program, my wife and I have fallen in love with St. Cloud State, the community, the fans, the players and the staff. I am certainly proud of our All-America and NHL players, but I am most proud of our players' quality of character during my time at St. Cloud State. We have had outstanding student-athletes here at SCSU and they have helped make this program great," Gibbons said.

Gibbons also is grateful for his time with all of his coach colleagues during his years at SCSU.

"I would like to thank Bob Motzko for taking a chance on me coming out of the high school coaching ranks back in 2007, and I would like to thank Brett Larson and Nick Oliver for their work over the past two seasons. I think Brett and Nick are two superstars and I have no doubt that they can bring home a national title to St. Cloud State," Gibbons

said.

He finished by saying, "The opportunity to work at St. Cloud State has been a career highlight and the success of this program is not due to just one person. The success encompasses everyone on our staff and this includes people like Brett Larson, Nick Oliver, Matt Bertram, Nick Tomczyk, Jeremiah Minkel, Bryan DeMaine, Heather Weems, Bill Hudson, Matt Chapman, Joe Meierhofer, Cory Portner, Travis Zins, Therese Todd and Tom Nelson. It takes a village to build a team, and these people are all part of the SCSU success story," Gibbons said.

St. Cloud State said it would begin the search for a new Assistant Coach immediately.

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Allison sings of the woes of losing time with her mother, as her increasing popularity also means increasing touring and time away from home. A unique concept that works out perfectly.

One of the best singles of the record has to be the opener *Bloodstream*. The lyrical imagery on the track is some of the best on the record. The track also builds up in a way that will keep your attention throughout the whole way. Kicking the album off with such a high energy track is a smart idea.

Even with some of the more upbeat tracks, there are still plenty of mellow moments. In between the more rockin' tracks are songs that are mostly acoustic, and fairly raw. Although some are still good songs, a couple seem to drag on just a bit too long.

Most of the more mellow tracks are four or more minutes long. While some of the long songs work, some could've been trimmed just a bit.

The ending of the record is quite depressing. *Gray Light* closes out the record. It discusses the feeling of not being good enough, and also Allison claiming she's, *watching her mother drown*. It is brutally honest and raw, but leaves listeners sorrowful and pensive. This is a new dimension to *Soccer Mommy*, one that definitely isn't bad, but is different.

Soccer Mommy's latest record is beautifully depressing, and is another solid project. It will easily rival past release *Clean*, but it is up for debate whether or not it is Allison's best release. This record receives a rating of 3.5/5 Huskies. It has bold and beautiful high points, but some of the more mellow points drag on a bit much.

Color Theory is a standout record of the year, but it is up to fans whether or not this will be crowned as *Soccer Mommy's* best release yet.

Rate:



3.5/ 5 Huskies

MEN'S HOCKEY RETURNS HOME AFTER COVID-19 HALTS NCHC PLAYOFFS, NCAA TOURNAMENT

By Noah Grant
Staff Writer

The men's hockey team returned home on the afternoon of March 12 amidst the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Tom Nelson, the current Assistant Athletic Director of Strategic Communications for St. Cloud State athletics and a source close to the team notified the *University Chronicle* that four to five staff members went out to Kalamazoo on the local bus that was to be made available after the completion of

the weekend series to take the team home. A bus was selected as the method of transportation, as staff were advised of potential issues with flights in relation to the players.

Staff left Wednesday, March 11 for the Western Michigan area and arrived late Wednesday night/early Thursday morning amidst possible notifications that the NCHC playoffs had been canceled. Grabbing the bus, the team (which practiced Thursday morning in Kalamazoo) loaded up and plans to return home by Thursday night/into Friday morning.

Approximately seven staff members elected to take flights back to the area to give those still on the

bus a chance to get comfortable for the long trip back, which runs close to nine hours without stops.

"The health of our student-athletes, staff and fans are the number one priority," said St. Cloud State Head Coach Brett Larson, "and we support the decision of the NCHC to cancel this year's Frozen Faceoff tournament. The Frozen Faceoff is one of the premiere events in college hockey, so it is disappointing to have the tournament cancelled, but we fully understand the need to take precautions during this difficult time."

The Huskies went back home from Western Michigan and returned

to St. Cloud later following the news.

"We appreciate the continued support of our fans and their understanding of this situation."

Official news came out of Colorado Springs at 1 p.m. ET that the 2020 NCHC tournament had been canceled. Known better as the Frozen Faceoff, both the tournament and NCHC

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has already proven itself widely successful with over 30 million players! Will this level of success remain once the initial hype dies down? It's hard to say, but considering the highly acclaimed series the game branches from, it's likely that it will remain popular as long as the developers continue to give it fresh updates.

In the meantime, Warzone is currently available on PC, Playstation 4, and Xbox One gaming consoles and for even more information on overall gameplay, tips, and features, you can check out the official Call of Duty webpage dedicated to all things Warzone.



Assistant Coach Nick Oliver (left) and Head Coach Brett Larson (right) look on in the Huskies home sweep against Minnesota-Duluth. Photo credit: Husky Athletics

RAISE YOUR CAPS, NOT A BANNER; RECAPPING THE MEN'S HOCKEY SEASON

By Noah Grant
Staff Writer

First place in the Pairwise gets you nothing. Just ask St. Cloud State hockey fans.

I met Brad Schlossman once, oddly enough, at a hockey game at the Herb Brooks National Hockey Center. A 2004 graduate of the University of North Dakota, he has written for the Grand Forks Herald for years and, lo and behold, he covers the University's hockey team. Recently, he proposed a banner for the Fighting Hawks, a jet-black adornment signifying a North Dakota team that finished first in the NCAA Pairwise, the ranking system for college hockey, a team that was "poised to win it all." I know, I know, it's North Dakota hockey content and it won't happen again.

Whether you believe Brad or not, I have an even bigger question: If first place in the Pairwise gets you nothing, what does 24th mean?

The St. Cloud State Huskies finished the 2019-20 regular season in the Pairwise in 24th place. Finishing 24th place in a season that is, well, no longer a season, and no one understands it better than the five people who make up this year's class of seniors: Nick and Jack Poehling, Jack Ahcan, redshirt senior Clark Kuster, and Jake Wahlin, who was having a career year with the Huskies in his final season.

The group of seniors finished their careers with a combined 93 goals, 182 assists, and 275 points in a cumulative 598 games played collectively. Ahcan led the way with 82 assists and 130 points, while Jack Poehling led in goals with 30.

St. Cloud State entered the weekend series in the NCHC playoffs against Western Michigan at 5th in the NCHC conference and 24th in the NCAA Pairwise, needing to most likely win the NCHC tournament to qualify for an NCAA tournament berth. The Huskies

boasted three 2020 All-NCHC award winners entering the weekend, as senior captain Jack Ahcan and David Hrenak were selected for the second team, while Nick Poehling was an honorable mention. The Huskies were recently on a three-game losing skid after grabbing points in their previous eight meetings, with their last losses before that time coming at the hands of Western Michigan in Kalamazoo. It was the first time since the 2016-17 season that a St. Cloud State team didn't finish first in the Pairwise.

Then, in a blink of an eye, just after 3:30 p.m. central time on March 12, 2020, the NCAA cancelled all winter and spring championships for the season due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), and that's where it ended. The rebuilding year for St. Cloud State, a group which included 10 freshmen on the roster, was over.

Looking back: The highs and lows in order

So how do we assess this group?

Step aboard the Huskies hockey roller coaster, buckle your seat belt, and grab a few brews for the lows and an oxygen machine for the highs, and enjoy the ride.

It's a group who tied and lost to Princeton, who finished 55th in the Pairwise.

It's a group that dropped two three-goal, third period leads in Northern Michigan in a win and a tie.

It's a group that lost their opening two-game NCHC series to Colorado College, who finished with four wins total in conference play.

It's a group that throttled Mankato 7-2, the second-best team in the country (and a team who, if any, actually deserves a banner for their impressive season... I digress).

It's a group who was swept in Western Michigan while being outscored 12-4 on the weekend.

It's a group who played shutdown hockey en route to a Nick Poehling redirect that capped off a huge sweep against Minnesota Duluth on Hockey Day Minnesota.

It's a St. Cloud State team who challenged the Fighting Hawks with a shootout win and regulation victory on home ice, giving North Dakota one of only four total regulation losses during the season.

It's a group that was dominant against Denver on a Friday and dominated on the following Saturday.

It's a group that took points in eight straight games down the stretch, including an overtime winner in Colorado Springs and a sweep at home against Miami (OH).

It's a group that, from Jan. 17 to Feb. 29, had points in nine of 12 contests.

Class by class

Speaking of rebuilding, how about those freshmen? Eight of the 10 played in a game, including the two goaltenders, Jaxon Castor and Joey Lamoreaux. The six skaters (five forwards and a defenseman) combined for 45 points this season, good for 18 percent of the team's total points. Finnish phenom Jami Krannila led the freshman group in assists (9) and points (14) and tied Chase Brand for the lead in goals (5), while also pulling in an NCHC Rookie of the Week accolade to his credit.

Despite his last goal coming Dec. 7 against Miami (OH), the sophomore class was led by Minnesota Wild draft pick Sam Hentges, who started the season red-hot and ended the season playing like a man possessed, leading his class in assists (17), points (24), and tied for the lead in goals (7) with Micah Miller, who scored at a torrid pace in the second half. The group, which consisted of three forwards and three defensemen, was steady all year, as the back end was led by Tampa Bay Lightning draft pick Nick Perbix, who was sensational down the stretch in driving possession.

Then, there's the junior class, what a mix. Want a shutdown, hard-nosed centerman? Well, Will Hammer is your guy. What about the defensive forward

always in the right place at the right time? Kevin Fitzgerald at your service. Need a pair of stay-at-home defensemen to rely on every night? Luke Jaycox and Tyler Anderson could probably help you. Let's throw in a sneaky productive goal scorer who leads the team in goals (12) and points (28) in Easton Brodzinski for good measure.

Oh, and let's not forget the tall kid. You know, the one who elects to be hit with vulcanized rubber pucks each day? The guy who, contrary to the stone-cold nature that most goalies possess, will smile at you five days or five minutes before puck-drop. If you need a two-time NCHC Goaltender of the Week and a Los Angeles Kings draft pick, David Hrenak might be a good fit.

Lastly, those seniors aren't too shabby either. Nick and Jack Poehling combined for 17 goals, 39 assists, and 56 points. Hobey Baker Nominee and senior captain Jack Ahcan cracked the 100-career point club this season, with seven goals and 18 assists for 25 points on the back end. Jake Wahlin evolved into a career year with 12 points, and Clark Kuster earned his role as a stay-at-home defenseman while also chipping in a goal and three assists.

Overall, this St. Cloud State team scored 94 goals this season, with a powerplay north of 18 percent.

So, what does 24th mean?

Placing 24th is the reflection of growing pains. Finishing 24th is the reflection of huge roster turnover, of a young group willing to learn the highs and the lows of

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best-of-three quarter final rounds have been cancelled, and the NCHC would update fans in the coming days.

Initially, the quarterfinal games were set to be played in front of a restricted audience. The Huskies, who were set to play Western Michigan in a best-of-three series on Friday, fell under this category as well.

St. Cloud State entered the game with a regular-season finish of 13-15-6 overall and 10-12-2 in the NCHC, finishing 5th in the conference and 24th in the NCAA Pairwise, needing to most likely win the NCHC tournament to qualify for an NCAA tournament berth. The Huskies boasted three 2020 All-NCHC award winners entering the weekend, as senior captain Jack Ahcan and David Hrenak were selected for the 2nd team, while Nick Poehling was an honorable mention. The Huskies were recently on a three-game losing skid after grabbing points in their previous eight meetings, with their last losses before that time coming at the hands of Western Michigan in Kalamazoo.

Just after 3:30 p.m. CT, the NCAA cancelled all winter and spring championships for the season. St. Cloud State has five seniors: Nick and Jack Poehling, Jack Ahcan, and Jake Wahlin, who was having a career year with the Huskies in his final season. Clark Kuster is also listed as a redshirt senior who is among the group of five that have played their final game as a Husky.

The group of seniors finished with a combined 93 goals, 182 assists, and 275 points in a cumulative 598 games played collectively. Ahcan led the way with 82 assists and 130 points, while Jack Poehling led in goals with 30.

Other major sporting events, such as the NBA, NHL, MLB, MLS, and other NCAA tournaments have been suspended or cancelled at this time.

Local St. Cloud State and area media crews also returned home Thursday from Kalamazoo.

TWO HUSKIES NAMED NCHC AWARD FINALISTS



The five seniors (from left to right: Jack Poehling, Nick Poehling, Jake Wahlin, Jack Ahcan, and Clark Kuster) have played their last games as a Husky. Photo credit: Bill Prout

By **Jeremy Lagos**
Sports Editor

The National Collegiate Hockey Conference (NCHC) announced its finalists for their individual awards on March 16. St. Cloud State has a finalist in two of the nine awards.

Senior defenseman Jack Ahcan was named a finalist for NCHC Player of the Year with junior goaltender David Hrenak up for the NCHC Goaltender of the Year.

Ahcan scored 17 points in 23 games during conference play good for fourth among NCHC defenders, blocked 41 shots, and was named NCHC Defenseman of the Week twice this season. The skilled blueliner was named to the All-NCHC Second Team earlier this year for the second straight season. The Savage, Minnesota native has recently been drafted to play for the Boston Bruins (See Page 19).

Hrenak was fourth in the NCHC with a .915 save percentage and

a 2.60 goals-against average and posted a 10-9-2 record, including two shutouts in 23 games, starting 22 of them. The shifty netminder was also named to the All-NCHC Second Team for the second straight season. The Povazska Bystrica, Slovakia native was the 144th overall pick in the 2018 NHL Entry Draft to the Los Angeles Kings.

Ahcan's competition for the Player of the Year award is Jordan Kawaguchi, a junior forward from North Dakota and Scott Perunovich,

a junior from the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Hrenak is up against Magnus Chrona, the freshman from Denver and Hunter Shepard, the senior out of the University of Minnesota Duluth as well.

The awards are voted on by the eight head coaches and a media member from each team.

SCSU Head Coach Brett Larson was proud of his players who both were a big part of the team's second-

half success,

"This is a well-deserved honor for both Jack (Ahcan) and David (Hrenak). They both played huge roles in the success of our team in NCHC play and positioned themselves as elite players in our league in 2019-20. Jack's leadership on defense and playmaking abilities place him among the best in our program's history, and David's steady presence in net had a major impact on our team's play during the second half of the NCHC season," said Larson.

OLYMPICS PUSHED BACK TO SUMMER 2021

By **Matt Auvil**
Variety Editor

As the Coronavirus continues to grow across the world, the Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe had announced on March 24 that the 2020 Olympics would be postponed until 2021. After talks with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), President Thomas Bach said they came to a "100 percent" agreement to move back due to the current circumstances of the virus outbreak.

It was thought that the Olympics were still going to take place this summer as on March 19, the Olympic flame had landed in the Miyagi Prefecture in northern Japan from Greece. There was no ceremony to celebrate the touchdown of the flame as the Coronavirus prevented a crowd to be present. While the flame was lit, it is not known now if it will continue to burn until next year or be put out until then.

On March 23, the Canadian Olympic Team had put out a statement through Twitter saying they would not be competing in the games this year if the games were not postponed and noted that this was not a concern of just athlete health, but also the general public's health in attendance. Canada was



The Olympic flag still flies in the wind. Photo credit: Olympic.org

the first country to make a statement about not participating in the games due to the Coronavirus.

Interestingly enough, this push back has had an effect in the video

game world, the developer company Nintendo is known for putting out games based on the Olympics a little before they take place. However, due to the Coronavirus, the new

Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 for the Nintendo Switch, depicts a version of a real life sporting event that will never happen.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told the Associated Press that he and President Bach wanted to secure an environment for athletes to perform at their best and that the crowds would be safe and secure.



Senior defenseman Jack Ahcan was drafted to the Boston Bruins in late March. Photo credit: Husky Athletics

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collegiate hockey. It also signifies a group that was much better in the second half than the first half, and a group that shows a lot of promise down the stretch.

When talking with NCHC staff and people who have been “in the biz” for a long time, I got the notion that this St. Cloud State team was a dark horse and arguably the most dangerous team to face in the conference come playoff time. Unfortunately, as we know, they never got a chance to prove it. What they did do, however, is give us a chance to grow as Husky hockey fans, to remind us in the lows that they were college kids committed to getting better every day, and during the highs to remind us that they still had unfinished business to take care of.

They were a group that, while maybe they didn’t get to where they wanted to go, certainly deserved it by the way they wore their hearts upon their sleeves, facing three of the top 10 teams in the country in their final six games, going .500 in the process.

I have had the honor of getting to know this team and talking to Brett Larson, the head coach of this young group, was always one thing I looked forward to.

Honestly, when you look back on it, he holds his team and their accountability the same way. Did they have moments when they struggled? Yes. Did this team have moments where they were invincible? You bet. But one thing that was expected of this group was that they were going to respond to the lows and be all business through the highs.

They weren’t going to walk away, and they weren’t going to defer to the easy route. They were going to respond to the challenge and accept responsibility for the results, and just focus on getting better every day.

“We worked really hard to get to this point right here. We’ve went through a gauntlet,” Larson said after the last game in Duluth. “What I think really happened is [that] we had to work so hard to get some of those wins against North Dakota and Denver, then coming here into Duluth three weekends in a row. They’re three of the top teams in the country. I just saw a team that laid it all out there pretty much every night.”

I’d have to agree. Even if the results weren’t there, this team, their effort and compete was there. I remember before the Duluth series, Larson said, “It’s hard to believe it’s already the last week of the season.”

While I’m sure he didn’t know how true his words would be, one thing is clear: When the ride opens up next year, I’m excited to get my ticket for the Huskies hockey roller coaster. It’s going to be worth the price of admission and it’ll be one heck of a ride.

JACK AHCAN SIGNS WITH BOSTON BRUINS

By Jeremy Lagos
Sports Editor

St. Cloud State Huskies men’s hockey defenseman Jack Ahcan has signed a pro contract with the Boston Bruins organization. The former Husky captain signed a two-year entry-level deal with the Bruins that was announced by Bruins General Manager Don Sweeney on March 27.

Ahcan announced the signing the day prior via Twitter saying, “I am very humble and excited to join the Boston Bruins organization; it is truly a dream come true for me and my family. When the time is right, I look forward to getting started with my new teammates. More importantly, please stay safe, stay healthy, and stay positive.”

The skilled blueliner was an undrafted senior whose season was

cut short because of COVID-19. Over four seasons with St. Cloud State, Ahcan amassed 21 goals and a program record for defensemen with 82 assists good for 103 career points, only the third defender to reach that mark in the cardinal and black.

Standing at 5 feet 8 inches and weighing 185 pounds according to the University, Ahcan is undersized for the typical NHL defenseman,

but with plenty of skill with the puck and a high hockey IQ, Ahcan has the ability to play in the new era of speed and finesse.

In his freshman year, Ahcan was voted unanimously to the NCHC All-Rookie team. He was named to the NCHC All-Second team his last two seasons in a Husky sweater.

The NHL season is currently being postponed because of the coronavirus.

Job Openings.

2020-2021

School Year

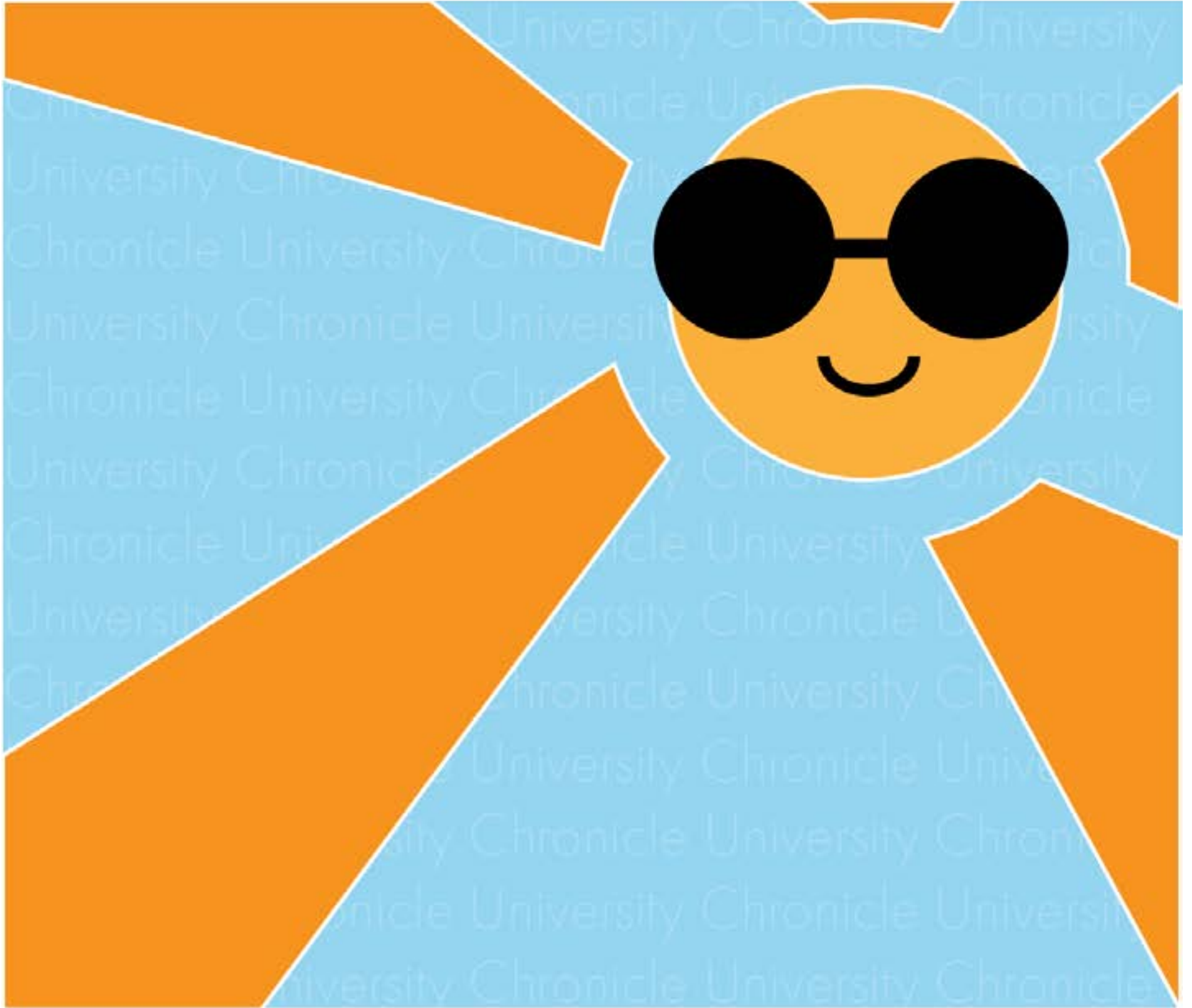
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