

Former University president Preska dies at 83

She began her education career teaching California kindergartners, and ended it at the head of one of the biggest universities in Minnesota.

Margaret Preska, the woman who presided as president of Mankato State University from 1979-1992 and who was one of the ear-

liest female presidents in the Minnesota State University system, died Wednesday. She was 83.

MNSU President Edward Inch notified the campus community Wednesday afternoon via email.

"I was saddened to learn of the passing of former university president Dr. Marg-

aret Preska," Inch's statement said. "We send our sincerest condolences to Dr. Preska's family."

The Reporter was unable to confirm Preska's cause of death.



Margaret Preska

In addition to serving as president, Preska served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Equal Opportunity Officer from 1975 to 1979.

According to university archives, it was during Preska's tenure that the university saw construction of several iconic PRESKA on page 7 ►

Stu Gov pushes for more student compensation

By MAX MAYLEBEN
Editor in Chief

With the backdrop of a large poster behind them, the Minnesota State University, Mankato's Student Government executive team came to deliver a message.

That message? "Compensate students for their time."

President Reauna Stiff and Vice-President Kara Svercl are taking a strong stance for increasing compensation for student workers as well as student leaders on campus.

There are two aspects to this increase of compensation, the first being for student worker wages. With the labor shortage hitting campus, the aim of increasing these wages is to be able to compete with the community when it comes to the job market. Student MONEY on page 3 ►

MNSU spreads awareness on homelessness

By ASHLEY OPINA
Variety Editor

This week is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, which is dedicated to raising awareness about an issue that has yet to be solved and building a strong community of volunteers and supporters to address the problem.

This nationwide event has happened every year since 1975 one week before Thanksgiving as people reflect on what's important during the holiday season. For most, it's giving back.

That's why more than 700 colleges, high schools, and community groups and organizations across the nation are coming together this year to raise awareness about an issue that impacts more people than it should. Minnesota State University, Mankato is among the 700 AWARENESS on page 4 ►

MAVPODS UNDER FIRE



MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter

The MavPODs have consistently been a target of criticisms since they first started showing up around campus earlier this semester.

Accessibility issues spurs Department of Ed complaint

By JENNA PETERSON
News Director

MavPODs arrived at the Minnesota State University, Mankato campus in August, and since then there has been concern raised about their accessibility.

The MavPODs were created to give students and faculty a quiet space to study or attend meetings

without outside distractions.

The concern with accessibility to these pods centers on the small step required to get into the pods, and people with mobility disabilities aren't always able to do this.

The small space in the pods also doesn't provide enough room for people to comfortably sit, especially for those with limited mobility.

Nancy Fitzsimons, professor of social work at MNSU, noticed this problem right away and filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights.

"The complaint is a Title II violation of the Americans with

Disabilities Act. The complaint essentially states that people with mobility disabilities are being discriminated against in their access to the programs and services of our University comparable to people without mobility disabilities," Fitzsimons stated.

The complaint, originally filed in September, had to go through various other stages before ending up at the department.

"I made that initial complaint in September to the federal agency that has oversight, and that's the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. I first called the Great Lakes ADA MAVPODS on page 5 ►

MNSU student leaders to meet at Advocacy Conference



Courtesy photo

By **MAX MAYLEBEN**
Editor in Chief

Students United will be hosting their biannual Advocacy Conference this weekend, giving students the opportunity to make their voices heard, as well as hear from a variety of speakers.

Students United is a non-profit organization led by students within the Minnesota State system, with the goal of being the voice for students at the local, state, and federal level.

The conference will include a town hall style delegates meeting, where any registered student can join and bring forward ideas and issues that they face within their universities and institutions.

This town hall style is new for Students United, who's

delegate meetings previously were made up of students appointed by the student government presidents from each university in the system.

This year, the delegates will be made up of anyone who registered, allowing for a wider and more diverse spread of ideas.

"You can really come with anything," said Emma Zellmer, the State Chair of Students United, and student at MNSU, "If you just want to talk about your advising experience, bring that up."

With the information gathered from the town hall, the Students United leadership will compile the stories and ideas brought forward to build platforms to advocate for students.

Zellmer believes that hot topics at the conference will **UNITED on page 7** ▶

St. Thomas celebrates the season of thanks

By **CLAIRE BRUNEAU**
Staff Writer

On Tuesday evening the St. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center hosted a Thanksgiving dinner to bring together Minnesota State University, Mankato students and community before the holiday break.

The traditional Thanksgiving food was prepared by many of the church attendees.

Tessa Soukup, a senior working as an intern at St. Thomas, said, "Our church moms make amazing pies. They love to bake, so we always get excited during events like these."

This event has been going on for as long as the organizers can remember.

However, it looked a little different last year due to COVID-19. They were still able to host the event, but they were unable to advertise and had to implement many restrictions.

Andrew Heller, the director of campus ministry said, "I'm in charge of all the activities, which made it really hard for me to do my job during COVID. I've been working here for five years and it was really hard to see how COVID affected all these kids. After last year we realized just how important mental health and community is. That's what we are really trying to focus on this year."

Heller pointed out this dinner was open for anyone.



Photo courtesy of Flickr

"This event is for anyone and everyone to get to eat free food and to build community after COVID. We wanted to provide a good home cooked meal for these students who miss it and for them to be able to make new friends," Heller stated.

The church was full all night long with people in attendance, as many were excited to eat a meal that reminded them of home.

"Most college students that come through our doors have been eating at the dining hall all semester. They look so happy to see the freshly cooked food," said Soukup.

This is very true for senior Taylor Nixt.

"A friend of mine went to this church and told me that there was a free home cooked meal. I couldn't turn it down. I think it's cool that they are doing this for people."

The church's main goal this year is to reach out to the

community and to provide support following the loneliness that COVID brought to everyone.

"I can definitely see how much they are trying to reach out to the community and I think it's really great. I came for the food and me and my roommate have already made new friends. I think it's the Thanksgiving spirit," said freshman Paige Peterson.

Heller emphasized the importance of students knowing that everyone is welcomed to the church.

"I want everyone to know that our doors are open to all, not just Catholics. Whether you just want a friend or you're not sure what to believe in, this is a place you are always welcome. That's the main thing we wanted people to see tonight. That no matter who you are or what you have done, you always have a place here," Heller stated.

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Defense Department will help relieve 2 MN hospitals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Department of Defense will send medical teams to two major Minnesota hospitals to relieve doctors and nurses who are swamped by a growing wave of COVID-19 patients, Gov. Tim Walz announced Wednesday.

The teams, each comprising 22 people, will arrive at Hennepin County Medical Center and St. Cloud Hospital next week and begin treating patients immediately, Walz said in a conference call from the Finnish capital of Helsinki, the latest stop on his European trade mission. Minnesota has become one of the country's worst hotspots for

new COVID-19 infections. Hospital beds are filling up with unvaccinated people, and staffers are being worn down by the surge.

Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm said Tuesday that she's ready to expand access to booster vaccines to all adults by the end of the week if the federal government doesn't act first.

"Our best defense against this is the vaccine," Walz told reporters. He noted that Minnesota is No. 2 in the country for the number of booster shots given, behind only Vermont, and that first doses have risen 60% over the last week. "And we know that that is our way out of this. ... I need



AARON LAVINSKY • Star Tribune via Associated Press

Minnesotans to recognize, as we've been saying, this is a dangerous time."

Walz and Malcolm thanked U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar for helping to secure the feder-

al teams and said they hope more will be approved for other Minnesota hospitals, which have already applied for them.

"There's just been a tremendous demand for those teams nationwide. At this point in time, there are very, very few teams available to be deployed across the whole nation, so the fact that Minnesota's getting two of them is great good news," Malcolm said.

The Minnesota Nurses Association said the staffing shortage is the result of years of cost-cutting and short-staffing that have left hospitals poorly equipped to handle the pandemic.

MONEY

Continued from page 1

workers are limited to working 20 hours a week, reasoning so that these students will have more time to study. Svercl says this limit often forces these students to need a second job in order to afford living expenses.

"But if you have to go to your secondary job and continue to take your classes,"

said Svercl, referring to financial difficulties faced by students, "that's an extra 20 hours a week added to your schedule".

The second aspect is that of student leaders on campus. Svercl cites a small contingency of students who put in time for different organizations, receiving little to no compensation for their time.

"I feel that often, there is this group of students who are

chosen due to their passion and their excitement," said Svercl, "and they are given so much work that is essential to the function of the University without the support in place to treat them as though the work they are doing is essential."

Members of executive boards of various organizations are given a stipend for their time working, however, those stipends rarely meet

minimum wage for the hours put into those positions.

There is also a concern for members of the "body" of each organization. In many cases, these roles only offer volunteer hours for their members. Svercl says that these members should have some more forms of compensation, different options being tuition support, parking opportunities, and academic credit for their roles.

"What are ways that the University can step up and support these leaders so that it's not just turning to constant burnout and concerns of dropping classes?"

Svercl spoke at the Student Government meeting yesterday, addressing the senate, speaking from the perspective of a student leader.

"We are here because we care," said Svercl, "But we also care to pay our rent."

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Rittenhouse lawyers ask to declare mistrial over video

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyle Rittenhouse's attorneys asked the judge to declare a mistrial even as the jury in the murder case was deliberating Wednesday, saying the defense received an inferior copy of a potentially crucial video from prosecutors.

Judge Bruce Schroeder did not immediately rule on the request, the second mistrial motion from the defense in a week. The jury deliberated a second full day without reaching a verdict and will return in the morning.

At issue was a piece of drone video that prosecutors showed to the jury in closing arguments in a bid to undermine Rittenhouse's self-defense claim and portray him as the instigator of the bloodshed in Kenosha in the summer of 2020. Prosecutors said the footage showed him pointing his rifle at protesters before the shooting erupted.

Rittenhouse attorney Corey Chirafisi said the defense initially received a compressed

version of the video and didn't get the higher-quality one used by the prosecution until the evidence portion of the case was over.

He said that the defense would have approached things differently if it had received the better footage earlier and that it is now asking for "a level, fair playing field."

He said the mistrial request would be made "without prejudice," meaning prosecutors could still retry Rittenhouse.

Last week, the defense asked for a mistrial with prejudice, meaning Rittenhouse could not be put on trial again. That request was prompted by what the defense said were improper questions asked by prosecutor Thomas Binger during his cross-examination of Rittenhouse.

Rittenhouse, 18, is on trial on homicide and attempted homicide charges for killing two men and wounding a third with an AR-style semi-automatic rifle during a tumultuous night of protests over the police shooting of a



SEAN KRAJACIC • The Kenosha News via Associated Press

Kyle Rittenhouse looks back before going on a break during his trial at the Kenosha County Courthouse in Kenosha, Wis., on Monday, Nov. 15, 2021.

Black man. Rittenhouse, a then-17-year-old former police youth cadet, said he went to Kenosha to protect proper-

ty from rioters.

He shot and killed Joseph Rosenbaum, 36, and Anthony Huber, 26, and wounded

Gaige Grosskreutz, now 28. Rittenhouse is white, as were those shot.

AWARENESS

Continued from page 1

participating.

To kickstart the week of events, MNSU's University Dining Services hosted its annual "chili cookoff" on Tuesday in the Centennial Student Union's MavAve.

With a sample platter of each chilli costing only \$2 or

a donation of canned goods, MNSU students and community members were able to help a good cause while enjoying homemade chilli. All proceeds went toward MNSU's Campus Kitchen program.

Yesterday, students from Dale Haefner's music management and concert production class sponsored "Can Jam 2," a food donation drive

to benefit Campus Kitchen, held at Hooligans sports bar and grill.

Similar to the event prior, the public was welcomed and encouraged to attend this free event. They were greeted with musical entertainment that was provided all throughout the night.

On top of that, anyone who donated non-perishable

food items was granted one raffle ticket for each food item they donated. They were then able to participate in a raffle drawing that featured prizes donated by local businesses and individuals. At 9:45 p.m. a grand prize drawing took place. The only catch was that individuals had to be present to win and claim their prize.

The week of events wraps

up Friday and Saturday with a group of MNSU students participating in the annual "Homelessness Awareness Sleepout" event. The event is designed to educate people about poverty, hunger and homelessness through various activities. For more information or to get involved, contact MNSU's Office of Community Engagement.



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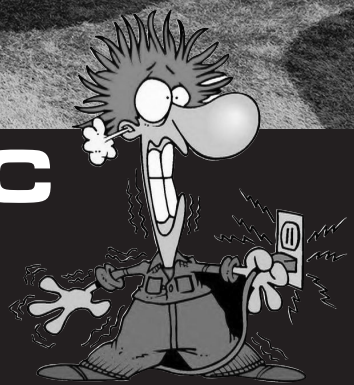
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MAVPODS

Continued from page 1

Technical Assistance Center to see if my interpretation was actually a violation,” Fitzsimons explained.

“Based on the information I gave them, they indicated they did think it was a violation, and then they referred me to talk to the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights. Then I contacted them and they instructed me to fill out the discrimination complaint form, which I did.”

To strengthen the complaint, Fitzsimons discussed the topic with her Introduction to Social Work class, and the students expressed the same frustrations.

With this, the students conducted research on the MavPODs and wrote up a report highlighting the complications with the pods.

Avalon Luehman was one of the nine students involved with the research and was surprised to learn about the visible problems that are invisible to others.

“When I first saw them [MavPODs] I was wondering what they were because they looked like phone booths. But then once I heard what they were, I was kind of thinking it was cool the school did that. I guess, since I’m not in a wheelchair and I have good mobility, I never had to think about that before,” Luehman stated.

“Once Dr. Fitzsimons brought it up in class it was like I couldn’t shut my brain

off to the fact that people who are in a wheelchair aren’t able to use them.”

Mark Johnson, Vice President for Technology, presented the MavPOD concept to the MNSU Student Government this semester before the pods arrived on campus and addressed the question of accessibility.

“We did know going in that we couldn’t do the accessible ones for some period of time, so that’s the best we could do. I shouldn’t say that’s the best we could do, that’s the best we did at the time,” Johnson stated.

In her part of the research, Luehman started off at a specific location on campus and then noted how long it took her to walk from that spot to an inaccessible MavPOD and then from there to an accessible spot in the Memorial Library.

“For me it was Trafton South on the third floor, and from there I went to Armstrong to find an inaccessible MavPOD and then I went to the library to find an accessible study space,” Luehman explained.

According to the report, it would take someone 74 seconds to walk to the closest MavPOD in Trafton South 350 without any restrictions, but it would take 19 minutes to arrive at the same closest MavPOD with restrictions imposed.

From here, there were no accessible MavPODs in close proximity to Trafton South, resulting in the closest acces-

sible study space to be located in the library.

The walk from Trafton South 350 to the library is approximately 26 minutes, with restrictions imposed.

Once conducting and organizing this research, Luehman is hoping there will be some changes made to the MavPODs to make them available for everyone.

“What I’m hoping is that the department is going to stay true to its word of diversity and inclusion for all. Maybe the MavPODs need to go, maybe they need to double up on the things that are accessible for everybody,” Luehman commented.

To help resolve this, Luehman pointed out that everyone needs to be included in the large decisions being made about the campus.

“Because accessible MavPODs weren’t introduced from the beginning and they are supposedly supposed to come in 2022, it shows that it does matter who is at the table when these decisions are made,” Luehman stated.

“We need more inclusivity and diversity and different perspectives when it comes to the people making the decisions about our campus.”

The university’s statement on the matter was: “Minnesota State University, Mankato looks forward to working with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights to ensure the University is meeting all federal accessibility requirements for the MavPods on campus.”

Contrary to popular belief, no great migration in pandemic



PATRICK SEMANSKY • Associated Press

Students finish loading belongings into a U-Haul truck as they move out of their dorm in Washington on March 18, 2020.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Contrary to popular belief, there has been no great migration in the U.S. during the pandemic. New figures released Wednesday by the U.S. Census Bureau show that the proportion of people who moved over the past year fell to its lowest level in the 73 years that it has been tracked, in contradiction to popular anecdotes that people left cities en masse to escape COVID restrictions or in search of more bucolic lifestyles.

“Millennials living in New York City do not make up the world,” joked Thomas Cooke, a demographic consultant in Connecticut.

“My millennial daughter’s friends living in Williamsburg, dozens of them came home. It felt like the world had suddenly moved, but in reality, this is not surprising at all.”

In 2021, more than 27 million people, or 8.4% of U.S. residents, reported having moved in the past year, according to the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement. By comparison, 9.3% of U.S. residents moved from 2019 to 2020. Three decades ago, that figure was 17%.

Besides giving rise to shelter-in-place restrictions, the COVID pandemic may have forced people to postpone life-cycle events.

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Companies bid \$192 mill in Gulf oil sale

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Energy companies including Shell, BP, Chevron and ExxonMobil offered a combined \$192 million for drilling rights on federal oil and gas reserves in the Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday, as the first government lease auction under President Joe Biden laid bare the hurdles he faces to reach climate goals dependent on deep cuts in fossil fuel emissions.

The Interior Department auction came after attorneys general from Republican states led by Louisiana successfully challenged a suspension on sales that Biden imposed when he took office.

Companies bid on 308 tracts totaling nearly 2,700 square miles (6,950 square kilometers). It marked the largest acreage and second-highest bid total since Gulf-wide bidding resumed in 2017.

Driving the heightened interest are a rebound in oil prices and uncertainty about the future of the leasing program, industry analysts said. Biden campaigned on pledges to end drilling on federally owned lands and waters, which includes the Gulf.

"Prices are higher now than they've been since 2018," said Rene Santos with S&P Global Platts. "The other thing is this fear that the Biden administration is here for another three years. They're certainly not going to accelerate the number of lease sales and they could potentially have fewer sales."

It will take years to develop the leases before companies start pumping crude. That means they could keep producing long past 2030, when scientists say the world needs to be well on the way to cutting greenhouse gas emissions to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Yet even as Biden has tried to cajole other world leaders into strengthening efforts against global warming, including at this month's UN climate talks in Scotland, he's had difficulty gaining ground on climate issues at home.

The administration has proposed another round of oil and gas sales early next year in Wyoming, Colorado, Montana and other states. Interior Department officials proceeded despite concluding that burning the fuels could lead to billions of dollars in potential future climate damages.

Emissions from burning and extracting fossil fuels from public lands and waters account for about a quarter of U.S. carbon dioxide emis-



ERIC GAY • Associated Press

A man wears a face mask as he fishes near docked oil drilling platforms, Friday, May 8, 2020, in Port Aransas, Texas.

sions, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

"The thing that is really bedeviling people right now is this conflict between the short term and long term when it comes to energy policy," said Jim Krane, an energy studies fellow at Rice University in Houston. "We still need this energy system that is basically causing climate change, even as we're fighting climate change."

Wednesday's livestreamed auction invited energy companies to bid on drilling leases across 136,000 square miles — about twice the area of Florida. Federal officials estimated prior to the sale that it could lead to the production of up to 1.1 billion barrels of oil and 4.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Shell Offshore Inc., the largest leaseholder in the Gulf, said the 20 tracts on which it successfully bid \$17.9 million could offer development opportunities near existing platforms or new areas.

"The need absolutely continues for continued competitive leases in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico," said Shell spokesperson Cindy Babski.

Chevron USA was the top bidder, offering almost \$49 million for 34 tracts. BP Exploration and Production had \$30 million in high bids on 46 tracts, and Anadarko US Offshore had almost \$40 million in high bids — including the day's highest bid, \$10 million — on 30 tracts.

ExxonMobil bid nearly \$15 million in two areas off the Texas shoreline in the northwest Gulf.

Those 94 tracts are in shallow water — less than 656 feet deep — where oil has mostly played out and there are few active leases.

Not far away in the Houston Ship Channel, Exxon is pursuing a government-industry collaboration that would raise \$100 billion to capture carbon dioxide from

industrial plants, carry it away in pipelines and inject it deep under the floor of the Gulf of Mexico, a process known as carbon capture and sequestration, or CCS.

"The Exxon bids have to be a play on their proposed CCS project," said Justin Rostant with industry consulting firm Wood Mackenzie.

ExxonMobil spokesperson Todd Spitler declined to say if there was a link between its bids and the carbon capture proposal. The company is evaluating the subsurface geology for "future commercial potential" and will work with the Interior Department on its plans after leases are awarded, he said.

Shallow waters have typically been more attractive to smaller oil firms with less to spend on costly deep water exploration, said Rice University's Krane. As managing carbon becomes more viable, he said, shallow tracts will become attractive for things beyond oil production.

Environmental reviews of the lease auction — conducted under former President Donald Trump and affirmed under Biden — reached an unlikely conclusion: Extracting and burning the fuel would result in fewer climate-changing emissions than leaving it.

Similar claims in two other cases, in Alaska, were rejected by federal courts after challenges from environmentalists. Climate scientist Peter Erickson, whose work was cited by judges in one of the cases, said the Interior Department's analysis had a glaring omission: It excluded greenhouse gas increases in foreign countries that result from having more Gulf oil enter the market.

Federal officials recently changed their emissions modeling methods, citing Erickson's work, but said it was too late to use that approach for Wednesday's auction.

How a right-wing provocateur is using race to reach Gen Z



JACKSON FORDERER • Associated Press

Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk speaks to the audience at the "Exposing Critical Racism Theory" tour at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center, Oct. 5, 2021, in Mankato, Minn.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charlie Kirk stood 80 miles from where George Floyd was murdered, faced an overwhelmingly white audience, and declared he was going to say things "no one dares say out loud."

What followed was an avalanche of aspersions and debunked claims about Floyd, the Black man whose death at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer set off a global reckoning over racial injustice and broad calls for change. But the white conservative agitator had a counter view: Floyd was a "scumbag," he said, unworthy of the attention.

The insult lodged at Floyd was intended to be shocking. But anyone familiar with Kirk shouldn't be surprised. For years, the conservative provocateur and his group, Turning Point USA, have built a following inflaming racial divides and stoking outrage. Kirk thrived during President Donald Trump's tenure landing speaking spots at the Republican National Convention in 2016 and 2020 and occasionally counseling Trump on campaign messaging and tactics.

The 28-year-old is expanding his reach, trying to rally a next generation of aggrieved white conservatives.

On a tour of college towns, he blasts schools and local governments for teaching about racism, with a confrontational style some call dangerous. Yet Kirk is drawing large crowds of millennials and Gen Zers, millions of online followers and donor cash, often with little media attention.

Kirk is stoking fear among a group that is coming of age in a time of social restlessness, said Nekima Levy Armstrong, a Minneapolis civil rights lawyer and activist.

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Investment to boost global COVID vaccine



NAM Y. HUH • Associated Press

A dose of a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is prepared at Lurie Children's hospital, Nov. 5, 2021, in Chicago.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pressed to address gaping inequality in global COVID-19 vaccines, the Biden administration took steps Wednesday to make billions of dollars available to drugmakers to scale up domestic production to share with the world and prepare for the next pandemic.

Under the new initiative, the government's Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority is soliciting pharmaceutical companies with proven ability to make the more-effective mRNA vaccines to bid for U.S. investment in scaling up their manufacturing. Pfizer and Moderna produce the two U.S.-approved mRNA shots.

The White House hopes the move will build capacity to produce an additional 1 billion shots per year.

The initiative comes as the Biden White House has faced growing pressure at home and abroad over inequity in the global vaccine supply — as the U.S. moves toward approving booster shots for all adults while vulnerable people in poorer nations wait for their first dose of protection.

According to an analysis by the ONE Campaign, an international aid and advocacy organization, only 4.7% of people living in low-income countries have received a first dose.

Wealthy nations administered more than 173 million booster shots, while lower-income countries have administered about 32 million first shots.

The Biden administration believes increasing capacity of COVID-19 shots will help

ease a global shortage of doses, particularly in lower- and middle-income nations, stopping preventable death and limiting the development of potentially new, more dangerous variants of the virus.

"The goal of this program is to expand existing capacity by an additional billion doses per year, with production starting by the second half of 2022," White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients said.

On Wednesday, Zients announced that the U.S. has now donated 250 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines globally — the most of any nation — with a goal of sharing more than 1.1 billion shots by the end of 2022.

There are no firm agreements yet with Moderna or Pfizer to take up the U.S. on the investment, but the Biden administration hopes that the enhanced manufacturing capacity, through support for the company's facilities, equipment, staff or training, will by mid-2022 allow more COVID-19 doses to be shared overseas as well as help prepare for the next public health emergency.

The administration is prioritizing the mRNA vaccines, which have proven to be more effective against preventing serious illness and death from COVID-19 than the Johnson & Johnson viral vector vaccine, which uses a harmless virus that carries genetic material to stimulate the immune system.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are made with a piece of genetic code called messenger RNA that tells the body to make harmless copies of the spike protein so it's trained to recognize the vi-

rus.

Robbie Silverman, senior advocacy manager at Oxfam America, welcomed Biden's plan to invest into vaccine manufacturing capacity but said it was nowhere near sufficient.

"What the world really needs is distributed regional manufacturing capacity of vaccines, and it sounds like this investment is focused on building U.S. capacity," he said. "We desperately need the companies who have a monopoly over the COVID vaccines to transfer their technology, and we need the U.S. government to use its leverage."

Silverman estimated that without companies transferring their knowledge of how to make COVID-19 vaccines, it would take manufacturers elsewhere double the time needed to start making doses, noting that billions of vaccines against other diseases are routinely made in developing countries.

Silverman said that while the U.S. should have negotiated more provisions about vaccine equity when it was securing its own supply, it was not too late to act.

He said the U.S. should support the proposed waiver that was drafted by India and South Africa at the World Trade Organization, calling for patents on COVID-19 vaccines and treatments to be suspended. And he said the U.S. could invoke the Defense Production Act to target critical ingredients for COVID-19 shots.

"The U.S. government has lots of tools at its disposal to push pharmaceutical companies," he said.

UNITED

Continued from page 2

be the pandemic, mental health and sustainability.

"I hope I am surprised at what is brought up," said Zellmer "and I am hearing new things since there are more students able to come."

The conference will also host several speakers to discuss various problems facing students today.

The keynote speaker of the event will be Minnesota State

Representative Heather Keeler. Keeler.

An alum of Minnesota State University, Moorhead, Keeler has gone on to serve on the Minnesota House of Representatives for district 4A.

Amber Jones, a policy advisor for the office of Governor Tim Walz, will also speak at the conference.

Jones will be advising students on how personal experiences can lead to organizing for change.

PRESKA

Continued from page 1

campus landmarks, including the Bell Tower, Andreas Observatory, Wissink Center and the Memorial Library.

She also reportedly led efforts to fund various construction projects, including the Wiecking Annex, Pennington Hall and the Alumni and Foundation Building.

Preska's career began in California but would ultimately take her around the world.

She taught history and did research in Russia, university archives say, while serving as

a Scholar in Residence at Winona State University.

She was also the founding campus chief executive officer of Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Preska earned a bachelor's degree at State University of New York-Brockport, where she graduated summa cum laude at the age of 19.

She earned a master's degree at The Pennsylvania State University, a doctoral degree at Claremont Graduate University and did additional study at Manchester College of Oxford University.

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

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REPORTER

FALL 2021

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MavPODs needed student consultation

EDITORIAL

It is clear that there was not enough foresight put into the MavPODs decision. When it comes to accessibility, it is simple, the University missed the mark.

As it stands, the complaint written and sent in by Dr. Nancy Fitzsimons will undergo investigation from the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. This complaint states that the MavPODs are discriminatory against people with mobility disabilities.

We are left with two options as to what happened. Either the University knew that they were not accessible to those with mobile disabilities and went ahead with them, or they simply overlooked the issue entirely.

Assuming that it was simply an oversight, there should have been so many more safeguards to avoid this from happening.

A fundamental error that could have avoided the University this entire hassle- the lack of student consultation.

MavPODs were paid for with federal relief money, and cost roughly \$1 million. This amount of money, if it is dedicated to a new service designed for students, should involve students at the table for making these decisions.

Neither the current Student Government, nor leaders of the Student Government last year were consulted until the pods were already being installed on campus in August.



MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter

Students deserve to have their voice heard when it comes to large decisions like this. In this specific case, should there have been more student voices at the table, such a large oversight like accessibility would have not been missed.

Student consultation would have brought up vital questions like the necessity of the MavPODs. We have several quiet places on campus for students to study, and these spaces could have been fine tuned to meet the needs of a campus during a pandemic.

This is not to say that MavPODs were the complete wrong decision. Students obviously use them and they can be very helpful for students in need of a quick and quiet place to hop into a Zoom.

The problem lies in that such a big change and allocation of money that is designed and dedicated toward improving the education of students, without properly and adequately consulting the biggest stakeholders.

This lack of communication and consultation is di-

rectly correlated to the massive oversight in accessibility. If the University was more transparent on their plans for MavPODs, there would have been a significant decrease in mistakes like this one.

It does not matter what the circumstance, the University cannot forget the fact that the goal of the campus is to serve the students.

The best way for the University to accurately support students without mistake is through transparency and consultation.

PULSE

“What do you think about the MavPODs?”

Compiled by Dylan Engel



KELSEY ANDERSON, FRESHMAN

“They are pretty slick and cool.”



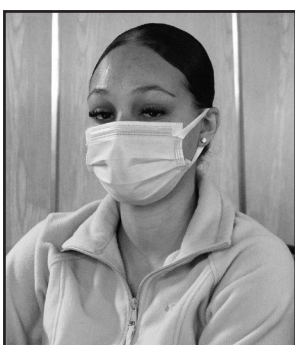
WEBI CHALA, SOPHOMORE

“I don't use them much. Good space, but could be stressful for working in tight spaces.”



JENNA DUBBELDE, FRESHMAN

“Never seen an empty one. Need more so more people can use them.”



LINNIE ANDERSON, JUNIOR

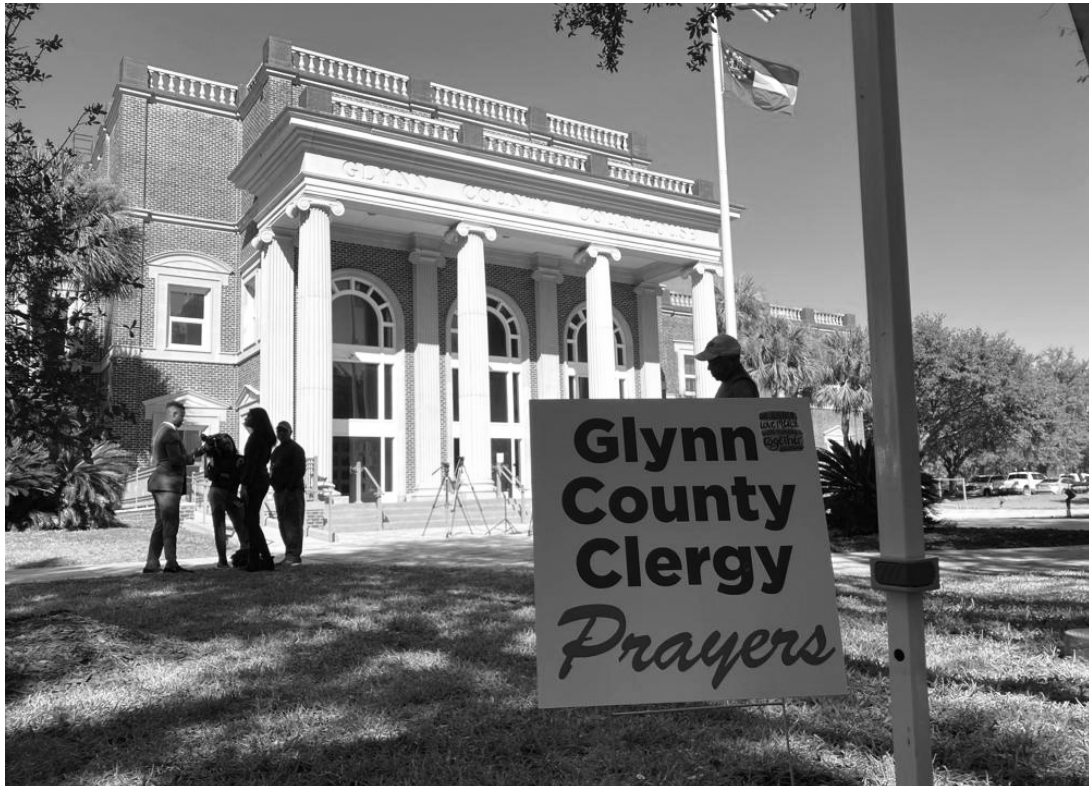
“Ideal for people who like working in small places, their own private area.”



JEZRAH MCNINCH, FRESHMAN

“Never used them. Soundproof for people working in their own environment.”

Call to remove Black pastors adds to agony



JEFFREY COLLINS • Associated Press

Black and white pastors have set up a tent and are asking for prayers during the trial over the death of Ahmaud Arbery at the Glynn County courthouse in Brunswick, Georgia, on Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Race was always going to be at the forefront of the trial of three white men charged with chasing and killing Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, in a coastal Georgia neighborhood.

But a defense attorney's quickly rejected call to kick out Black pastors, including Jesse Jackson, from the Glynn County courtroom intensified frustrations and added fresh agony to a lingering wound that many in the community had hoped the trial could start healing.

About a mile from the courthouse in the majority Black city of Brunswick, Tony Bryant has been following the proceedings.

Sitting outside the front door of his apartment with peeling teal paint and a view of cranes at the state of Georgia's port along the East River, he said the way race has seeped into the trial has been discouraging but not surprising — from seating an almost all-white jury when 27% of Glynn County's 85,000 people are Black to trying to kick out Jackson and other pastors.

"Three white men killed a Black guy. Come on, man. Who did they think was going to be there to support his family?" Bryant said.

The request was especially offensive because pastors play an important role in comforting people who are hurting and demanding justice, said John Perry, a pastor and the former leader of Brunswick's chapter of the NAACP.

"I believe we're seeing overwhelming evidence that points us toward guilt, and

so there's been an attempt to take the focus off of the evidence," Perry said.

After Jackson, the Rev. Al Sharpton and others sat with Arbery's family in court, defense attorney Kevin Gough asked the judge to kick out the pastors, saying civil rights icons could influence the jury.

"We don't want any more Black pastors coming in here ... sitting with the victim's family, trying to influence the jurors in this case," Gough said last week. The attorneys for the other two men on trial did not join Gough.

Sharpton said he started gathering dozens of Black pastors to pray outside the courthouse Thursday with lawyers representing Arbery's family.

"They tried to ban one. We're coming back with a hundred," Sharpton said.

Superior Court Judge Timothy Walmsley called the request against the Black pastors "reprehensible" because in America trials and courtrooms are open for all outside of pandemic concerns, and the pastors had followed those rules. That opinion was echoed throughout Brunswick, from groups of white and Black pastors gathering outside the courthouse each day to shop owners a few blocks away, where a glance to the left sees dozens of expensive boats docked.

Melissa Bagby winced when a reporter asked her about the attorney's request Tuesday.

"That was disgusting," she said behind the counter of The Market, a store full of knickknacks, whimsical signs and a cat named Sasha who leads customers to her

food bowl.

Arbery "wasn't armed and wasn't doing anything wrong," Bagby said. "I think they're trying to do whatever they can."

The city of 15,000, which is the gateway to idyllic spots along the coast and surrounded by a county where a significant majority of people are white, has talked and prayed its way through the anger after the men weren't charged for more than two months — after a video of them chasing Arbery in pickup trucks was released and state investigators took over.

In Brunswick, white and Black people make a point "to sit at the dinner table and drink tea and lemonade and eat chicken and biscuits" while sharing their thoughts and experiences, said the Rev. Abra Lattany-Reed, a Black pastor who has lived in Brunswick all her 60 years.

But each new point of racial division from the trial hurts her goal of bringing Black and white people together to solve other, more persistent problems.

"It sets us back because it takes us away from conversations that were already going on," said Lattany-Reed, who pastors Harper's Chapel United Methodist Church. "It's taken our attention away from education and economic justice and stimulating the economy for the common good."

With the trial winding down, Brunswick is preparing for a verdict. "If it comes back not guilty, I would leave town for at least three days. Not guilty would open the flood gates," said Perry, the local civil rights leader.

Henry Montgomery, at center of juvenile life debate, is free



GERALD HERBERT • Associated Press

Henry Montgomery laughs inside the Louisiana Parole Project offices in Baton Rouge, La. after being released from the Louisiana State Penitentiary, after serving 57 years in prison, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

After spending nearly six decades behind bars, the Louisiana inmate whose Supreme Court case was instrumental in extending the possibility of freedom to hundreds of people sentenced to life in prison without the opportunity for parole when they were juveniles, was freed on parole Wednesday.

Henry Montgomery, 75, was released from prison just hours after the parole board's decision and went to the offices of the Louisiana Parole Project, a nonprofit which is supporting him after his release. There he was embraced by tearful staff

and former juvenile lifers who were freed as a result of the court case that bears Montgomery's name.

"It feels so wonderful," said Montgomery during an interview with The Associated Press. When asked what he plans to do now that he is out of prison, Montgomery said he wanted to pay his respects to his mother and grandmother and other family members who died when he was behind bars.

Montgomery had been convicted in the 1963 killing of East Baton Rouge sheriff's deputy Charles Hurt, who caught him skipping school. Montgomery was 17 at the time.

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Schools close as smog-laden India considers lockdown

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Authorities closed schools indefinitely and shut down some coal-burning power plants Wednesday to reduce air pollution in India's smog-shrouded capital and neighboring states, as the country weighs an unprecedented and more far-reaching step: a lockdown in New Delhi.

The dirty-air crisis in the city of more than 20 million people has underscored India's heavy dependence on coal, which accounts for 70% of the country's power.

The New Delhi state government said it is open to the idea of a weekend lockdown to reduce automobile traffic and potentially other air-polluting activity in the city, and it is awaiting the go-ahead from India's Supreme Court. A decision could come as early as Nov. 24.

It's not clear how extensive the lockdown would be. Authorities are discussing whether to allow industries to continue operating. Some experts said a lockdown would achieve very little in controlling pollution and would instead cause disruptions in



MANISH SWARUP • Associated Press

Commuters drive amidst morning haze and toxic smog in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021.

the economy and harm the livelihoods of millions of people.

"This is not the solution that we are looking for, because this is hugely disruptive. And we also have to keep in mind that the economy is already under pressure, poor people are at risk," said An-

umita Roychowdhury, executive director at the Center for Science and Environment, a research and advocacy organization in New Delhi.

Soaring pollution levels in the capital prompted a federal environment ministry panel to issue strict guidelines Tuesday night to stem the pollu-

tion and show residents that the government is taking action against a crisis that has plagued the city for years.

Besides closing schools and shutting down some power plants, the Commission for Air Quality Management ordered a stop to construction until Nov. 21 and banned

trucks carrying non-essential goods. The panel also directed the affected states to encourage work from home for half of the employees in all private offices.

The importance of coal to India was underlined just days ago at the world climate talks in Scotland, where almost 200 nations accepted a compromise deal to fight global warming. It contained a last-minute change sought by India that watered down crucial language about coal.

The agreement as amended would "phase down" rather than "phase out" coal power, the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Levels of dangerous particles in New Delhi's air Wednesday were as high as seven times the safe level, climbing above 300 micrograms per cubic meter in some parts of the city. The WHO designates the safe level as 25. Forecasters warned air quality will worsen before the arrival of cold winds next week that will blow away the smog.

Earlier this month, air pollution reached the "severe" level, and residents faced bouts of heavy, multiday pollution.

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SPORTS

Mavs play Oklahoma Baptist in Tourney

By DANIEL McELROY
Sports Editor

For their 10th consecutive and 15th overall appearance, the Mavericks are headed to the NCAA Tournament where they will take on the Oklahoma Baptist Bison.

Minnesota State earned the No. 4 seed in the Central Region Bracket after defeating Bemidji State in the NSIC Championship game.

The Bisons earned the No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament after taking down Southwestern Oklahoma State University in the Great American Conference Championship game.

This is the first time the Mavericks are taking on Oklahoma Baptist ever, in hopes of moving on and facing the winner of No. 1 seed and nationally ranked No. 11 Central Missouri against No. 8 seed Southwestern Oklahoma State.

Minnesota State finished their regular season with a 17-2-2 overall record, while going 12-1-2 in conference play.

Mankato native Jenny Vetter led the Mavericks in points and goals by a large margin, with 17 goals and four assists for 38 points.

The NSIC Tournament Most Valuable Player in Maille Mathis was second in points for the Mavericks



Maille Mathis earned NSIC Tournament Most Valuable Player honors with her 2 goals against Bemidji.

with six goals and five assists, good for 17 points on the season. Mathis scored the first two goals of the game for the Mavericks unassisted in their championship win over Bemidji State.

Vetter, along with Allie Williams, Mackenzie Rath, and Kelly Freidrich each earned All-Tournament honors.

Rath has had a phenomenal season her first year as the Mavericks starting goalkeeper, ending the season with a 17-2-2 record, 10 total shutouts, a goals against average

of 0.39, and a save percentage of .913.

Rath ranks third in the nation with her .913 save percentage, sixth with her .39 goals against average, and 10th with her 10 shutouts on the season.

Tori Kitchel is the leading point scorer for the Bison with 10 goals and four assists on the year. Kitchel scored three goals and an assist in their semifinals win over Northwestern Oklahoma State, while scoring the lone goal in their championship 1-0 win

over Southwestern Oklahoma State.

In between the pipes for OBU is Ireland Jeffrey, who tallies an 11-2-1 record through 18 games started. Jeffrey earned seven shutouts throughout the year with an .828 save percentage and a .75 goals against average.

The match between the two squads is set for 10 a.m. Friday, with the winner moving onto the regional semifinals against the winner of No. 1 UCM and No. 8 SWOSU.

DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Mavs take down BLC in battle of 'Kato

By KOLE BUELOW
Staff Writer

The Taylor Center has now opened up once again for women's college basketball.

After heading down to Des Moines this past weekend to face Division I opponent Drake University in an exhibition match, the Mavericks returned home for their first game of the regular season.

The Drake Bulldogs took down the Mavs 83-58, but the game acted more as a warmup for what is to come for the remainder of the season. MSU's first game of the regular season came against Bethany Lutheran College, where they protected home court in dominating fashion, 107-65.

The Mavericks got off to a hot start right away, draining a shot from three-point range on their first possession of the game. It was a dominating performance all around, as the Mavs went into halftime shooting nearly 57% from the field with a 66-30 lead in their grasp.

Minnesota State slowed down after returning from half, but were able to maintain their lead all throughout the game to finish off the Vikings 107-65 in their first game of the regular season.

Both teams had impressive performances coming off the bench in this one, as the Mavs found the most life from freshman Destinee Bursch.

Bursch exploded for 25 points in the win with three assists, shooting 4 of 8 from the three-point line, and a team-leading six rebounds in her first collegiate game.

Bursch did so while only playing 17 minutes, in a very evenly rounded game from the Mavericks.

The Vikings struggled to keep up with the Mavericks on the offensive side of the court, but had some very impressive performances coming off the bench as well.

HOOPS on page 13 ►

Men's hockey takes on Tommies in new rivalry

By DANIEL McELROY
Sports Editor

It's been a fantastic start to the Minnesota State men's hockey conference schedule, and they will look to continue that this week in a home-and-home series against St. Thomas.

This will mark the first time the Mavericks have faced off against the Tommies since December of 1996. The Mavericks have won nine of the 14 contests when both programs were Division II, and the rivalry of another Division I Minnesota hockey team is ready to be reignited.

"It's pretty cool to start that rivalry early this year and it's a rivalry that will grow over time," defenseman Jack McNeely said.

This is the first season St.

Thomas is playing in Division I hockey when they were removed from MIAC due to concerns about athletic competitive parity.

Since St. Thomas joined the CCHA, they are 1-11-0 (1-7-0 CCHA), with their first and only win coming against Ferris State in a 5-2 contest.

When talking about another Minnesota team joining Division I hockey and the CCHA, Hastings mentioned how this is exactly what his former head coach at St. Cloud State University, Herb Brooks, would have wanted.

"One of Herb's calls was, 'Can we see what we can do to get as many Division I programs in the state of Minnesota as possible?'" Hastings said. "Back in the day, Herb was looking at the state of Michigan, and he wasn't too happy



Defenseman Jack McNeely has five assists through 12 games this season. McNeely is also second on the team with 14 blocked shots.

that there weren't as many Division I programs in Minnesota as there were in Michigan, and that was a goal of his."

The Mavericks have started this season as a top three team in the USCHO NCAA Division I rankings every single

week, with two stints as the No. 1 ranked.

Minnesota State has gone 9-3-0 (5-1-0 CCHA) in the first leg of the season to get to that point, and have done so in dominating fashion. MSU

RIVALRY on page 12 ►

MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter

Ruggs ordered to court after missed test

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Las Vegas judge ordered former Raiders receiver Henry Ruggs III to appear before her on Monday after learning he missed a required alcohol test while on house arrest following a fatal crash he's accused of causing by driving drunk at speeds up to 156 mph.

Ruggs' lawyers told Justice of the Peace Suzan Baucum that Ruggs "self-tested" negative shortly after missing one of his calls for a breath test last weekend.

Ruggs' attorney, David Chesnoff, blamed the delay on trouble with testing equipment.

A note posted later in the court record shows Ruggs, 22, missed a test at 4:41 p.m. Saturday and that he completed "a client initiated remote breath test" at 6:28 p.m.

The alcohol monitoring agency noted that it "cannot confirm Mr. Ruggs' sobriety during this point-in-time," and said Ruggs' attorney provided an updated phone number for text notifications for Ruggs' remote breath test.

Ruggs was not in court Wednesday for a brief hearing during which Baucum declined his lawyers' request for a court order to obtain fire department records about the Nov. 2 crash and fire. She said she'd reconsider if they can't get the records themselves.

Ruggs could face a return to jail. A judge who set his bail at \$150,000 warned Ruggs directly that if he didn't comply with release restrictions he would face re-arrest.

Ruggs is under home confinement with electronic monitoring and four-times-a-day alcohol checks. He is required to respond to a telephone or text signal by blowing into a device that checks his blood-alcohol level. Records show he owns a \$1.1 million home not far from where the crash occurred.

Prosecutors have said Ruggs' blood-alcohol level after the crash was 0.16%.

Authorities said he and his girlfriend, Kiara Je'nai Kilgo-Washington, were injured when Ruggs' Chevrolet Corvette slammed into the rear of Tina Tintor's Toyota Rav4, rupturing that vehicle's fuel tank.

Men's basketball opens at home against Huskies

By DANIEL McELROY
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State men's basketball team has their season underway and are set to take on the St. Cloud State Huskies Saturday, and the Concordia-St. Paul Golden Bears Tuesday in their first NSIC match.

The Mavericks are coming off a pair of wins from the Central Region Challenge in Kansas City, where they took down Missouri Western State 77-64, and Lincoln 92-69.

The Mavericks and have a very long history against each other, dating back to December of 1924, when the Mavericks lost to the Huskies in their first match ever by a score of 12-10. All-time, the Mavericks are just under .500 against SCSU with a record of 89-95. More recently, the Mavericks got the best of St. Cloud State in the 2019-2020 season, with a pair of wins at 73-61 and 95-83.

SCSU started their season with two wins in the Great American Conference Challenge. St. Cloud State took down Ouachita Baptist and Harding in 84-71 and 102-72 wins, respectively.

The Huskies went on to drop their first match of the season against Clarke Uni-



MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter

Through two games, Kelby Kramer has 12 points, while leading the team in blocks with 4.

versity in a 94-89 contest, with just one more match against the Mavericks before beginning conference play.

Through two games, guard Quincy Anderson leads the Mavericks in points, scoring 40 points, as well as total rebounds with 14.

Brady Williams comes behind Anderson in scoring, with 28 of his own with 17 in the first contest, and 11 in the second.

Devonte Thedford also

has 24 points on the season, scoring just six in the contest against Missouri Western, but bouncing back and scoring 18 against Lincoln.

In their first conference matchup, the Mavericks will take on Concordia-St. Paul Tuesday.

Minnesota State is currently on a 14 game win streak against the Golden bears, and have only dropped two in the last 20 matches.

In a series that dates back

to 1960, the Mavericks are 31-6 against CSP, and are looking to continue that streak early next week.

CSP is starting the season with a 1-2 record, with a 73-70 win against Newman, while dropping their next two losses to Rogers State and Bemidji State.

Concordia-St. Paul also suffered two exhibition losses to the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers 80-67, and Weber State 101-74.

RIVALRY

Continued from page 11

took down Bowling Green last weekend in a sweep to jump out to a three-game winning streak and the No. 1 seed in the CCHA with 15 points, tied with Bemidji State.

Nathan Smith leads the scoring for the Mavericks with a 6-11-17 stat line and a .176 shooting percentage.

Brendan Furry, Cade

Borchardt, and Reggie Lutz are all next in line behind Smith, and all of whom have hat tricks in this short season already.

Dryden McKay stands tall between the pipes, per usual, holding a 1.78 goals against average, .911 save percentage, and a 9-3-0 record with three shutouts while starting and playing every game this season for MSU. Earlier this season, Dryden McKay broke the NCAA men's all

time shutout record with 27 in his career following his 7-0 shutout win over Northern Michigan.

The Mavericks will play in Mankato tonight, and play game two at St. Thomas Saturday.

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Slumping Mavs face off against OSU

By KOLE BUELOW
Staff Writer

What a skid it has been for the Minnesota State University women's hockey team.

After starting the season at 5-1, the team is now staring down a possible 5-9 record with No. 2 Ohio State next up on the schedule.

Ohio State has been nationally ranked every week up to this point in the season, with its only losses coming to the number one team in the nation, the Wisconsin Badgers. The Buckeyes would be undefeated otherwise, their resume including two wins against the current No. 3 team in the nation, Minnesota.

History has not been kind to the Mavericks when playing the Buckeyes, but is much nicer than previous historical bouts with Minnesota and Wisconsin. MSU has struggled to win any games against Ohio State over time, but have won 14 times in 96 total meetings since 1999, with another 11 also being ties.

The team's most recent wins count as ties on the school website, but are indeed wins in both a shootout and overtime when the Mavericks beat the Buckeyes in Oct. of 2019 in Mankato. Their most recent regulation time win came in Dec. of 2018.

In MSU's most previous series of games, they came out on the wrong side of a two-game road trip to St. Cloud, losing both games by scores



MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter

of 3-2 and 4-1. The Buckeyes come into the matchup against the Mavericks feeling the opposite of a six game skid, with two series sweeps against St. Thomas and St. Cloud.

It is going to be a tough task for the Mavs to handle when looking ahead at how they can defeat the Buckeyes, but MSU has shown they can hang with some of the top teams in the nation. The Mavs have previously held the Badgers to just two goals in a contest while scoring one of their own, and if they can find a way to shut down Ohio State's offense, they could pull off an upset.

The Buckeyes find themselves scoring all over the board when it comes to putting pucks in the net, with senior forward Gabby Rosenthal leading the way with 10 goals through 12 games. Ohio State loves to share the puck, which allows them to

have three players over 10 assists on the season as well.

The assist and points leader for the Buckeyes is junior forward Jennifer Gardiner, who has tallied 15 assists and six goals so far on the season to lead Ohio State with 21 points. The Buckeyes are not weak in any position, and have a lot of depth to get them through games.

Ohio State has used all its goaltenders up to this point in the season, primarily using senior Andrea Braendli in tougher games.

Braendli has been a stud in the crease so far this season, currently holding a .955 save percentage in her seven starts.

The Buckeyes certainly pose a tough position for the Mavericks to find a win in the two upcoming games, but with previous signs of showing success in shutting down top teams, the Mavs should have a chance to at least take one of the two games.

HOOPS *Continued from page 11*



MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter

Destinee Bursch (14) led the Mavericks in points in her first collegiate game with 25 points, three assists, and six rebounds.

Haley Meyer and Alexis Cloyd were explosive and efficient for Bethany Lutheran, combining for 34 points on a phenomenal 77.7 three-point percentage.

It was a truly dominant performance from the Mavericks, where they never trailed during the game.

MSU ended the game shooting 51.2% from the field while almost reaching 40% from three-point range.

Minnesota State gets to stay home for their next game of the season, where they are ready to host UW-Parkside this upcoming Saturday at the Taylor Center.

With only one regular season game under their belt, the Mavs will look to continue leaning on sophomore guard Joey Batt to run the offense. Batt scored 16 points in 22 minutes against Bethany Lutheran on Tuesday.

MSU will also look to their

bench for life once again, in the hopes that freshman guard Bursch can continue her scoring woes against Parkside.

UW-Parkside remains undefeated this season through their first two games, with wins coming against No. 23 Truman State and Quincy.

The Rangers have a matchup against No. 18 Minnesota Duluth on Nov. 18 at home before traveling to Mankato on Saturday.

Coming up the following Tuesday the Mavs get their first taste of NSIC action against Concordia-St. Paul.

MSU is set to travel north to the cities for the matchup, where the two teams nearly split their history of games.

The Mavericks currently have some work to do in catching up to the Golden Bears in the series, where they have won 20 of the past 42.

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Toronto lefty Ray wins AL Cy Young, Brewers' Burnes wins NL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Year of the Pitcher, both Robbie Ray and Corbin Burnes completed their own kind of comebacks.

Ray rebounded from a dismal season that saw him take a rare pay cut to win the AL Cy Young Award with Toronto while Burnes returned from an early bout of COVID-19 with Milwaukee to win the NL's top pitching prize Wednesday.

"Everyone has their story," Burnes said during a conference call.

Burnes led the majors with a 2.43 ERA and edged out Philadelphia's Zack Wheeler. They both got 12 first-place votes from members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America, but Burnes drew 14 seconds to Wheeler's nine.

Burnes pitched 167 innings, the fewest for a Cy Young-winning starter in a non-shortened season, and struck out 234. Wheeler struck out 247 — one shy of Ray's big league-leading total — and topped the majors with 213 1/3 innings.

"Everyone's case," Burnes said, "was different."

Ray was best in the AL with a 2.84 ERA and 193 1/3 innings. That came a pandemic-shortened 2020 when the lefty went a combined 2-5 with a 6.62 ERA for Arizona and Blue Jays and issued the most walks in the majors.

"I knew ... I was going to have to put in some hard work," Ray said, adding, "I knew I wanted to make changes."

And in a sign of just how much voters have moved past simply win-loss records while crunching new-era stats, Dodgers lefty Julio Urías posted the most victories in going 20-3, but finished a distant eighth and didn't get a single top-four nod.

Max Scherzer, who pitched for Los Angeles and Washington, finished third in the NL and Dodgers ace Walker Buehler was fourth.

Burnes became the first Brewers pitcher to earn the NL honor — Pete Vuckovich in 1982 and Rollie Fingers in 1981 won the award when Milwaukee was still in the American League.

Ray got 29 first-place votes and became the first Toronto pitcher to win since the late Roy Halladay in 2003. Yankees ace Gerrit Cole drew the other top vote and finished second and Chicago White Sox righty Lance Lynn was third.

Ray went 13-7 in 32 starts and helped keep Toronto in playoff contention until the final weekend.

Having turned 30 last month, the award sets him up well -- a free agent, he turned down an \$18.4 million qualifying offer from Toronto earlier Wednesday.

NCAA women's basketball tourney expands to 68 teams

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The NCAA women's basketball tournament is expanding to 68 teams beginning with the current season, giving it an equal number of participants as the men's tournament as part of a concerted effort at gender parity.

The men's tournament expanded to 68 teams in 2011 with four first-round games traditionally played in Dayton, Ohio. The first four for the women's tournament will take place on the campuses of teams seeded in the top 16 this season, but they will move to a to-be-determined neutral site beginning with the 2023 tournament.

"This immediate expansion of the women's basketball championship reinforces the fact that leaders within Division I are committed to strengthening aspects of the women's basketball championship that directly impact student-athletes," said West Virginia athletic director Shane Lyons, the chairman of the Division I Council.

"We look forward to the positive change this will have for the student experience at the championship," Lyons said, "especially as it relates to equal team opportunities to compete in the tournament."

The expansion of the women's tournament was among



JESSICA HILL • Associated Press

the recommendations put forth in August after a comprehensive external gender equity review conducted by the law firm Kaplan Hecker & Fink. It was commissioned after backlash driven by social media of disparities in the men's and women's tournaments, including weight rooms and other facilities.

ESPN will broadcast the first four games along with the rest of the women's tournament. The network is also moving its selection show for the tournament from Monday to Sunday — the same day as the men. It's the first time since 2005 that the women's bracket will be announced on Sunday.

"The expanded bracket and championship opportunities for Division I women's basketball student-athletes are paramount," said UT-San


Antonio athletic director Lisa Campos, the chair of the Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee.

"This is a transition year for the tournament, and strong consideration will be given for other improvement areas, including opening-round games taking place at a predetermined site, in order to improve the championship experience."


Other recommendations include exploring a joint Final Four with the semifinals and title games held in the same city on the same weekend, though that would not happen until at least 2027 with sites already locked in until that point.

The NCAA already had approved the women's tournament using the phrase March Madness in its branding.

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A look into week 11 of fantasy football in the NFL

By KOLE BUELOW
Staff Writer

Week 10 of the NFL season is complete, which means playoff season is just around the corner.

By now most leagues should have a trade deadline either coming up within a few days or it has already passed, which means you need to be on top of your roster and be truthful to yourself as to who you really want to keep when the playoffs come around the corner. Right now every team should be in win-only mode, and teams that are already playoff locks need to be looking to trade for players who have great playoff schedules.

The reality is that the regular season output of your team does not matter anymore once the playoffs arrive, and all you need is good playoff schedules for most to all of your players. It is always tough to let go of some of the guys who have gotten you to where you are today, but the truth of the matter is all that is important now is giving yourself the best chance to win.

It is always suggested in the fantasy football world to get players with good playoff schedules, meaning they play teams who give up a lot of points naturally to people at their position. Going through each position, the quarterback always comes first.

First, a few quarterbacks with good playoff schedules



TONY AVELAR • Associated Press

Nashville Predators center Ryan Johansen (92) scores a goal on Minnesota Wild goaltender Kaapo Kahkonen (34) in the first period of an NHL hockey game, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, in St. Paul, Minn.

include Ben Roethlisberger, Ryan Tannehill, and Dak Prescott. Roethlisberger and Tannehill have not been the greatest at putting up points this season, but they might be good stashes to have on your bench when the playoffs come around the corner.

Prescott has been good all season despite a few dud performances, but with a great playoff schedule, he is surely going to put up a load of points. A few quarterbacks you might have on your team

with bad playoff schedules include Matthew Stafford and Kirk Cousins, two decent fantasy quarterbacks.

Stafford and Cousins rank second and fourth in hardest playoff schedules at the quarterback position. This does not mean you should get rid of them completely, but it would be worth it to see what you could trade them for now before it gets ugly.

On the running back side of things, Najee Harris, Joe Mixon, and Austin Ekeler

have some of the best playoff schedules at the position. Harris has the most impressive stretch, where he faces the Vikings, Titans, Chiefs, and Browns who allow an average of 21.8 fantasy points per game to opposing running backs.

Unfortunately the bad side of the spectrum swallows up some of our fantasy football favorites including Saquon Barkley, D'Andre Swift, and Dalvin Cook. The three backs rank first through third in

hardest schedules for running backs during the playoffs, so you should look to see if you could trade these guys now for people who have better playoff matchups.

At wide receiver you cannot go wrong with just including a whole wide receiver room into one ranking, which brings the Steelers, Titans, Raiders, and 49ers to the top of the list. All four of these teams have great matchups, so look for guys like Diontae Johnson, AJ Brown, Hunter Renfrow, and Deebo Samuel to do well in the playoff stretch.

When looking at the bad, there is a lot to take in. Washington wide receiver Terry McLaurin comes in at first in playoff schedule difficulty, with the Giants, Colts, and Buccaneers following close behind him.

The Buccaneers is one of the most concerning of all, with all three of their main wideouts seeing valuable target share numbers all throughout the season. Make sure to stay away from any of the guys on the Bucs.

As far as kickers and defenses go, it is a pick up and play more than anything, where it is very easy to find value in kickers and defenses on the waiver wire. Some good kickers to look at include Chris Boswell, Dustin Hopkins, and Daniel Carlson while defenses include the Chargers and Cowboys.

REPORTER PICK 'EM • WEEK #11																
NFL	PATRIOTS @ FALCONS	SAINTS @ EAGLES	DOLPHINS @ NY JETS	WASHINGTON @ PANTHERS	COLTS @ BILLS	LIONS @ BROWNS	49ERS @ JAGUARS	TEXANS @ TITANS	PACKERS @ VIKINGS	RAVENS @ BEARS	BENGALS @ RAIDERS	CARDINALS @ SEAHAWKS	COWBOYS @ CHIEFS	STEELERS @ CHARGERS	NY GIANTS @ BUCCANEERS	15 GAMES
DANIEL MCELROY Sports Editor																WEEK #11 BYE WEEK TEAMS:
KOLE BUELOW Sports Writer																DENVER LA RAMS
MAXWELL MAYLEBEN Editor in Chief																
JENNA PETERSON News Director																
MANSOOR AHMAD Media Director																
DANA CLARK Ad Design Mgr.																
BAYLEE SORENSEN Ad Sales Rep.																
ROBB MURRAY Editorial Consultant																
STANDINGS After Week #10	1ST PLACE Kole Buelow Overall (93-57) Last Week (6-8)		2ND PLACE Dana Clark Overall (91-59) Last Week (5-9)		3RD PLACE Daniel McElroy Overall (90-60) Last Week (5-9)		4TH PLACE Maxwell Mayleben Overall (86-64) Last Week (8-6)		5TH PLACE Baylee Sorensen Overall (82-68) Last Week (3-11)		6TH PLACE Mansoor Ahmad Overall (83-67) Last Week (6-8)		7TH PLACE Robb Murray Overall (80-70) Last Week (7-7)		LAST PLACE Jenna Peterson Overall (77-73) Last Week (5-9)	

VARIETY

PEACE educates students on relationships

By SYDNEY BERGGREN
Staff Writer

There are myriad ways to get involved on the Minnesota State University, Mankato campus. One of those ways is through the PEACE project.

PEACE, or Peer Educators Acting for Change and Equality, is an independent theater troupe that goes around to classrooms at scheduled times to do improv acting on topics such as victim blaming, bystander intervention, inclusive language, language surrounding sexual behavior and ways to navigate healthy friendships and relationships in college.

PEACE is orchestrated by VARP, the Violence Aware Response Program, and is now run through the Women's Center.

"Our mission is for students to help educate other students on various topics," said VARP Interim Director Shadow Rolan.

Rolan is also the PEACE advisor, and she participated in the program as an undergraduate student.

Rolan noted that, when it comes to the success of the program, they "think students respond positively and receive



Courtesy photo

PEACE at MNSU has a mission to educate students and help them navigate adulthood and relationships.

information more efficiently when it's coming from their peers. They tend to be more engaged with asking questions and talking with people their age, and that they may know."

PEACE meets every other week in the Women's Center (CSU 218) to practice for any upcoming visits to classrooms. The topics are selected ahead of time for the situation, and

then rehearsed to the best of the actors' abilities.

They then go into said classroom and improv off of their previous rehearsals, and what the classroom climate is.

"We post all dates on the VARP Facebook page, and we will have posters starting next semester," said Rolan.

You don't have to be an actor to join PEACE. "It is

entirely student-led," said Rolan, and anyone and everyone is welcome to check it out.

"All you really have to do is be interested in educating your peers and spreading the messages that PEACE believes in."

Rolan's favorite part by far, she said, is the student interaction with the program.

PEACE on page 19 ►

Neil Hilborn set to perform at MNSU

By LILLY SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

Tonight slam poet Neil Hilborn will be performing in Ostrander Auditorium at Minnesota State University, Mankato at 8 p.m. Hilborn has poetry collections, "Our Numbered Days", "The Future" and "Small Wings in a Small World". Before his reading, there will be an open mic and following the event Hilborn's books will be available for purchase.

Atlas James, a freshman at MNSU, is a long-time fan of Hilborn's work. He explained, "Well, I own both of his books. I've liked Hilborn's poetry ever since I saw a video of him performing his poem 'OCD' live. There's something special in each poem, but he's able to bring them to life even more with illustrative faces and tone inflections. He also has a poem about how he's not a cat person.

POETRY on page 18 ►

How to balance the end-of-semester burnout

By LILLY SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

Burnout can have damaging effects on students. From not turning in homework, to isolation, to skipping classes, it's a struggle college students must learn to manage.

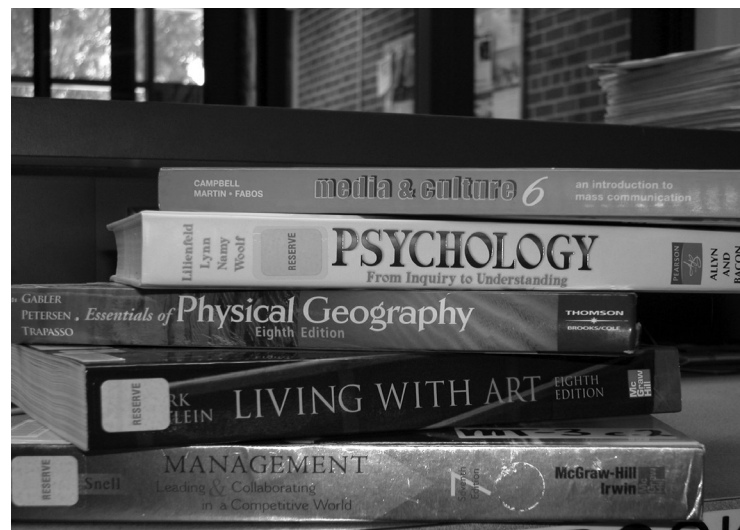
Emily Egemo, a junior at MNSU describes the feeling of burnout as, "being disappointed in yourself for not getting everything done, yet being too exhausted to push yourself into finishing all your work. It's very frustrating. Some warning signs would be; being stressed out and frustrated constantly, staying up too late to get things done and losing sleep, not taking any time to take care of yourself.

Burnout is experienced in multiple ways. MNSU sophomore Caleb Kaneakua explains "For me personally, burnout feels like sinking under a sea of work and pressure, both socially and academically amongst other

things. I think that the biggest sign of burnout comes in the form of not doing work at all, even when you know you have a lot to do, because in my experience, the prospect of doing the work is exhausting in and of itself due to how much there is and how little time we're usually given to do it, which doesn't help when it begins to cut into time we could be taking for ourselves."

Furthermore, MNSU sophomore Lindsay Cortesse shared, "I have been experiencing burnout this semester. It feels like my to-do list never ends and I wanna fly away from my responsibilities. Warning signs for me are when I get bored with my work. I'm really interested in learning and school so when school work gets boring I'm burnt out". Burnout can also be caused by numerous stressors.

Egemo explains that stress for her is caused by, "Classes, work and paying bills. I



File photo

Burnout is very common, especially in college. Seek help and use the campus resources to stay on top of things during finals.

cope by making sure I have me time in my busy schedule, and talking to loved ones also helps."

Jessie Proell, a sophomore at MNSU, says that in her case, "My main stresses are my grades and tests. I'm not a good test taker and it's something I struggle at. I cope by

trying to relax and remember that a test or grade doesn't defy me."

In order to tackle stress and avoid burnout, there are several activities someone can do. MNSU Junior Sarah Murphy shares, "I usually pursue my own personal hobbies when

BURNOUT on page 18 ►

Thanksgiving: the holiday's middle child

By EMMA JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Halloween brings all the spooky frights, Christmas brings all the merry cheer, so what happens to Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving is the forgotten middle child of the holiday season. Halloween is the pinnacle of fall, with all the warm scents and chilling movies to keep you up at night. To finish off the month, a night of dressing up in costumes leads to Mariah Carey streaming the minute the clock strikes 12. The Christmas craze sweeps the nation, beckoning people to buy trees and search for Black Friday deals.

Thanksgiving is overlooked for so many reasons. HOLIDAY on page 18 ►

Rapper Young Dolph shot in Tennessee

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rapper Young Dolph, widely admired in the hip-hop community for his authenticity and fierce independence, was shot and killed Wednesday inside a beloved local cookie shop in his hometown of Memphis, Tennessee, authorities said.

Police tweeted they had no information to release about a possible suspect in the shooting, which took place at Makeda's Cookies near Memphis International Airport.

"The tragic shooting death of rap artist Young Dolph serves as another reminder of the pain that violent crime brings with it," Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland said in a statement.

The Daily Memphian newspaper reported that Young Dolph's cousin, Mareno Myers, said the 36-year-old rapper had been in town since Monday visiting an aunt who has cancer and was also giving out Thanksgiving turkeys.

"He was inside (Makeda's), and somebody just rolled up on him and took his life," Myers said.

Just last week, the cookie shop posted a video on Insta-



PAUL R. GIUNTA/INVISION • Associated Press

Officials say rapper Young Dolph has been fatally shot at a cookie shop in his hometown of Memphis, Tennessee, and a search is underway for the shooter.

gram of the rapper promoting the store's cookies, saying he returns to the store whenever he is in Memphis.

A large crowd gathered near the shop after the shooting. At a news conference Wednesday evening, Memphis Police Director Cerelyn "CJ" Davis asked the public to re-

main calm and recommended that residents stay home tonight. She did not say if police think other shootings under investigation Wednesday were related to the rapper's killing.

A city council member called for a curfew. Davis did not rule out issuing one at some point.

Like the Los Angeles rapper Nipsey Hussle, who was killed in 2019, Young Dolph pursued an independent approach to the music business. His Paper Route Empire label retained control over his music. "I just got another vision for it — strictly 100 percent ownership," he said in 2018

mini-documentary co-produced by his label, titled "Turned Dirt Into Diamonds." "A lot of people, they can't see what I see."

"God bless Dolph," tweeted Chance the Rapper. "Real independent Memphis rapper born in Chicago. Loved by millions of ppl."

Born in Chicago as Adolph Thornton Jr., he moved to Memphis when he was 2, according to The Commercial Appeal. He said in the documentary that he'd been raised by his grandmother and tried to help his parents "clean their life up" once he found success.

He released numerous mixtapes, starting with 2008's "Paper Route Campaign," and multiple studio albums, including his 2016 debut "King of Memphis." He also collaborated on other mixtapes and albums with fellow rappers Key Glock, Megan Thee Stallion, T.I., Gucci Mane, 2 Chainz and others.

Young Dolph had three albums reach the top 10 on the Billboard 200, with 2020's "Rich Slave" peaking at No. 4.

In his music, Young Dolph rapped about being a drug dealer and life on the streets.

Reneé Rapp graduates from 'Mean Girls' to 'College Girls'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

When Broadway shut down during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, "Mean Girls" star, Reneé Rapp, figured she'd take the opportunity to return home in North Carolina and wait it out — thinking it would be only a few weeks. Weeks turned to months and when Broadway showed no sign of reopening soon, the now 21-year-old had to figure out what was next.

She recalls a conversation with her mom who said, "What are you going to do with your life? And I was like, 'I'll get on it, Denise. Thank you,'" said Rapp in a recent Zoom interview.

Rapp's manager suggested she begin auditioning for film and TV. Prior to that, Rapp says she had only done a few self-tape auditions and describes them as "not cute." She read for the HBO Max series "The Sex Lives of College Girls," created by Mindy Kaling and Justin Noble, and was shocked to even get a call back. It debuts Thursday.

"I remember hearing they liked me and that I was 'pinned.' I had no idea what

that meant. I thought it meant they had someone else and I was on the back burner." (It means you're liked by the casting director and production for a role, and they want you to hold filming dates on your schedule.)

Rapp got cast as one of the four leads in the series alongside Pauline Chalamet, Alyah Chanelle Scott and Amrit Kaur. They portray college freshmen at a fictional New England university who share a dorm suite. Rapp plays Leighton, a Manhattanite with family money, who is a legacy student. She presents herself as more worldly and sophisticated than her roommates, but she's also carrying secrets about herself that she's not ready to get out.

Getting the job meant Rapp had to officially leave her "Mean Girls" role of Regina George and ask producers including Tina Fey to let her out of her contract.

"I didn't think it would hit me as hard as it did. Getting that out from Tina and the team, I cried. It had been my whole life for an entire year," she said. (The show eventually decided not to reopen



ANDY KROPA/INVISION • Associated Press

Reneé Rapp, former star in Broadway's "Mean Girls" as Regina George, makes her TV debut in the new series "The Sex Lives of College Girls" for HBO Max.

post-pandemic).

Rapp quickly tears up at the thought of how two formidable female producers in Hollywood, Fey and Kaling, took a chance on her for Broadway and television.

"They're both two of the coolest people I've ever met, two of the nicest people I've ever met, and two people who have truly taken such a huge swing at bat for me. I will never forget that."

Rapp has now moved out to Los Angeles. She's become especially close with co-star

Chanelle Scott who also comes from musical theater. "Every single day on set, we would leave and we would be like, 'Do we feel good about that? Did we feel good about what we did? No.' And it's truly just in our own heads. We're nervous. Also coming from a theater background, there's this lack of instant gratification that we now have through TV which is just like a different space to navigate. But it has been so nice doing it with her, and she's also just a great friend and she's destined

for greatness," said Rapp. "I'm just ready to ride her coattails."

Rapp's musical dreams still loom large. She's been singing since she was young and has a passion for songwriting. She says when she's performing music she becomes "the best version" of herself. Her influences include Beyoncé, Frank Ocean, Elton John and Jazmine Sullivan.

"I (sing) pretty much every day just by nature of the thing. And I've been writing ever since I was a kid. I become a very different person when I'm writing music. I have zero anxiety when I'm doing it," she said.

She would love to continue acting but the perfect opportunity, says Rapp, would be to act and sing for TV or film.

"Through doing straight acting in a series, I definitely miss the musical aspect of my life. Like more than I imagined. But I also now know from not doing it for a year that it's something I have to be doing 24/7 and that's very affirming and also very scary because I'm like, 'OK, the stakes are high.'"

BURNOUT*Continued from page 16*

I feel burnt out. I draw or crochet to get my mind off of things and then I start to feel refreshed.”

In addition to calming activities at home, the MNSU

offers solutions to students. The Relaxation Station on campus provides massage chairs, aromatherapy and an audio visual relaxation system free of charge to students.

Being able to recognize and manage stressors are

crucial to approaching finals week with a healthy mindset.

Kaneakua is planning to tackle finals, “One at a time this year. Focus on what I can when I can, and if all else fails, at least I know I tried, even while I was under pressure.”

POETRY*Continued from page 16*

He is super versatile despite being known for poems about mental illness.”

This bright personality comes through on Hilborn’s website, where it states that one time on stage he accidentally punched the microphone and broke his wedding ring, and thanks to years of therapy he did not interpret this as a sign.

His preferred stage entrance music is ‘Born to Run’ by Bruce Springsteen, during which he walks very slowly. In addition to touring and writing, he runs workshops on craft, performance, and how to apologize for ignoring texts.

“As this is my first event with the Student Events Team, I wanted to do something closer to me that I was more comfortable with easing into. I’m a Creative Writing major who specializes in poetry, so promoting and advertising the event was pretty easy for me,” James explained.

“I met with Bill Tourville, my advisor, he’s awesome and super helpful as he’s been doing this for years. We have great help on the team, and even have a team member performing at the open mic.”

The event is going to start with an open floor for students, faculty and community members to read some of their own poetry and display

their talent in the Mankato area.

Hilborn will be performing an hour set of his poetry and answering questions from the audience as well.

Hilborn has over 150 million views online and has performed in eight countries and 41 states. He lives in Saint Paul and has become well-versed in the area.

Furthermore, James elaborated, “A lot of us recognize the name from Minnesota and some of us heard from him due to his viral posts on a few social media platforms. I think a lot of us on the Students’ Event Team and the English Department here have been super excited to have Neil come and do a set for us.”

HOLIDAY*Continued from page 16*

sons. Why complain about an additional break from school? Sure, it’s not as long as Christmas, but it’s like the spring break of the fall. A whole week off from school dedicated to eating good food needs to start being appreciated.

Would you rather stay in school for a full week and have more work loaded onto your plate or would you rather fill up your own plate of food you enjoy and sleep afterward? That’s exactly what I thought.

Halloween brings all the variety of candy and Christmas brings all those special sweets that you can only eat in the month of December. Thanksgiving serves you a full meal, not just fun-themed treats.

However, people don’t seem to realize that you can make turkey and mashed potatoes at any time of the year.

It’s as if eating that food on Thanksgiving makes it taste a thousand times better. The amount of fridge space after leftovers have been packed away can be frustrating, but when you leave to head back to college for the two stressful weeks before Christmas break, it’s the best luggage to bring back to your dorm.

Thanksgiving is also known for spending time with your family. It’s also the time of year when you get interrogated by all your family members who haven’t seen you since the school year started. Mentally prepare yourself on your drive or flight back home by running through the most common questions you’ll be asked: How’s school going? Have you finally picked out a major? Are you not single anymore? What’s it like to be an adult with actual responsibilities? If you can skirt around these questions quickly, you can move to more interesting topics by either switching the

questions around on your relatives or about literally anything else.

One of the main reasons that Thanksgiving doesn’t get too much attention is that there isn’t a lot of media tied to the event. Halloween has thrillers on TV in the month of October and December has Christmas music blared on every speaker and Christmas movies on every channel.

Thanksgiving gets a six-hour parade with most of the same balloon floats that are used year after year. There’s no Thanksgiving song you can sing to boost your spirits. Most of the day is spent eating food and sleeping and you can get that same experience regardless of the time of year.

However you choose to celebrate Thanksgiving, make sure you take time to spend it with the ones you care about and give thanks for all that you have.

Winds whip up volcanic ash from 1912 eruption in Alaska



Martin/U.S. Geological Survey via Associated Press

This photo shows ash drifts around Katmai village’s then-new Russian Orthodox church after the eruption of Novarupta Volcano in Katmai National Park and Preserve in Alaska.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Volcano scientists issued an alert Wednesday, warning that a cloud of ash — from an eruption more than century ago — was headed toward Alaska’s Kodiak Island.

The ash is from the powerful 1912 eruption of Novarupta, a volcano on the Alaska Peninsula that dropped volcanic ash that is still visible today.

Strong northwesterly winds in the vicinity of Katmai National Park and Preserve and Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes on Wednesday kicked up the loose volcano ash.

“Generally, this time of year, we get these some these

northwestern winds that can come down from the Katmai region and really scour some of the free ash that that’s deposited from the 1912 eruption and then bring it up to height,” Hans Schwaiger, a U.S. Geological Survey research geophysicist at the Alaska Volcano Observatory, told The Associated Press.

Winds were expected to carry the ash about 100 miles (161 kilometers) southeast toward Kodiak Island, and an aviation alert to aircraft was issued for the low-lying event. Scientists estimated the cloud would not go above 7,000 feet (2,133.6 meters).

Some of these events can cause a light dusting of ash in nearby communities.

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‘No Nukes’ footage bypasses Springsteen’s aversion to film

ASSOCIATED PRESS

If there’s one thing Bruce Springsteen’s fans can find fault with in their hero, it’s his early aversion to film cameras.

Because of that, there is very little onscreen documentation of Springsteen onstage in the mid- to late-1970s, when the power and majesty of the E Street Band combined with youthful exuberance for some truly epic concert experiences. Without a ticket and a good memory, they passed you by.

That makes this week’s release of a 90-minute film that shows them performing at the “No Nukes” benefit concerts in September 1979 significant for fans and music historians. It’s found money.

Before a friendly crowd at New York’s Madison Square Garden, Springsteen and his gang of Jersey toughs crackle with pent-up energy. They’d been off the road in 1979, recording “The River,” and are thrilled to be before an audi-



GREG ALLEN/INVISION • Associated Press

Bruce Springsteen performs at the 13th annual Stand Up For Heroes benefit concert in support of the Bob Woodruff Foundation in New York on Nov. 4, 2019.

ence again. Their typical four-hour show was condensed into 90 minutes. Sharing a bill with artists like Jackson Browne, Graham Nash, and Bonnie Raitt, they burned to show peers what they could do.

Little wonder, then, to see them burst onto the stage with a roaring version of “Prove it All Night.” That’s exactly what they intended to

do. When filmmaker Thom Zimny first reviewed the footage, it was without sound, and he could still tell something special was happening.

“You see them explode onscreen,” he said. “The sheer force of E Street at this point was amazing to see.

Springsteen explains that superstition led him to keep cameras away in those days.

PEACE

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“The responses from students are amazing,” she noted.

“The questions and the thank you letters we get from

students after we go to their classes have to be the best part.”

More information on the program can be found on the MNSU website under DISH events, or on the VARP Facebook page.

The most recent PEACE meeting was Nov. 10, so if you have interest in the program be sure to keep an eye out for an announcement of the next meeting in the upcoming week.

Lawyer says Tarantino has right to sell ‘Pulp Fiction’ NFTs



VIANNEY LE CAER/INVISION • Associated Press

Miramax is suing director Tarantino over the director’s plans to create and auction off a series of NFTs based on his work on “Pulp Fiction.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quentin Tarantino’s attorney said Wednesday that he has every right to create and sell a series of “Pulp Fiction” NFTs.

The statement from lawyer Bryan Freedman comes a day after entertainment company Miramax filed a lawsuit over the director’s plans to create and auction off a series of NFTs based on his scripts for “Pulp Fiction.”

“Miramax is wrong - plain and simple. Quentin Tarantino’s contract is clear: he has the right to sell NFTs of his hand-written script for Pulp Fiction and this ham-fisted attempt to prevent him from doing so will fail,” Freedman said. The suit from Mira-

max alleges that Tarantino’s planned offerings violate the copyrights it holds to the director’s 1994 film.

Tarantino recently announced plans to sell seven NFTs, or non-fungible tokens, which are digital works rendered unique and attached to a specific owner through cryptocurrency technology.

They consist of scanned digital copies of handwritten script pages for uncut versions of scenes from the film, with audio commentary.

“Miramax’s callous decision to disclose confidential information about its filmmakers’ contracts and compensation will irreparably tarnish its reputation long after this case is dismissed,” Freedman said.



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