

\$2,770,994

Student Government makes sweeping budget decisions, advocating for increased student pay.

By MAXWELL MAYLEBEN
Editor in Chief

After over 10 hours of chaos and deliberation, a \$2.77 million allocation was recommended by the Minnesota State University, Mankato's Student Government with the meeting ending at 1:14 a.m this morning.

Main items that were discussed at the meeting included increasing pay for student leaders, referendum and difficult cuts inflicted on different organizations. During the meeting, a level of scrutiny was levied by the executive team to the senators in an attempt to keep the senators in order.

The meeting began with the senate questioning several invited speakers, including Music Ensembles, Theatre, and The Reporter.

After the recommended allocation from the Student Allocations Committee, the Student Events Team and Student Government chose to appeal and ask for more money, citing the inadequate pay of their student leaders.

A main directive of the current Student Government executive team has been addressing the pay of student leaders, stating that the stipends that many of them receive is not adequate when it comes to the time worked in those positions.

Tyler Pickel, the president of the Student Events Team, spoke to the pay of student leaders in



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Student Government Vice President Kara Svercl holds up a sign advocating for better compensation for student leaders at last night's budget meeting.

his organization.

"The ability to make an impact as well as remain a student is becoming increasingly difficult without adequate support," said Pickel.

Student Government President Reauna Stiff and Vice Pres-

ident Kara Svercl appealed to the senate, asking for money to better compensate the executive team for the Student Government in the future.

During their appeal, the senate was inquisitive of the increase, noting no pay for the

senators.

In addition to those, other organizations that appealed included Fraternity and Sorority Life, Student Activities Administration and Campus Recreation.

Fraternity and Sorority Life had one third of their request

cut in SAC's recommendation, referring to a decrease in recruitment and a national trend of Greek Life funding from the university level.

At the beginning of the meeting Speaker Minahil Khan in-

MONEY on page 7

Down to four finalists for new Provost

By JULIA BARTON
News Director

Minnesota State University, Mankato has finalized four candidates in the running for next year's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

The candidates include Laurie Couch, Dennis Rome, Lara Luetekehans and David Hood which have been scheduled for an open forum where a variety of student and faculty groups can ask them questions that will run throughout the week with the final forum ending Friday with David Hood.

PROVOST on page 6



MADDIE BEHRENS • The Reporter

'Ukraine in Conflict' panel sparks a political discussion with students

By JENNA PETERSON
Copy Editor

Last night, Minnesota State University, Mankato's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Kessel Peace Institute hosted a discussion panel focusing on the current conflict in Ukraine.

Panelists included Tom Inglot, MSU professor of Political Science and director of international Relations, Matt Loayza, MSU professor of History and Dean of SBS, Ja-

meel Haque, associate professor of history and director of Kessel Peace Institute, Anaam Hashmi, MSU professor of International Business, and Glenn Kranking, Gustavus Adolphus College associate professor of History and director of Russian and Eastern European Studies.

Loayza served as the moderator for the discussion and set up three key questions for the panelists and audience to consider. These questions in-

UKRAINE on page 6

Mask mandate now lifted, but covid fight still continues



File photo

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

In an email sent on March 7, Minnesota State University, Mankato President Edward Inch announced the end of the campus-wide mask mandate. This announcement was in accordance with the Minnesota State office system guidelines due to falling COVID numbers.

“Regardless of county-level data, individuals may choose to continue wearing masks, and we should respect and support those choices,” Inch said in the email.

In spite of the dropping of the mask mandates COVID-19 continues to remain a concern, and thus MSU has other ways of mitigating the spread.

“Look at getting the vaccine, or talk about it with your healthcare provider. Feel free to mask wherever you would like and continue to test reg-

ularly,” said Natalie Schuette, the COVID-19 Case manager at MSU.

The college still offers free rapid testing to students regularly in Carkoski Commons on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m. Free test kits can also be picked up at Student Health Services, Carkoski Commons 100, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The school recommends that anyone who was exposed to an individual with COVID-19 in the past five days be tested.

“If you’re concerned or just want to be sure, test. We have plenty of tests, they’re free,” Schuette said.

Students who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 can make an appointment to get tested through student health services. For anyone entering the building, they are

HEALTH on page 6

Signature Nights after long hold

By RADIT MAHMUD
Staff Writer

This Saturday Student Association of India (SAI) and Bangladesh Student Organization (BSO), two of the international RSOs at Minnesota State University, Mankato will be joining together for the first signature night of the academic year 2021-22.

Indo-Bangla Night is the first collaboration night in a long time among the student bodies of two different countries. India and Bangladesh happen to be neighboring countries and long-term allies to each since 1971 and the year 2021 marked 50 years of friendship for both nations.

Each of the countries currently have 77 International students enrolled at undergraduate and graduate programs at MSU.

The night will be marked as a celebration of friendship and common culture among two countries which will be held in the Centennial Student Union Ballroom starting at 5 p.m.

Afnan Husain the current President for SAI shared her views about the event, “We have always had a considerable number of international students from India and Bangladesh but there were few opportunities to portray our culture and history with the people here at MSU.”

Showcasing the different international cultures the event aims to celebrate and share with others.

“This year we decided to portray our culture and history to the people of MSU and the Mankato community through



AJAY KASAUDHAN • The Reporter

Pictured from left to right are four of the organizers for the Indo-Bangla Night: Sumaya Khan, Mohammed Mehedi Hasan, Afnan Husain and Shreyam Ranjan.

this signature night. We come from a very culturally enriched and vibrant part of the world, so we decided it to be a wedding theme. Most of the performances will be done by Indian and Bangladeshi students,” Husain said.

There will also be traditional food from each country as well as decor displayed throughout the ballroom.

“Starting from the food to decoration we have planned to keep everything exactly how it is done in our countries. We are trying to reach out to diverse group of students, especially American students to come join us during the event and experience our culture.”

Students can purchase tickets for \$10 online and a confirmation message will be sent in order to get in.

Mohammed Mehedi Hasan is the President for Bangladesh Student Organization shared

his expectation for the event,

“We have sold more than 60% of the tickets and expect it to be full house during the event day. We are planning on hosting approximately 300 people at the CSU Ballroom. Now that the mask mandate has been lifted on campus, we are expecting to see a good crowd,” said Hasan.

Currently the event has 65 international volunteers from various RSOs like Nestcom, Mavankans and Korean Student Association who are actively helping put this event together.

“March 26 marks the Independence Day of Bangladesh and we are excited to celebrate the day with our friends here at MSU,” Hasan added.

Tickets for the event can also be found at one of the tables at the CSU MavAve day until Friday for anyone who is interested in purchasing the ticket.

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Counseling Center aids students

By HAFSA PEERZADA
Staff Writer

The counseling center at Minnesota State University, Mankato provides a wide range of help and services to students seeking assistance.

Online and walk-in services are available in the form of counseling sessions and workshops. These services aim at helping students learn how to understand and successfully cope with challenges impacting them in their personal and academic lives.

Kari Much, the department chair of the counseling center here at MSU, stressed the importance of students reaching out and seeking assistance for the ongoing crises in their lives by coming to the counseling center.

“College is when a lot of mental illnesses and issues start coming out, especially for students that haven’t experienced any mental health issues and concerns in the past and so for them, once that starts playing out in the middle of college, that can be really difficult to deal with and manage on top of studies,” said Much.

“So, our office is here to help students manage their mental health issues so they can then be successful academically.”

The counseling center is devoted to providing a safe space for students where they can voice their concerns and issues without facing any judgment.

“Confidentiality is imperative here so students that come to the counseling center are completely in control of an information that they share here,” said Much.



JULIA BARTON • The Reporter

The Counseling Center in the Cenntennial Student Union room 285 is open to any and all MSU students. This center is there to aid students who seek support for any issues such as mental health.

Services provided by the counseling center aid in enabling students to build resilience to academic pressures and improve their academic performance by timely managing their academic workloads.

It teaches them how to deal effectively with challenges and overcome difficult situations and obstacles.

Helping alleviate and resolve concerns of students struggling with issues that are impacting their day-to-day functionality is one of their main focuses.

“Any student who would like any service can simply walk in. It’s an opportunity to talk with a provider about what’s going on in their lives and discuss anything that’s causing them to not live their best life,” said Much. “It could be anything that’s causing them not to function properly.”

When explaining how the counseling center helps stu-

dents navigate through difficult life, famile or school situations this is what she said.

“It could be that their academics are not going well, or their relationships are not going well and so whatever it is we will help and recommend services to them accordingly,” added Much.

In addition to counseling services, the counseling center also has workshops that are centered around improving students’ well being and addressing a lot of common problems that most college students face like stress, anxiety, and depression.

These workshops run every three weeks and the sessions are currently open for registration.

The counseling center is a resource students at MSU can utilize with services available for free to all students.

More teachers strike as Mpls. walkout continues



JERRY HOLT • Associaed Press

Holly Thorsta, an art teacher at Roosevelt High, stands in silence with other teachers in front of the Davis Center to picket on the 10th day of the teachers strike in Minneapolis, Monday, March 21, 2022.

By STEVE KARNOWSKI,
OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
and HEATHER HOLLING-
SWORTH
Associated Press

Thousands of teachers and other school workers in Sacramento walked off the job Wednesday as the California capital became the second big U.S. school district this month to see a work stoppage over pay and staffing shortages as a teachers strike in Minneapolis entered its third week.

The disputes in Sacramento and Minneapolis, where teachers walked out March 8, come as school districts across the country deal with fallout from the coronavirus pandemic and limited resources. Across the country, union workers are seizing the opportunity posed

by tight labor markets to recover some of the power they feel they lost in recent decades as unions shrank in size and influence. And experts expect to see more labor strife as the country emerges from the pandemic. The Sacramento City Unified School District canceled classes Wednesday at its 76 schools, affecting 43,000 students, after negotiations failed with the Sacramento City Teachers Association and the Service Employees International Union Local 1021.

The unions — representing 2,800 teachers and 1,800 school employees — voted overwhelmingly earlier this month to strike. Teachers say Sacramento has serious staffing shortages despite federal funding and a district budget surplus that it could tap.

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Biden seeks help for Ukrainians by sanctions

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and
AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

As war rages on in Ukraine, President Joe Biden will huddle with key allies in Brussels and Warsaw this week to talk through plans for imposing punishing new sanctions on Russia and dealing with an extraordinary humanitarian crisis, while developing a consensus on how they would respond if Russia were to launch a cyber, chemical or even nuclear attack.

Biden arrived in Brussels on Wednesday for a four-day trip that will test his ability to navigate Europe's worst crisis since World War II ended in 1945. There are fears that Russia could use chemical or nuclear weapons as its invasion becomes bogged down in the face of logistical problems and fierce Ukrainian resistance.

"I think it's a real threat," Biden said of the possibility of Russia deploying chemical weapons. He spoke during a brief exchange with reporters at the White House before his departure. Humanitarian challenges are growing as well. Millions of refugees have fled the fighting, mostly by crossing the border into Poland, and the war has jeopardized Ukraine's wheat and barley harvests, raising the possibility of rising hunger in impoverished areas around the globe.

As Biden made his way to Brussels, his top diplomat announced he had made a formal determination that Russian troops have committed war crimes in Ukraine.

Secretary of State Antony

Blinken, traveling with Biden, said in a statement the assessment was made on a "careful review" of public and intelligence sources since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine a month ago. He said the U.S. would share that information with allies, partners and international institutions tasked with investigating allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

"We've seen numerous credible reports of indiscriminate attacks and attacks deliberately targeting civilians, as well as other atrocities. Russia's forces have destroyed apartment buildings, schools, hospitals, critical infrastructure, civilian vehicles, shopping centers and ambulances, leaving thousands of innocent civilians killed or wounded," Blinken said.

Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser, said the president would coordinate with allies on military assistance for Ukraine and new sanctions on Russia during meetings Thursday with NATO officials, Group of Seven leaders and European Union allies. At NATO, Biden and fellow leaders will "set out a longer term game plan" for what forces and capabilities are going to be required for the alliance's eastern flank countries, Sullivan said. Leaders of several Eastern European NATO members have pressed for a greater U.S. and NATO presence in their backyards in the aftermath of the Ukraine invasion.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said four new battlegroups, which usually number between 1,000 and 1,500 troops, are being temporarily set up in Hungary, Slova-



OLIVIER MATTHYS • Associated Press

U.S. President Joe Biden steps off Air Force One as he arrives at Melsbroek military airport in Brussels, Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

kia, Romania and Bulgaria. A permanent force posture is expected to be formally announced at the next NATO summit in Madrid in June, Sullivan said.

European Union nations on Wednesday also signed off on another 500 million euros in military aid for Ukraine. EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell called the doubling of the EU's military aid since the Feb. 24 beginning of the war "another sign of the EU's support to the Ukrainian armed forces to defend their territory and their population." At the meeting of the Group of Seven, leaders from the bloc of wealthy, industrialized nations are expected to

unveil a new initiative to coordinate sanctions enforcement and unveil additional sanctions against Russian officials.

One new sanctions option that Biden is looking at is to target hundreds of members of the Russian State Duma, the lower house of parliament, according to a U.S. official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the potential move. The official added that a final decision hasn't been made and that the new sanctions would be rolled out in coordination with Western allies. Sullivan said additional Russian oligarchs and political figures would be among those designated in the sanctions

unveiled Thursday.

Earlier this week, Biden warned that Russia could be planning cyberattacks that would affect U.S. companies. The U.S. president also spoke to Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday to warn him against backing Russia with military or financial assistance.


U.S. concerns about China are expected to be on the agenda when Biden attends a meeting of the European Council, where he will also discuss the worsening refugee and humanitarian crises that have developed over the past month. The European Union is scheduled to hold a summit with China on April 1.

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Culture wars dominate hearing

By LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

It's not just Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson who is being scrutinized. Senators are also being watched at this milestone moment in history considering the first Black woman for the high court.

Some senators have been overcome with "joy," as Cory Booker of New Jersey described the swell of emotion he felt over the potential to confirm a judge who would help the court look more like America.

Others, led by Sens. Josh Hawley and Ted Cruz, quizzed the federal judge about her views on issues of race and crime, amplifying election year grievances and a backlash over changing culture.

Jackson appeared Wednesday for the third day of tense hearings at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings, providing a vivid portrait of the nation's promise, but also its enduring racial challenges.

At one point, she held back bittersweet tears as Booker spoke of all that has brought her to this point: "You're here."

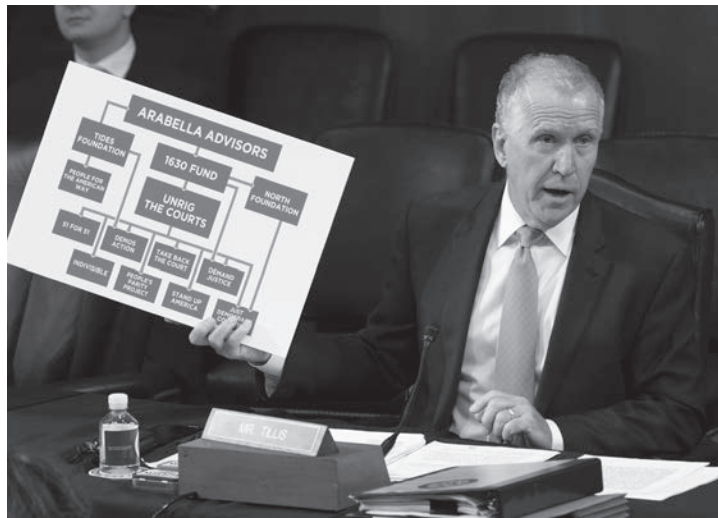
Here are some takeaways from Day Three of the week-long confirmation hearings.

Jackson is the first federal public defender to be nominated to the Supreme Court and her efforts representing those accused of crimes, alongside her work as a federal judge, have provided a lengthy record of difficult cases for senators to review.

Republicans have particularly focused on the emotional and disputed debate over the judge's record sentencing child pornography offenders to portray her as soft on crime.

Critics say she brings too much "empathy" to the law.

Under questions from Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff of Georgia, Jackson explained that prior to the court's 1963 ruling in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, people who were accused of crimes but couldn't afford lawyers were not guaranteed the right



ALEX BRANDO • Associated Press

Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., holds a visual aid as he questions Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson during her Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday.

to legal representation. Now, everybody who is accused of criminal behavior has the right to an attorney, she said. "And that's very important."

Democrats argue that Jackson, who comes from a family with police officers, is backed by the Fraternal Order of Police, the large law enforcement organization.

Jackson's record is being scrutinized much the way the work of the first Black nominee to the court, Thurgood Marshall, the storied civil rights attorney, was probed for representing criminal defendants a half a century ago.

Jackson has presented herself a judge who relies on method, not judicial philosophy, to remain neutral as she works to "stay in my lane" as a judge rather than a public policy-maker.

She expanded on that view Wednesday reminding senators that the Constitution gives Congress the power to make laws and the courts the power to interpret them.

"Judges can't make law; judges shouldn't be policy makers," she told the senators.

Jackson made news by saying, if confirmed, she would recuse herself from hearing an affirmative action case at Harvard University, her alma mater, where she now serves on

Harvard's Board of Overseers. "That's my plan," she told senators.

Republicans have tried to portray Jackson as a potentially activist justice, a judge who has shown "empathy" for defendants and cases that they argue goes too far for a position on the high court, which is now tilted 6-3 toward conservatives.

Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., said, "It seems as though you're a very kind person, and that there's at least a level of empathy that enters into your treatment of a defendant that some could view as maybe beyond what some of us would be comfortable with."

Senators on the Republican side are repeatedly returning to issues of race and crime, focusing on the child pornography offenders that the judge herself has said are among the most difficult of her career - some that still give her nightmares.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., picked up the arguments anew, arguing that Jackson as a judge should have imposed tougher sentences on child porn defendants rather than applying other deterrents, despite fact checkers and other experts who have said the terms Jackson handed down are within norms of federal guidelines.

Louisiana digging out after tornadoes destroy homes



GERALD HERBERT • Associated Press

Bertelina Martinez, who lives nearby and her son lives across the street, looks over destruction after a tornado struck the area in Arabi, La., Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

By GERALD HERBERT and REBECCA SANTANA
Associated Press

Louisiana National Guardsmen and other responders went door-to-door in areas around New Orleans on Wednesday as the region dug out from overnight tornadoes, with Gov. John Bel Edwards declaring a state of emergency and calling the destruction "devastating."

Other tornadoes spawned by the same system caused so much damage in Texas that the governor declared a disaster in 16 counties. Buildings were shredded in Alabama, where torrential rainfall was recorded.

Two people were killed and multiple others were injured as the storm front blew across the South, upending homes

and the lives of the residents in them.

The dead included Connor Lambert, 25, in St. Bernard Parish, next to New Orleans, and a woman north of Dallas. Coroner's officials said Lambert died of "multiple blunt force trauma."

Edwards declared an emergency in St. Bernard, Orleans, Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes. After flying over the area Wednesday, he walked the streets of the tornado-stricken Arabi community near New Orleans, greeting storm victims picking through the wreckage of their homes.

"It's awfully sad, because the destruction is so devastating," Edwards said. "The good news is most of your neighbors outside of this narrow swath — they're able to help."

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HEALTH from page 2

required to wear a mask.

According to the University website, tests through Student Health Services are by appointment only and clinic and lab charges may apply.

MSU no longer requires any faculty or students living in the dorms to be vaccinated or go through weekly COVID testing. MSU also offers vaccine clinics, with the next clinic open this Friday through Student Health Services. First

dose, second dose, and booster shots of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines will be available at the clinic for those eligible. At this time, professors cannot require students to wear masks in their classroom.

“Because it’s a university policy, there can’t be a separate policy in individual classrooms,” explained Shuette.

Those who wish to can reach Student Health Services at 507-389-6276 for more information on testing.

PROVOST from page 1

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs initially is the chief academic officer of a university and has responsibility to the academic and budgetary affairs. They also collaborate with the president of the university at times when it comes to setting overall academic priorities for the university.

The new Provost is intended to be a leader at MSU and help strengthen services for their students as well as the MSU community. All open forum sessions are available to view via zoom or in person which those who wish to go can view when and where on the MSU website.

Laurie Couch, has been in the position of associate provost for undergraduate education & student success at

Morehead State University since 2016.

Dennis Rome, a provost & vice president for academic affairs for Northeastern Illinois University since 2019.

Lara Luetkenhans, an interim provost & vice president for academic affairs for Indiana University of Pennsylvania since 2021.

David Hood, an associate provost for undergraduate education & founding dean of University College Montclair State University since 2018 and doing one of his visits today.

Students and faculty are encouraged to submit their feedback on the candidates by 5 p.m. on Friday. You can expect a new provost and senior vice president for academic affairs announcement sometime late March or in April.

UKRAINE from page 1

cluded: What happens once the shooting stops? How much do we really know, right now, at present? How will public opinion in various countries shape the conflict as it goes on?

After each panelist went through the three questions, they opened the discussion for

audience members to ask their own questions. One member included in this was MSU senior Braandon Holthaus.

“I major in political science and I minor in international relations,” Holthaus stated. “Not currently, but in the past I’ve had classes that talk about

UKRAINE on page 10▶

Idaho gov. signs abortion law

By KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

Idaho on Wednesday became the first state to enact a law modeled after a Texas statute banning abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy and allowing it to be enforced through lawsuits to avoid constitutional court challenges.

Republican Gov. Brad Little signed into law the measure that allows people who would have been family members to sue a doctor who performs an abortion after cardiac activity is detected in an embryo. Still he said he had concerns about whether the law was constitutional.

“I stand in solidarity with all Idahoans who seek to protect the lives of preborn babies,” Little wrote in a letter to Lt. Gov. Janice McGeachin, who is also president of the Senate.

Yet he also noted: “While I support the pro-life policy in this legislation, I fear the novel civil enforcement mechanism will in short order be proven both unconstitutional and unwise.”

The law in the conservative state is scheduled to take effect 30 days after the signing, but court challenges are expected. Opponents call it unconstitutional, and note that six weeks is before many women know they’re pregnant.

Advanced technology can detect a first flutter of electric activity within cells in an embryo as early as six weeks. This flutter isn’t a beating heart; it’s cardiac activity that will eventually become a heart. An embryo is termed a fetus after the eighth week of pregnancy, and



DARIN OSWALD • Idaho Statesman via AP

In this Oct. 1, 2020, file photo, Idaho Gov. Brad Little gestures during a press conference at the Statehouse in Boise, Idaho.

the actual heart begins to form between the ninth and 12th weeks of pregnancy.

The law allows the father, grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles of a “preborn child” to each sue an abortion provider for a minimum of \$20,000 in damages within four years after the abortion. Rapists can’t file a lawsuit under the law, but a rapist’s relatives could.

“The vigilante aspect of this bill is absurd,” said Idaho Democratic Rep. Lauren Necochea. “Its impacts are cruel, and it is blatantly unconstitutional.”

A Planned Parenthood official called the law unconstitutional and said the group was “committed to going to every length and exploring all our options to restore Idahoans’ right to abortion.”

“I want to emphasize to everyone in Idaho that our doors remain open. We remain committed to helping our patients access the health care they

need, including abortion,” said Rebecca Gibron of Planned Parenthood Great Northwest, Hawaii, Alaska, Indiana and Kentucky, which operates Idaho’s three abortion clinics.

Backers have said the law is Idaho’s best opportunity to severely restrict abortions in the state after years of trying. Most recently, the state last year passed a six-week abortion ban law, but it required a favorable federal court ruling in a similar case to take effect, and that hasn’t happened.

The law is modeled after a Texas law that the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed to remain in place until a court challenge is decided on its merits. The Texas law allows people to enforce the law in place of state officials who normally would do so. The Texas law authorizes lawsuits against clinics, doctors and anyone who “aids or abets” an abortion that is not permitted by law.

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BUDGETS DECIDED



AJAY KASAUDHAN • The Reporter

Senators David Wing (left), Riley Carleson (center) and Ryuto Hashimoto during last night's budget meeting, discussing the allocation of the Student Activities Fee.

◀**MONEY** from page 1

roduced the senate's ability to caucus, a process that involved clearing the viewing gallery, and making the senate discussion private.

The caucus was instituted twice during the meeting, with the second time lasting nearly 40 minutes.

"Caucuses are executive sessions that remain a power that a lot of legislative bodies use to make sure that their decisions are most efficient," said Svercl, referring to the decision to use the caucus at the meeting.

While the caucus is not often used in meetings, Svercl defended its use, stating that the senate could discuss with more efficiency.

"We may not have used caucuses but we've always used recesses to be able to efficiently talk in a less formal manner so that we can clear things up quicker," said Svercl. "This year we just have gone with the method of using caucus."

Trenton Sax, a former member of the Student Allocations Committee, tuned into the meeting via livestream due to attending MSU completely remote. Sax was skeptical of the senate's usage of the caucus, citing the lack of transparency.

"I am extremely upset and disturbed by this year's Student Government budget meeting as a current student," Sax said.

Sax mentioned that this year is an important year, as their recommendation from SAC would require a referendum to the students, due to an increase of over 2%.

"I believe out of my four full years at the university, at least the last 3 SAC have recommended an increase of under 2%, with the exception of last year when they recommended a decrease," said Sax. "So this is a big deal."

After the second caucus, the senate began deliberations and voting on their recommendation

for funding of each organization.

As per the executive team's priority of student compensation, the Student Government voted to raise the funding of each organization asking for more funding for student pay.

Student Government, one of the aforementioned groups, voted to give themselves an increase of the appealed amount from \$117,243 to the requested \$124,481, with an addition of \$6,000 with the intention of creating wages for senators, as well as increase the executive team pay.

The final amount allocated to the Student Government was \$130,481.

Maverick Involvement Team, as well as Student Events Team also had their funding increased in order to better pay students.

A hot button issue of last night's budget deliberations was that of keeping senators in order.

At the beginning of the meeting, Speaker Khan instituted a rule that if any given senator was deemed out of order by the speaker more than three times, they would be asked to leave the meeting.

Senator Abi Saha received more than three out of order notices from the speaker. However, after a discussion of roughly 30 minutes, it was decided that he would not be asked to leave, as many other senators were also out of order.

At the end of the day, the budget recommendation from the senate results in an increase of 4.6%, which requires the fee to be moved to a referendum from the student body as a whole.

In the event that this referendum does not pass by student body vote, the senate voted on a back up that would involve dipping into the fee's reserves in order to bring down the fee increase below 2%. This back up budget would result in a 1.9% increase to the fee.

Madeleine Albright, 1st female US secretary of state dies



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE • AP File

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright speaks during the second day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, July 26, 2016.

By **MATTHEW LEE**
AP Diplomatic Writer

Madeleine Albright, a child refugee from Nazi- and then Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe who rose to become the first female secretary of state and a mentor to many current and former American statesmen and women, died Wednesday of cancer, her family said. She was 84.

A lifelong Democrat who nonetheless worked to bring Republicans into her orbit, Albright was chosen in 1996 by President Bill Clinton to be America's top diplomat, elevating her from U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, where she had been only the second woman to hold that job. As secretary of state, Albright was the highest-ranking woman in

the history of the U.S. government. She was not in the line of succession to the presidency, however, because she was born in what was then Czechoslovakia. Still, she was universally admired for breaking a glass ceiling, even by her political detractors. "We have lost a loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend," her family said in a statement. President Joe Biden ordered flags at the White House and other federal buildings and grounds to be flown at half-staff until March 27. Outpourings of condolences came quickly.

Biden said, "America had no more committed champion of democracy and human rights than Secretary Albright, who knew personally and wrote powerfully of the perils of autocracy."

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‘OUT OF ORDER’

During the budget meeting last night, the Student Government voted to move to caucus on more than one occasion.

After the first caucus, the Senate moved to ignore a rule stating that only 10 minutes of caucus per session, a motion that was passed.

A caucus, as used by the senate yesterday, allowed for the senate to open discussion in private, effectively turning off the livestream and asking the gallery to leave the meeting room.

The usage of this caucus is contradictory to the spirit of a public meeting. This is the most important meeting of the senate’s year, with the members deciding the allocation of over \$2 million.

When discussions and decisions are made behind closed doors, it is a significant disservice to the organizations who’s funding is dependent on what is said behind said doors. The purpose of the Student Government is to provide open discussion on issues facing students, and represent them in an open and transparent forum.

At last night’s Student Government meeting, the senate called for a 20-minute long caucus, removing the viewing gallery from the meeting room. That caucus was then extended twice more, ending in a nearly 40-minute long private discussion. While it is impossible to know what was said during that time, it can be speculated.

Prior to the 40-minute long caucus, President Reauna Stiff and Vice President Kara Svercl appealed to the senate, asking for the Student Government to increase their allocation in order to increase the stipends for president, vice president, and speaker. After the caucus and the senate got to the decision on the Student Government budget recommendation discussion, a new amendment was quickly voted on, adding \$6,000 to their recommendation in order to pay senators. A decision that was reached with remarkably little discussion.

There is no argument against the addition of the funds, instead, the argument is against the process. It is apparent that there was discussion on the addition of these funds behind closed doors. This is, and should be unacceptable.

The entire point of the meeting is to openly and publicly discuss the funding of several areas around campus. It is unethical for the senate to speak privately on any of them, but it is especially unethical for discussion on their own budget to be discussed behind closed doors on the day of the meeting.

There is a floor for discussion, and that floor is public. The students have a right to hear what the reasoning is behind their recommendations. Student leaders on campus deserve adequate and fair pay. However, the process to make that happen needs to be fully transparent.

Whatever was said behind these closed doors most likely impacted the senate’s decision to pass the appeal, and add more money on top of it. Students deserve to know what happened in this caucus, as it is their pocket that is being affected.

Perspectives

On the silence of the closet



JEREMY REDLIEN • The Reporter

My merit badge sash with the badges I earned during my time as a Boy Scout. I still have fond memories of earning the sailing and canoeing merit badges at Camp Henderson.

JEREMY REDLIEN

WHY NOT TODAY?

To live in the closet, is to silently drown in slow motion. Everyone you know exists from a distance. You can see the people in your life, but an ever thickening barrier stands between you.

Since I graduated high school, the policy has changed to allow LGBTQ individuals membership as scouts, but not in adult leadership roles. As a teenager, I took the existence of the don’t ask, don’t tell policy as something that always was and always will exist. I never dreamed that I’d one day discover the origins of that policy while researching the history of a city over 1000 miles from where I grew up.

“The Mayor Says There’s No Discrimination Here”

wrote Jim Chalgren in the poem Headline News wrote regarding a statement made by former Mayor Herb Mocol. The words were memorable to me even before I fully came to understand how they had impacted my own life long before I had even moved to Mankato.

When two members of the Police Explorers Post 243 program were outed to the Mankato police sergeant in charge of the program in the 1970s, they were promptly expelled. That decision would ultimately have widespread repercussions. Scott Ford, one of the former

police explorers, would appeal the decision, first to the Mankato City Council, then to the Boy Scouts of America National Office.

The response from the Mankato City Council when Ford made his appeal was a stark silence. It was a familiar silence to Mankato’s Gay Consciousness Group, who had only weeks earlier made a push to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation following the Tradder and Trapper incident. The response from Mayor Mocol at the time had been to deny the existence of widespread discrimination in Mankato.

According to the Mankato Free Press, the BSA endorsed the decision by the Mankato police sergeant in expelling two gay scouts from Explorer Post 243.

COLUMN on page 10▶

PULSE

“How are you planning to get through the rest of the semester?”

Compiled by Ajay Kasaudhan



KALEB MAXWELL, FRESHMAN

“I am getting an apartment and planning on flying.”



SUSHMA LAMA, FRESHMAN

“Splitting work and planning to give more time to study.”



ABIBA SORE, SOPHOMORE

“Just working hard to get better grades.”



AHASANUR RAHMAN, FRESHMAN

“I will work my best to get good in every sector.”



KINGSLY RUBANJWA, FRESHMAN

“Will work hard to get the best grades.”



BIVEK KUMAR SHARMA, FRESHMAN

“I would like to focus more in my study.”

Moderna says COVID shots work for kids

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine works in babies, toddlers and preschoolers, the company announced Wednesday — a development that could pave the way for the littlest kids to be vaccinated by summer if regulators agree.

Moderna said that in the coming weeks it would ask regulators in the U.S. and Europe to authorize two small-dose shots for youngsters under 6. The company also is seeking to have larger doses cleared for older children and teens in the U.S.

The announcement is positive news for parents who have anxiously awaited protection for younger tots and been continuously disappointed by setbacks and confusion over which shots might work and when. The nation's 18 million children under 5 are the only age group not yet eligible for vaccination.

Moderna says early study results show tots develop high levels of virus-fighting antibodies from shots containing a quarter of the dose given to adults. Once Moderna submits its full data, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will have to determine if that important marker means the youngsters are as protected against severe illness as adults. "The vaccine provides



EMMA H. TOBIN • Associated Press

Ilana Diener holds her son, Hudson, 3, during an appointment for a Moderna COVID-19 vaccine trial in Com-mack, N.Y. on Nov. 30, 2021.

the same level of protection against COVID in young kids as it does in adults. We think that's good news," Dr. Stephen Hoge, Moderna's president, told The Associated Press.

But that key antibody finding isn't the whole story. COVID-19 vaccines aren't as effective

against the super-contagious omicron mutant — in people of any age — and Moderna's study found the same trend. There were no severe illnesses during the trial but the vaccine was only about 44% effective at preventing milder infections in babies up to age 2, and nearly

38% effective in the preschoolers. "Not a home run" but the shots still could be helpful for the youngest children, said Dr. Jesse Goodman of Georgetown University, a former FDA vaccine chief. Goodman said the high antibody levels seen in the study "should translate into

higher efficacy against severe infections."

Some parents say even a little protection would be better than leaving their youngest children unvaccinated.

"I don't care if it's even 15 or 20%," said Lauren Felitti of Gaithersburg, Maryland. Her 4-year-old son Aiden, who's at extra risk because of a heart condition, was hospitalized for eight days with COVID-19 and she's anxious to vaccinate him to lessen the chance of a reinfection.

"It was very scary," Felitti said. "If there's a chance that I'm able to keep him protected, even if it's a small chance, then I'm all for it."

Competitor Pfizer currently offers kid-size doses for school-age children and full-strength shots for those 12 and older. And the company is testing even smaller doses for children under 5 but had to add a third shot to its study when two didn't prove strong enough. Those results are expected by early April.

If the FDA eventually authorizes vaccinations for little kids from either company, there still would be another hurdle. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends who should get them — and Goodman said there may be debate about shots for higher-risk children or everyone under 5.

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◀COLUMN from page 8

What's more, Russell Bufkin the director of public relations who was interviewed by the Mankato Free Press at the time, notes that this incident was the first time that any scouts had been expelled because of their sexual orientation. This story can be found in the Mankato Free Press, Jan. 31, 1978 issue.

It gives me no pleasure to note that having previously volunteered with the Mankato Public Safety Department, that things have not really changed for the better. I quit volunteering with the MPSD after being alienated and facing what I felt was discrimination when I tried to advance within the organization.

While I was a volunteer, I suggested the MPSD should appoint an LGBTQ liason. The suggestion was ignored. When I applied to be a reserve officer with the MPSD, they turned me down. I decided to continue volunteering with them for a year, with the intent of re-applying during their next round of hiring. Unfortunately, a year later when an email was sent out saying they were hiring again, I was to discover that the MPSD would not even interview me due to a policy saying that one had to wait three years before reapplying. Since I had already spent the interim year volunteering, I found myself feeling like I had been straight up exploited.

It's worth noting as well, during that year, I found myself working with a reserve officer during the Mankato Marathon who had been selected during the same round of hiring I had also applied for.

While talking with this reserve officer during the event, I found out he had no relevant experience or education to law enforcement. As a result, I felt like I had to take on the role of training someone who was getting paid to do, while I was stuck as an unpaid volunteer.

While researching the incident with the two explorer scouts who had been expelled, I kept finding parallels to my own experiences with the MPSD. For example, my volunteer work was described as "A+" and I was complimented on my "enthusiasm".

Likewise, one of the scouts had received a commendation for their volunteer work and strangely enough, the sergeant who expelled them, described them as "brave" when they stood up for themselves at the city council.

Looking back at both what I uncovered in researching Mankato history and my own experiences as a volunteer, I feel comfortable in saying that the

COLUMN on page 11▶

Russian Olympians face backlash

By Associated Press

Russian Olympic athletes who participated in a rally supporting President Vladimir Putin and the invasion of Ukraine are facing a backlash, with one losing a sponsorship deal and facing a disciplinary investigation. Medalists from cross-country skiing, gymnastics, figure skating and swimming gathered on stage at the Luzhniki Stadium on Friday as part of the concert and entertainment program around Putin's speech.

Olympic champion swimmer Evgeny Rylov is under investigation from the sport's governing body, known as FINA, for attending the event.

"The FINA Executive confirmed that the FINA Disciplinary Panel has opened a procedure against Russian

swimmer Evgeny Rylov for a potential violation of the FINA rules following his alleged participation in a pro-war rally at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow," the swimming federation said Wednesday in a statement. "The FINA Executive has requested that the panel's proceedings be expedited." Rylov also lost his endorsement deal with swimwear manufacturer Speedo because of his involvement in the pro-Putin rally. "Following his attendance at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow at the weekend, Speedo can confirm that it has terminated the sponsorship of Evgeny Rylov with immediate effect," the company said. "We condemn the war in Ukraine in the strongest possible way and stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, our athletes and our teammates who have



MIKHAIL KILMENTYEV • Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP
Russian President Vladimir Putin arrives to deliver his speech at the 8th anniversary of the referendum on the state status of Crimea.

been impacted by the conflict." Speedo added it will donate the remainder of Rylov's sponsorship fee to UNHCR, the United

Nations agency caring for refugees. Most of the athletes, including Rylov, were pictured wearing jackets with a "Z".

◀UKRAINE from page 6

great-power politics, essentially. I was interested in what the panelists would have to say about the Russia and Ukraine war."

Holthaus' question focused on whether the politics in Eastern Europe and NATO had an influence on the war between Russia and Ukraine. Kranking began his response with, "Part of this is a question of sovereignty and whether or not the individual states have the right to determine who they are go-

ing to align with and trade with and closely partner with and where they view their security threats from."

He then went on to discuss how language, culture, and geography play a small role in this, but ultimately it was a split decision. Holthaus expressed the topics of the discussion that interested him the most, including the response he received from his question earlier. "I particularly wanted to know what the panelists would say about NATO and its ex-

pansion, and my question was kind of tailored around that," Holthaus commented. "Mainly that issue and whether or not a nation like Ukraine has the right, essentially, to sovereignty when it's stuck between these great powers because any move it makes, it's under intense scrutiny." Holthaus kept a variety of the concepts in mind, as he figured he could use this information later in his classes.

He was surprised with the topics the panelists talked about, and left the discussion

with some concepts to ponder over.

"I thought I knew a lot of the history, but the three historians really illuminated it a lot. I particularly liked Inglot's knowledge of Poland, Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, and the history of the people there, the culture, and how it relates to the Soviet Union," Holthaus stated.

A recording of the full discussion can be found on the Kessel Peace Institute's Facebook page.

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What to know about vaccines for little kids

By LAURAN NEER-GAARD
AP Medical Writer

COVID-19 vaccinations for the youngest children just might be a step closer.

Moderna intends to seek U.S. authorization for kid-sized shots, releasing early study results Wednesday that suggest the two small doses work in tots younger than 6.

Within weeks, competitor Pfizer hopes to learn if three of its even lower-dose shots do, too.

Here's what is known so far, and what's next before the nation's 18 million children under 5 can become eligible for vaccination.

Moderna says tots as young as 6 months developed high levels of virus-fighting antibodies from shots containing a quarter of the dose given to adults.

Full study results are yet to come but the early findings suggest the vaccine may protect against severe illness in kids just like it does in adults.

There were no severe illnesses in the kid study. But sure enough, the vaccine proved just under 44% effective at preventing milder infections in tots up to age 2, and nearly 38% effective in the preschoolers.

The vaccine made by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech is the only one currently available for children in the U.S.

Those 12 and older get adult-strength shots and 5- to 11-year-olds receive a third of that dose.

Pfizer is testing even smaller shots, a tenth of the adult dose, for kids under 5.

Early results showed two shots produced enough antibodies to protect babies and toddlers but fell short for preschoolers.

◀COLUMN from page 10

MPSD is an institution desperately in need of change while ironically being dead set against making any kind of meaningful changes.

There was no excuse for the way they treated two young men they expelled from the Mankato Police Explorers Program, just as there is no excuse for the way they exploited me as a volunteer.

We live in a time when the need for police to meaningfully reform so that they can continue to operate in a diverse society.

Yet my work with the MSPSD revealed an institution unwilling to make those changes which are so desperately needed.

Amid protests, Europe limit prices

By KELVIN CHAN and ARITZ PARRA
Associated Press

Across Europe, governments are slashing fuel taxes and doling out tens of billions to help consumers, truckers, farmers and others cope with spiking energy prices made worse by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

But it's not enough for some whose livelihoods hinge on fuel.

Miguel Ángel Rodríguez was one of 200 concrete truck drivers who held a slow-driving protest around Madrid this week. He said filling up used to cost 1,600 euros (\$1,760) a month, but he's been forking out an extra 500 euros since the start of the year because of the rising price of diesel.

"We will continue striking because, at the end of the day, it's pretty much the same for us to go out to work or to stay at home," Rodríguez said. He warned that his rising costs were part of "a domino effect that is only going to drive us all to our ruin unless the government takes some definitive action."

He's among those in industries like trucking or fishing who are staging protests to push politicians to ease their financial pain. The war has exacerbated a monthslong energy crunch in Europe, which is dependent on Russian oil and natural gas. Governments have limited options to provide lasting relief as households and businesses face crippling energy bills, high prices at the pump and other effects. Volatile energy markets control

natural gas and oil prices that have soared and fueled record inflation.

Countries like Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Sweden and Cyprus are doing what they can, passing temporary efforts to provide immediate help: slashing fuel taxes, rolling out heating and power subsidies or rebates, and capping energy bills for households and small businesses. Such measures "are sensible, and some of them, such as energy tax cuts, could be sustained indefinitely — even if prices continue to increase," said Elisabetta Cornago, a senior research fellow at the Centre for European Reform think tank who specializes in EU energy policy.

But she called them partial solutions that "only make a small difference." "The main problem is that these measures to keep energy prices low will also suppress incentives for energy efficiency, for investment in green energy generation, and for electrifying sectors that currently rely on fossil fuels — so they could make the long-term pain of adjustment harder," Cornago said.

Raising interest rates, the tool wielded by central banks to tame inflation, also would do little to rein in energy prices — which European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde noted last month. That's because "rising energy prices are due to fundamental shifts in energy markets," Cornago said.

The energy crisis will be a hot topic at a European Council summit starting Thursday in Brussels, where



MANU FERNANDEZ • Associated Press

Trucks gather to protest against the high price of fuel in Parla, on outskirts of Madrid, Spain, Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

leaders from Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece will call for an urgent, coordinated bloc-wide response. EU officials on Wednesday said they would seek U.S. help on a plan to top up natural gas storage facilities for next winter and also want the bloc to jointly purchase gas.

In the meantime, workers are taking to the streets as gasoline across the EU's 27 countries has risen 40% from a year ago, to an average of 2.02 euros per liter — the equivalent of \$8.40 a gallon.

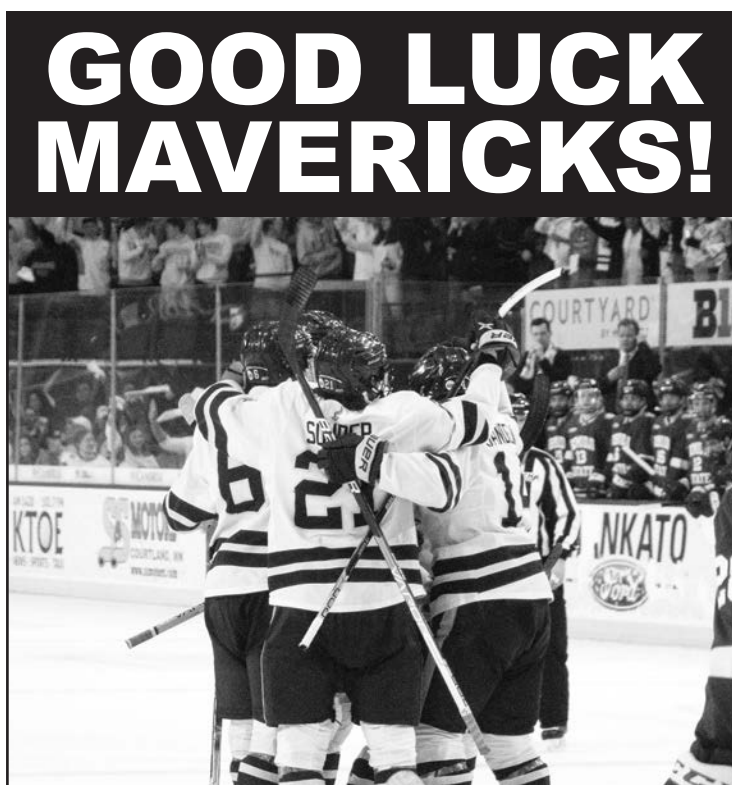
Truckers around France, dissatisfied with aid they consider "insufficient," held a day of action Monday, with a group of independent drivers in Normandy and the English Channel region staging a blockade that prevented hundreds of trucks from moving.

Collateral damage included a Paris gig by British hard rock group Royal Blood. The band

tweeted the cancellation of its show Monday night because its gear was stuck at a service station near Paris and "the protesters will not allow the (equipment) trucks to leave."

In Cyprus, hundreds of livestock breeders protested Monday outside the country's Presidential Palace and demanded compensation to offset the sharp increase in animal feed prices because of higher transport costs tied to fuel price hikes. Spanish truck drivers have been disrupting delivery of fresh produce and other goods for supermarkets for more than a week, while farmers paraded their tractors through Madrid on Sunday. Outside government offices, cattle breeders poured out milk that they said costs them more to produce than they earn selling it.

With the country's logistics in disarray from the trucker protests.



from MSU Fellowship of Christian Athletes



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Veto shows lack of GOP lockstep on transgender sports bans

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and SAM METZ
Associated Press

Republican governors in two states this week rejected legislation to ban transgender players from girls sports — signs that there are some remaining fractures among GOP leaders over how to navigate gender's reemergence as a culture war issue.

Still, those decisions to buck the party's conservative wing could prove short-lived against a fired-up GOP base and lawmakers angling to overrule the governors.

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox and Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb vetoed bills passed by state lawmakers that would ban transgender girls from participating in gender-designated youth sports.

Their opposition puts them at odds with some of their high-profile counterparts in states such as Iowa, Florida and South Dakota, where politically ambitious governors have leaned into the debates as LGBTQ Americans have grown increasingly visible in society and pop culture. Given the very few transgender student-athletes playing in both states — four in Utah and none in Indiana — Cox and Holcomb say bans address a problem that is virtually



RICK BOWMER • Associated Press

A proposed ban on transgender athletes playing female school sports in Utah would affect transgender girls like this 12-year-old swimmer seen at a pool in Utah on Feb. 22, 2021.

nonexistent and distract from a broader conservative agenda. Holcomb said in a veto letter that Indiana lawmakers' rationale for a ban "implies that the goals of consistency and fairness in competitive female sports are not currently being met." "After thorough review, I find no

evidence to support either claim even if I support the effort overall," he added.

The Associated Press last year reached out to two dozen lawmakers in the more than 20 states considering similar youth sports measures and found that only a few times has it been an

issue among the hundreds of thousands of teenagers who play high school sports.

But lawmakers in Utah and Indiana are undeterred, arguing transgender girls can have a physical advantage. "This is not about the number of children. This is not about a number at

all. This is about a fundamental belief — that you either have or you don't — that women's sports need to be preserved for those that are biologically born as and identify as female," said Utah Rep. Kera Birkeland, a Republican high school basketball coach who sponsored the ban.

Legislative leaders say they've whipped the votes to override the vetoes and join nearly a dozen other states in restricting which teams transgender kids can play on. The Indiana bill passed with broad support and legislative leaders are meeting at the end of May and could override it with simple majorities.

Many point to the transgender swimmer Lia Thomas, who won an individual title at the NCAA Women's Division I Swimming and Diving Championship last week. While she also placed 5th and 8th in two other races, her win drew widespread attention, including from Republican politicians like Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who issued an official proclamation declaring the runner-up the "real winner."

Until two years ago, no state had passed a law regulating gender-designated youth sports. But the issue has become front-and-center in Republican-led statehouses since Idaho lawmakers passed the nation's first sports participation law in 2020.

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SPORTS

NEW YORK BOUND

Minnesota State claims an NCAA tournament bid as the first seed in the Albany Regional.



MANSOOR AHMAD • The Reporter

The Mavs won their first Mason Cup this past Saturday, claiming their bid into the NCAA tournament. MSU will now face Harvard in the Albany semifinals in the pursuit of a national title.

By KOLE BUELOW • Sports Editor

Despite an abundance of controversy regarding what Maverick fans thought was the original game-winning goal by sophomore winger Josh Groll, the Minnesota State University, Mankato Mavericks persevered and have been awarded a first seed in the upcoming NCAA Ice Hockey tournament.

Senior Jack McNeely's overtime goal in the Mavericks' 2-1 win over

Bemidji State this past weekend sealed the deal for the team to claim a bid in the tournament, and Mavericks' head coach Mike Hastings explained the game as, "[an] adversity that we had to go through."

Minnesota State has been awarded the first seed in the Albany Regional of the NCAA tournament and will face Harvard in the first round. Notre Dame and North Dakota round out the remainder of the region and will be the opponent of the winner of the

Mavericks' contest.

The Albany Regional is littered with talented squads, and Hastings is fully aware of that. "I think the region is difficult. When you get to the final 16... every game is a challenge," Hastings stated.

But the Mavericks head coach wants to "focus on the first one" before evaluating the rest of the field.

Despite being a four seed in the region, Harvard brings an impressive resume to the tournament, which in-

cludes their Eastern College Athletic Conference championship.

The Harvard Crimson ride a three game win streak heading into the Albany semifinals, which includes wins over Clarkson University and Quinnipiac University, who both appear inside the top 15 of the national Pair-Wise rankings.

The Crimson are led by first-year forward Matthew Coronato, a Greenlawn, N.Y. product who will

REGIONAL on page 14

Baseball onto Bemidji and UMary in weekend bouts

By KARSON BUELOW • Staff Writer

The Minnesota State University, Mankato baseball team is set to take on Bemidji State on Mar. 24 for a double-header, before returning to the mound this weekend for games against the University of Mary. The Mavericks come into this week's series with a 9-3 overall record and 2-1 record in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. The Beavers come into today's games with a 3-14 overall record and 0-3 in the NSIC. Minnesota State owns the all-time record against Bemidji State with 39 wins and 4 losses, including a perfect 13-0 home record.

Junior outfielder Ryan Wickman leads the Mavericks' bats this season with a .400 batting average including 18 hits and 15 runs. Junior pitcher and infielder Nick Altermatt has also proven to be dominant at the plate so far with a .342 average with 13 hits and 10 runs.

On the mound, senior pitcher Brendan Knoll leads the Mavs with a 1.29 earned run average (ERA) and a clean 3-0 record this season. Altermatt has also made a name for himself on the mound with a 4.85 ERA and a 3-0 record so far.

The Mavericks' fielding is led by junior catcher Mikey Fredrickson, who has accumulated 28 catches and 25 putouts with 0 errors. Wickman has also

been consistent in the field with 24 catches and 24 putouts with 0 errors.

For the Beavers, senior infielder Sam Kalberer owns the highest batting average at .383 and has seven runs off 18 hits. Freshman outfielder Hunter Daymond follows closely behind Kalberer with a .361 average and has nine runs off 13 hits. The Bemidji pitching crew is led by junior Logan Barrick, who's struck out 27 batters this season and owns the third lowest opposing batting average on the team at .244. Freshman Isaiah Biehn has also proven to be successful leading the team with a 1.93 ERA and .182 opposing batting average through 9.1 in-

BASEBALL on page 17



Senior catcher Ben Livorsi taking a swing.

◀**REGIONAL** from page 13
 be returning to his home state for his first NCAA tournament game. Coronato got his season off to a great start, scoring two goals and tallying two assists against Dartmouth and has not slowed down. The freshman forward maintained his dominance into the ECAC playoffs, tallying five goals and five assists in five games, staying hot going into the NCAA tournament.

Harvard also brings junior goaltender Mitchell Gibson to the tournament, a 6'1" 187 pound product from Pheonixville, Pa. Gibson has a solid 18-9-1 record this season, and was outstanding in the ECAC championship game, saving 47 of 49 shots to propel Harvard to their title.

The Mavericks will have a lot to handle when looking at Harvard's squad, but Hastings is confident in his team's ability to learn from last season's tournament to be more successful this year. "Last year there was some ebbs and flows, positive and negative, when we played Quinnipiac. The first half Quinnipiac did a really good job by putting us on our heels and getting off to a lead. Then in the second half I thought we got to our game a little bit more and we wore them down," said the Mavericks' head coach.

"I thought getting that first one done let us play a lot freer the next night against the University of Minnesota. We're going to try and use that experience from that tournament to prepare us for what we are doing right now... which is Harvard."

The Mavericks' upperclassmen and leadership have been driving factors in their success this season, and will undoubtedly push Harvard to their limit today. Senior Julian Napravnik and junior Nathan Smith have been two of the best at their respective positions this season and will pose to be one of the most difficult tasks for the Albany Region to handle. Napravnik and Smith are tied for the team lead in points this season, both totalling 18 goals and 31 assists, for a season total of 49 points.

Their 49 points is tied for second in the nation in scoring. In addition, senior goaltender Dryden McKay has been great in net for the team.

McKay is a Hobey Baker award top-10 finalist as well as a runner for the Mike Richter goaltender of the year award for his NCAA-leading 35-4-0 record and .934 save percentage.

MSU made their way to Albany on Tuesday and will begin their quick turnaround to play their first game on Thursday. Hastings will have the team ready and has preached that, "at this point in the season it is win or go home."

Softball returns for doubleheader

By **KARSON BUELOW**
 Staff Writer

The Minnesota State University, Mankato softball team is set to take on Southwest Minnesota State on Mar. 24 in their first NSIC conference games of the season. The Mavericks come into these games sporting a 16-6 overall record and were recently ranked #16 in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) poll.

The Mavs are coming off a 3-2 performance last week at the Fairfield Classic in Pittsburg, Kan. Last week's 3-2 performance saw Mankato win games against Central Oklahoma and Missouri Southern, while also dropping games against Pittsburg State.

Thursday's games between MSU and Southwest Minnesota will be meetings 95 and 96 all-time between the two clubs. The Mavericks dominate the Mustangs with an all-time record of 69-25. The Mavs also own a convincing home record against the Mustangs at 29-11.

Sophomore outfielder Kylie Sullivan leads the Mavericks' offense this season with a .369 batting average and 11 runs batted in (RBI). Sophomore catcher Sydney Nielsen leads the team in runs this season with 18 while owning a .366 average.

Senior pitcher Mackenzie Ward leads MSU in multiple categories this season including a 0.74 earned run average (ERA) and owns 129 strikeouts through 13 games pitched. Ward was recently named NSIC softball pitcher



Maverick Athletics

Sophomore outfielder Kylie Sullivan leads the Maverick batters with a .369 average at the plate. Sullivan has tallied 17 runs, 24 hits, 11 RBIs, and three home runs in 65 at-bats. Sullivan has helped propel the Mavericks to a 16-6 overall record to begin the season and 10 wins in their past 12 games.

of the week for the third consecutive week as she went 2-0 and held opposing batters to a .182 average in last week's Fairfield Classic.

In the field, Nielsen leads the Mavs so far this season accumulating 131 putouts with 0 total errors. Freshman infielder Emma Dennison ranks second on the team with 24 putouts and 0 total errors. Sophomore utility player Madi Newman also earned top performance honors by the NSIC this past week owning a .438 average in four games played with seven

hits and six RBIs. Newman also tallied 2 home runs and a double.

On the other side of the mound, Southwest Minnesota is coached by Bailey Bouman. Bouman is in her fourth season with the Mustangs and owns an overall record of 55-53. Senior utility player Bailey Johnson leads the Mustang offense so far this season with a .409 average and 27 hits in 66 at-bats. Sophomore infielder Paige Shwaluk leads SMSU this season with 13 runs while owning a .310 average.

Sophomore pitcher Allison Christians leads the Mustangs this season on the mound with eight earned runs this season through five games pitched. Freshman pitcher Karlie Miller owns the most strikeouts on the team with 29 and has the third-lowest opposing batting average on the team with .336.

Johnson leads the team in the field this season with 153 putouts and four errors. Sophomore catcher Molly Bull has 58 putouts on the season so far and 70 catches.

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Kansas City sends Tyreek Hill to Miami for picks; Hill signs deal



GREGORY PAYAN • Associated Press

AFC wide receiver Tyreek Hill, of the Kansas City Chiefs, is seen before competing at the 2022 Pro Bowl Skills Showdown Wednesday, February 2, 2022, in Las Vegas.

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

The Kansas City Chiefs traded Tyreek Hill to Miami for a package of draft picks Wednesday, and the Dolphins are giving the three-time All-Pro wide receiver a \$120 million, four-year contract extension that makes Hill the highest-paid player at his position in NFL history.

The Chiefs will get the Dolphins' first- and second-round picks and their fourth-round pick in this year and fourth- and sixth-round picks next year, along with some much-needed salary cap relief in the latest major NFL trade.

"It's hard to put into words what Tyreek has meant to Chiefs Kingdom," Chiefs general manager Brett Veach said. "He's a special player, one of the best in franchise history. He's been a large part of our success, including our Super Bowl championship run. This decision was incredibly difficult, but we felt it was a necessary move in the best interest of the team, and also for Tyreek. We wish him the best as he continues his career."

Hill's agent, Drew Rosenhaus, said the extension from Miami includes \$72.2 million guaranteed. The value of the deal surpasses the five-year contract that Davante Adams signed after he was traded from Green Bay to Las Vegas last week, which averages \$28.5 million and includes \$67.5 million guaranteed.

"I'm very excited to be joining the Miami Dolphins and get to work," Hill said in a statement. "However it's hard thinking about the memories, people and fans that made my time in Kansas City so great.

"I'll never forget getting the

call in 2016 that my dream to play in the NFL was coming true. I worked hard every day to show my appreciation for you taking a chance on me," Hill continued. "To the fans, thank you for your support. Playing for you has been one of the greatest things I've done in my life."

The Chiefs had been in discussions with Hill on a contract extension in part because they sought relief from a tight salary cap situation. But talks had stalled over the past few days, and Hill's representatives requested permission to seek a trade, which came together quickly with multiple teams expressing interest in him.

The deal clears more than \$18 million in salary cap space for Kansas City.

Hill appeared to indicate his time with the Chiefs was over more than a week ago, when the six-time Pro Bowl selection tweeted: "we came a long way thank you chiefs kingdom I'm forever indebted." He also was keenly aware of the market for top wide receivers, retweeting a post about the Jaguars signing Christian Kirk to a four-year, \$84 million deal.

It has been a wild NFL offseason when it comes to big names, even though the new league year is just a week old.

The Seahawks traded Russell Wilson to the Broncos, Deshaun Watson ended up in Cleveland, the Falcons sent Matt Ryan to the Colts and Carson Wentz landed with the Commanders — and that's just quarterbacks. Adams and Kirk found new homes along with fellow wide receiver Amari Cooper, who went from Dallas to Cleveland. And top-tier pass rushers Khalil Mack (Chargers) and Yannick Ngakoue (Colts) also have landed with new

teams.

Hill was a controversial pick by the Chiefs in the fifth round of the 2016 draft, a year after he was accused of punching his girlfriend and got kicked off the team at Oklahoma State. Then, three years ago, prosecutors in suburban Kansas City declined to charge Hill after an alleged domestic violence incident involving his fiancée and their 3-year-old child.

On the field, though, Hill has surpassed every expectation, giving coach Andy Reid an outlet for his offensive creativity while teaming with Pro Bowl quarterback Patrick Mahomes to form one of the league's elite pass-catch duos.

Hill helped the Chiefs win back-to-back AFC titles along with their first Super Bowl in 50 years after the 2019 season. He also helped them get back to the conference championship game in January before losing to the Bengals, capping arguably the best year of his career: He had a club-record 111 catches to go with 1,239 yards and nine touchdowns.

In just six seasons, Hill already has 479 catches for 6,630 yards and 56 scores.

"I am happy for Tyreek. He has grown as a man and player here in Kansas City," Reid said. "This move will also benefit the Chiefs. We now have cap space and additional draft picks to grow as a football team."

The trade for Hill is another major move by the Dolphins, who are trying to build around quarterback Tua Tagovailoa and end a streak of five straight years out of the playoffs. They have reached deals with left tackle Terron Armstead, wide receiver Cedrick Wilson and offensive guard Connor Williams, among several others.

Colleges accused of violating Black athlete's legal rights



MICHAEL CONROY • Associated Press

The NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis is shown in this March 12, 2020. A group that advocates for college athletes has filed a federal complaint that claims NCAA Division I schools are violating civil rights.

By RALPH RUSSO
Associated Press

A group that advocates for college athletes has filed a federal complaint that claims NCAA Division I schools are violating the civil rights of Black basketball players and major college football players by prohibiting compensation.

The National College Players Association announced Tuesday it had submitted a complaint to the Office for Civil Rights in the Education Department. The NCPA says NCAA rules prohibiting schools from compensating athletes disproportionately impacts Black students.

"I believe it's important to first acknowledge the reality of the business that is college

football," Stanford football player Elijah Higgins said in a statement through the NCPA.

Citing a 2018 study by the University of Southern California's Race and Equity Center, the complaint said "Black men were 2.4% of undergraduate students enrolled at the 65 (Power Five conference) universities, but comprised 55% of football teams and 56% of men's basketball teams on those campuses."

"This multibillion college sports enterprise imposes discriminatory practices that disproportionately harms Black athletes, while predominantly white coaches and administrators make millions of dollars," said NCPA Executive Director Ramogi Huma, a

NCAA on page 17 ▶

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Correa makes promise to Twins

By JAKE SEINER
Associated Press

Carlos Correa has declared October “his time.” It certainly hasn’t been Minnesota’s.

The Twins hope Correa can fix that, even if his stay in Minneapolis is short.

“I want to build a championship culture in this organization,” Correa said.

The former Houston Astros star tugged on a Twins’ No. 4 jersey and was formally introduced Wednesday, five days after agreeing to a \$105.3 million, three-year contract that includes opt-outs after the first and second seasons.

The Twins have famously lost 18 straight postseason games since their last October victory in 2004 — their most recent loss was in the 2020 wild-card round when Correa hit a go-ahead homer at Target Field to complete Houston’s sweep.

Correa is a World Series champion who cemented his playoff stardom last fall by celebrating a go-ahead homer against Boston by pointing to his wrist, looking into the home dugout and affirming “it’s my time.”

“He elevates the confidence because this person has simply done this before,” Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said.

It’s part of why small-market Minnesota went for such an unusual deal. Correa’s \$35.1 million average salary trails only Mike Trout’s \$36 million with the Angels, a total in the same range as entire projected opening day payrolls in Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Cleveland.

The financial commitment from Twins ownership a year after finishing last in the AL Central stands out in a sport where so-called tanking fueled acrimony from players that led to a 99-day work stoppage.

“When I called (Twins Chairman) Jim Pohlad as we were getting closer to this on Friday, immediate support,” president of baseball operations Derek Falvey said. “I mean, there’s no other way to describe it.”

Correa will be baseball’s highest-paid infielder this season — and he’ll have a chance to seek more after.

The 27-year-old switched agents during the lockout from William Morris Endeavor to Scott Boras. Correa said Wednesday that Boras pitched him on a shorter deal that could get him back to the market soon. Together, they set sights on a ballpark where Correa could thrive.

They hit a bull’s-eye at Target Field. Correa is a career .413 hitter with a 1.205 OPS in 15 games in Minnesota.

“When a player is that comfortable in a ballpark, we knew that there was a joint fit,” Boras said.

If he opts out after 2022, Correa would join a free agent market that could also include shortstops Trea Turner of the Dodgers, Xander Bogaerts from Boston and Tim Anderson from the White Sox. Correa is younger than all of them.

First, though, he’s hoping to make an impact in Minnesota. Correa hit .279 with 26 homers, 92 RBIs and an .851 OPS last season. He’s a two-time All-Star,



STEVE HELBER • Associated Press

Minnesota Twins’ Carlos Correa adjusts his arm protector during batting practice at Hammond Stadium Wednesday March 23, 2022, in Fort Myers, Fla.

the 2015 AL Rookie of the Year and has an .849 OPS over 79 career postseason games.

“His leadership, his character, and his commitment to this community are what make Carlos a very special person,” Astros owner Jim Crane said in a statement. “He will forever be one of the great Astros players.”

Correa joins a club with several holdovers from AL Central titles in 2019 and ‘20, including Byron Buxton, Miguel Sanó, Max Kepler and new double-play partner Jorge Polanco. Correa and Buxton went 1-2 in

the 2012 draft and have known each other since high school.

“Carlos is now going to elevate it from his experiences and add to that group,” Falvey said.

Baldelli already sees it happening. He’s noticed that Correa has a precise manner of speaking around the clubhouse, sparking conversations that Baldelli says dig far past “surface level.”

“They are making his teammates think and react and do things differently and in a better manner maybe than they’ve ever done it before,” Baldelli said. “That’s his goal every day when

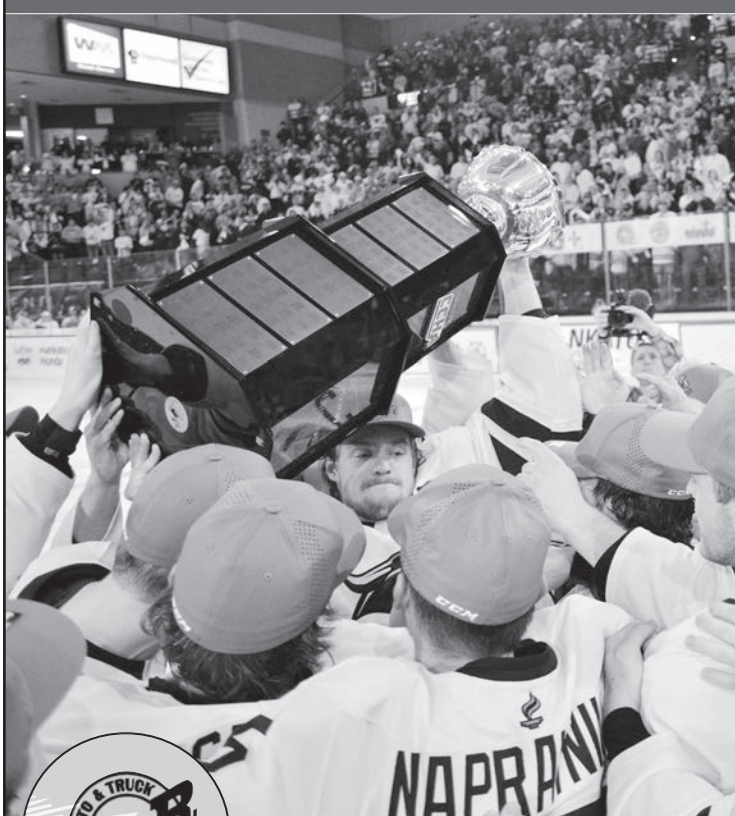
he shows up.”

“When we’re taking practice,” Correa explained, “we’re searching for perfection. ... That’s a culture we want to build here.”

Correa has even begun mentoring his potential replacement, top prospect Royce Lewis. Correa took Lewis’ No. 4 but paid him back with a Hublot watch. Lewis joined former Twins Rod Carew and LaTroy Hawkins to watch Correa’s press conference.

“I know accidentally I took his number,” Correa said. “Royce, sorry.”

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Russian Olympians face rally backlash

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian Olympic athletes who participated in a rally supporting President Vladimir Putin and the invasion of Ukraine are facing a backlash, with one losing a sponsorship deal and facing a disciplinary investigation.

Medalists from cross-country skiing, gymnastics, figure skating and swimming gathered on stage at the Luzhniki Stadium on Friday as part of the concert and entertainment program around Putin's speech.

Olympic champion swimmer Evgeny Rylov is under investigation from the sport's governing body, known as FINA, for attending the event.

"The FINA Executive confirmed that the FINA Disciplinary Panel has opened a procedure against Russian swimmer Evgeny Rylov for a potential violation of the FINA rules following his alleged participation in a pro-war rally at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow," the swimming federation said Wednesday in a statement. "The FINA Executive has requested that the panel's proceedings be expedited."

Rylov also lost his endorsement deal with swimwear manufacturer Speedo because of his involvement in the pro-Putin rally.

"Following his attendance at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow at the weekend, Speedo can confirm that it has terminated the sponsorship of Evgeny Rylov with immediate effect," the company said.

"We condemn the war in Ukraine in the strongest possible way and stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, our athletes and our teammates who have been impacted by the conflict."

Speedo added it will donate the remainder of Rylov's sponsorship fee to UNHCR, the United Nations agency caring for refugees.

Most of the athletes, including Rylov, were pictured wearing jackets with a "Z" on the chest at the rally. The letter isn't part of the Russian alphabet but has become a symbol of support for Russian troops after it was used as a marker on Russian armored vehicles operating in Ukraine.

Other Olympic medalists athletes in attendance included figure skaters Victoria Sinitsina.

Champions sign aiming for Cup

By STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

When St. Louis Blues players said their goodbyes to Oskar Sundqvist before boarding the plane for their next game, it marked the latest departure of many from the group that won the Stanley Cup in 2019. Only 10 guys remain who played in that Stanley Cup Final.

The Washington Capitals have nine players left from their 2018 championship team. Just five remain from the Penguins team that won Pittsburgh's second consecutive title in 2017.

While the back-to-back defending champion Tampa Bay Lightning loaded up at the trade deadline looking for a three-peat, St. Louis, Washington and Pittsburgh all made moves in hopes of recapturing some old magic to go on another deep playoff run.

For the Blues, it meant shipping out Sundqvist to upgrade on defense with Nick Leddy. The Capitals brought back Marcus Johansson, whom they traded away the summer before winning the Cup, while the Penguins shuffled out two roster players to add winger Rickard Rakell.

Pittsburgh, in fact, has changed its entire front office since the back-to-back titles, Washington is on its second coach since its Cup win and yet it's St. Louis that might offer the biggest contrast.

The Blues have just two players back from their championship defense and over the past three years have transitioned from a big, heavy team that got through the playoffs by physically wearing down

opponents to one that can win with skill, speed and offense.

"I just think the balance of the team is different," coach Craig Berube said. "From the Cup year, we move the puck better, I think, in the neutral zone. We move the puck through the neutral zone better, and in the offensive zone we score a lot of goals."

Rakell has twice scored more than 30 goals in a season and gives the Penguins a significant offensive upgrade from Dominik Simon and Zach Aston-Reese, who went to Anaheim with a draft pick and a prospect. "We know we have a good team," Pittsburgh GM Ron Hextall told reporters. "We just wanted to add a piece — but it had to fit."

That's how Washington GM Brian MacLellan felt about Johansson, who played his first seven seasons with the Capitals and still has eight teammates from that time around. Johansson even started his second tenure with the Capitals on the first line alongside Alex Ovechkin and Evgeny Kuznetsov.

"He knows where he's going, he knows how to get around and he knows everybody in the room, and that's a completely different feel from walking into a locker room where you don't know anything, you don't know anybody and you don't know how to get to the rink," coach Peter Laviolette said Tuesday. "There's a lot of familiarity with that. Sometimes that's like walking in some old slippers: You know what you're doing. You're comfortable."

When Barry Trotz coached



CHRIS SEWARD • Associated Press

Detroit Red Wings defenseman Nick Leddy (2) moves the puck as Carolina Hurricanes right wing Stefan Noesen (29) skates in during an NHL hockey game on Dec. 16, 2021, in Raleigh, N.C.

for Washington, he liked to say the team was comfortable being uncomfortable.

That fits for the Blues, too, especially after adding a veteran with previous (if different) Cup-winning experience in Leddy.

GM Doug Armstrong cited Leddy's long runs in 2013 when the Blackhawks reached the Western Conference final and the past two years when the New York Islanders made the East final as an added benefit for St. Louis come playoff time.

"Experience is everything," Leddy said after his first morning skate with his new team. "The more experienced guys are, I think the more comfortable you feel in those situations."

Two NHL teams have a pair of players ranked in the top 10 in goals this season: the

Edmonton Oilers with Leon Draisaitl and Connor McDavid — and a couple of Nashville Predators forwards. Filip Forsberg and Matt Duchene rank seventh and eighth in the league, trying to top each other seemingly every game, sometimes every period.

The two, playing on the same line as Ryan Johansen, each scored two goals Monday night in a 6-3 win at Anaheim.

"We're both having the best years of our career right now, and it doesn't matter that part of it," said Duchene, who at 34 goals is one back of Forsberg. "The competition is great." They have plenty of help carrying the scoring load this season.

Captain Roman Josi, the 2020 Norris Trophy winner, leads all defensemen with 75 points during the best offensive season of his career.

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Wild go all in to trade for Fleury

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

The Minnesota Wild have raved all season about their chemistry, as much of an asset for them as Kirill Kaprizov's deft scoring touch, the size of their second line or their newly created veteran goaltending tandem.

General manager Bill Guerin believed in the team's intangible strength enough to take a big swing at upgrading the roster right before the trade deadline. Goalie Marc-Andre Fleury was the headliner acquisition, and Guerin didn't flinch at the price of a premium draft pick.

"It's because of what these guys have done all year — the way that they've played and the way that they've changed things around here. This is a credit to them," Guerin said Monday after the Fleury deal with Chicago was done, the last of four trades the Wild made over the last week. The Wild, who are tied with Nashville for second place in the Central Division with two games in hand on the Predators, traded a conditional first-round pick to the Blackhawks for Fleury.

If Minnesota reaches the Western Conference finals and Fleury is the winning goalie of record in four or more games over the first and second rounds combined, Chicago will get a first-rounder. If neither of those conditions are met, the pick for the Blackhawks will be a second-rounder instead. The Blackhawks also agreed to retain half of the remaining portion of Fleury's salary.

"You have to give up something to get something. There's a price to pay, no matter what



DAVID BECKER • Associated Press

Chicago Blackhawks goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury acknowledges the crowd after a tribute before the team's NHL hockey game against the Vegas Golden Knights on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, in Las Vegas.

level. We traded away some really good guys and guys who did some good things for the team. It's tough," Guerin said. "But we got good guys in return, and we're ready to move on and see what we can do."

The Wild also traded goalie Kaapo Kahkonen and a fifth-round draft pick to San Jose for defenseman Jacob Middleton. They sent a third-round pick in the 2023 draft to Anaheim for forward Nicolas Deslauriers. They also dealt center Nico Sturm to Colorado for center Tyson Jost.

Once the Fleury news broke to punctuate this particularly busy stretch, Wild players were buzzing about not only the toughness and experience added to their lineup but what the moves said about management's faith in their postseason potential.

"Billy saw we were a piece or two away from really being contenders, and we went out

there and did his job. Now we have to go out there and do ours. He's brought in the right pieces that we've needed," said goalie Cam Talbot, who stood to lose the most with the arrival of Fleury, the reigning Vezina Trophy winner and three-time Stanley Cup champion.

The Wild, who are fourth in the NHL with an average of 3.66 goals per game, are well behind prohibitive Western Conference favorite Colorado. They're 20th in goals allowed in the league, and their special teams have been average at best this season. There was no reason, though, for Guerin to wait for a better time to seize a contending window.

The buyouts of former cornerstones Zach Parise and Ryan Suter will soon become major roster-building hindrances so there's no guarantee that future opportunities will be as welcoming.

◀**NCAA from page 15**
former UCLA football player. "College athletes throughout predominantly white sports receive fair market compensation, but athletes in the only predominantly Black sports do not."

An NCAA spokeswoman declined comment on Wednesday. The NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament generates more than \$800 million in revenue for the as-

sociation, most of which is distributed to 358 schools that compete at that level.

The College Football Playoff, which operates outside the NCAA, is worth more than \$470 million annually to the 10 conferences that run it, with the majority of that money going to the Power Five — the Atlantic Coast, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and Southeastern conferences.

◀**BASEBALL from page 13**
nings pitched.

The University of Mary enters this weekend's series with an 8-7 overall record and has yet to play any conference games. MSU also dominates the all-time record against UMary at 34-4 with an 11-0 home record.

For the Marauders, sophomore infielder Calvin James leads the team in batting so far this season with a .414 average and has 23 runs off 24 hits. Sophomore infielder Kyle Jameson follows closely behind with a .386 average and has tallied 18 runs off 14 hits.

Junior Austin Wagner leads the UMary pitching squad this season with a 2-0 overall record and owns a 3.86 era and 29 strikeouts this season. Junior Jonathan Draheim owns an 0-2 overall record this season with a 4.87 ERA and 14 strikeouts.

MSU will play host to Bemidji March 24 for a double-header in Sioux Falls starting at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. MSU will then return to action Mar. 26 for a double-header against UMary at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. The Mavs and Marauders will then finish things off in a series-finale March 27 at 12 p.m.

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VARIETY

Women's Center hosts Women's Trivia Night

By SYD BERGGREN
Staff Writer

This past Tuesday, Minnesota State University, Mankato's Women's Center hosted a Women's History Month themed trivia. The event, occurring over Zoom, included a 50 question Kahoot game about women of the past and present that have contributed to American history and their accomplishments.

Women's Center Graduate Student Assistant and host of the event Erin Kotten explained the Women's Center has not hosted an event like this before and wanted to give an opportunity for students to learn about important women in history.

"I do not believe that we have had an event like this in the past," said Kotten.

"I personally love trivia, and I thought it would be fun to

have a trivia event for Women's History Month that highlighted women's noteworthy events about women's rights and accomplishments."

The questions were given out over a Kahoot game that the 12 participants were able to access. The questions came in different formats, including "Who am I?", general trivia and legislative questions.

Attendees were able to learn

a lot during this event. Kotten educated participants on a variety of women, ranging from Madame C. J. Walker, the first female self-made millionaire, to Sojourner Truth, an American abolitionist turned women's rights activist. Important events in history, such as the Voting Rights act of 1965, were also included. Some of the answers shocked the players.

"I thought that the first fe-

male self-made millionaire was Oprah," said junior Mikayla Witter.

Players learned about the first transgender woman to get an Emmy nomination, Laverne Cox, the first woman to graduate medical school in the United States, Elizabeth Blackwell, and the first woman to serve as vice president, Kamala Harris.

Players were competitive, an-
TRIVIA on page 20

SENIOR ARTSHOW



The first round of senior art exhibitions opened March 16 in Conkling Art Gallery over in Nelson Hall. The current Minnesota State University, Mankato students art submissions will stay up until March 28. Two more round of the senior art exhibitions will be taking place in Conkling Art Gallery over the next months displaying more work.

Photos by MADDIE BEHRENS • The Reporter



Africa Night to return to MSU on April 9

By LILLY SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

After a two year hiatus, Minnesota State University, Mankato's African Student Affairs has announced the return of Africa Night, taking place April 9. This year's theme, Africa Night: Taste of Africa, is something to look forward to.

Oghenechuko Regha, president of African American Affairs explained how the event brings people together.

"[It's about] Africans coming together and showcasing their culture and things that we love to do as Africans. It's a night that we use to celebrate ourselves as Africans," said Regha.

Since the pandemic hit, the

ASA has not been able to host this event due to safety concerns. With the event coming back to campus, Regha expects a lot of hype and a big turnout this year.

"On campus, there are not many things that are made specifically for African students. There are not many considerations taken into helping the African student community feel like they're home, so this event is the one thing that African students on campus always look forward to," shared Regha.

"This is the one event that Africans on campus always look forward to because it's like a
AFRICA on page 21



Africa Night will be returning after two years due to the pandemic.

File photo

August Royals “Inhaler” EP review

By EMMA JOHNSON
Variety Editor

To the common listener, August Royals looks exactly like Timothee Chalamet. Both are highly talented; one in acting, the other in producing one of the most refreshing pop EPs in a long time.

Drawing inspiration from Harry Styles, Taylor Swift and several R&B artists, Royals delivers an EP that deals with subjects such as heartbreak, addiction and trying to find solace in the aftermath of it all.

Both melancholic and hopeful, Royal's first EP “Inhaler” debuted on March 11. The 23-year-old's nine song EP reflects on his personal struggles through the styles of R&B, indie rock and alt-pop.

“Blue Football” comes in, reminiscent of fall with its beat that feels like pulling back the curtain on a late September morning. Talking about “body breaking down on the substance I rely,” leaves a drug innuendo that nods to the listeners to wanting to improve their lifestyle.

“Surrender”, one of Royal's most recent singles before dropping the EP, this song feels like listening to a Polaroid photo. Vocals sounding like Ruel and early Ed Sheeran tones through the guitar and drums in the back, it brings a new sound to pop while sounding like one has heard the song before in another life.

“Crash” hits the viewer like the comedown that Royal's vocals deliver on the pounding chorus, “I'm hungover but the



Courtesy photo

August Royals dropped his first EP, “Inhaler” on March 11. The album deals with a variety of subjects such as heartbreak, addiction and how to recover from the aftermath of it all through R&B and indie pop songs.

thoughts are all you/when I'm coming down/when I start to crash.”

The edgy tones to the darker lyrics of the longing to be with someone in their lowest moments to make them feel better.

“Prada” alludes to the popular 2006 film from an ex, described by Royals as a “devil wearing Prada heels.”

This song takes a bit of a turn from the darker and vintage-esque sounding songs. Eerie modern feels take center stage, as if the viewer should be watching a montage of a rich girl in a Play-

boy mansion.

While most of the songs Royal released on the EP had already debuted as singles, Royal's released two new songs, “Simple Life” and “Overdose.” The former song discusses trying to recover from drug abuse to wanting to achieve that simple life, through all of the trials and tribulations of recovering from addiction.

The latter opens up on distant sirens and strong guitar that sounds similar to early 2000's indie-rock. Covering how Royal's has relied on a friend to help

him get sober from an overdose, it's the perfect balance between dark and hopeful.

Royals' quickly shifts gear into his song, “All I Need.” Following a spoken mini-dialogue, the song is ominous, yet sexy, showing that Royals has yet to recover from his demons “who claw his shoulders to keep him down.”

Instead of resorting to drugs or alcohol, he turns to lusting to satisfy his needs. As the song screeches to a halt, he thinks he's found love as he “found something that makes waking up in

the morning exciting again.”

Following the suggestive, sensual previous song, “Kiss my Scars” leaves the viewers a light and beautiful song about how Royal doesn't feel he and his lover shouldn't be together, but he wants “to die in her arms” as she accepted all of his flaws.

This song cements Royal's career in pop, fitting in perfect with what most viewers tend to gravitate to when listening to songs about falling in love these days. The song feels like a smile, like the listener is proud of Royals progress.

The album wraps up with “Oxygen,” fitting in with the EP's title. Talking about not being able to breathe when Royals isn't sharing their oxygen, it's the hopeful message about falling in love, discarding his troubled past behind him.

It leaves on a light note with fluctuating breaths that seem urgent, but also like they can't get enough.

Overall, the album fluctuates like one needs an inhaler; dark, brooding songs with strong beats are suddenly overtaken by lighter, hopeful melodies.

Royals has potential to launch himself into mainstream pop by feeling like we've heard these songs before, but with a revamped and familiar touch to them.

The future is bright for Royals, as he pulls in new listeners and leaves long time fans awaiting his next release in music. A lush debut for the indie pop scene, “Inhaler” is the breath of fresh air that the music industry needed.

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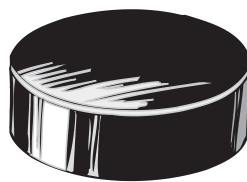
swering the questions quickly and, for the most part, correctly. Many boasted a long streak of correct answers, with one player ending with a streak of over 30 correct.

Students had various reasons for wanting to attend the event. “[I attended because] I think it is important to educate yourself on things that you find important,” said Witter.

MSU sophomore Chase Belka participated in the event to challenge herself. “I wanted to participate to learn about and celebrate all the amazing accomplishments of women and challenge myself to see what I already knew,” Belka said.

Prizes were given to players who placed on the Kahoot podium. Prizes included books, a Hamilton Beach Personal Blender, and an E-reader Amazon Fire tablet. For those wanting to get involved in events before Women's History month is over, the Women's Center will be having another event. The Lift Every Voice: Women Make History seminar will be held on March 31, both in-person and over Zoom.

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Refugee dancers find training in Germany

By KERSTIN SOPKE
Associated Press

Dancers who have fled Ukraine — and Russia — due to the war have found a new temporary home in Berlin's top ballet company, which helps with practice space, housing, and even shoes.

About 200 dancers in all, including many who are considering fleeing to Germany, have turned for assistance to the capital's famous State Ballet.

Christiane Theobald, the company's acting artistic director, said Wednesday that it is crucial for those refugees to keep up their regular practice, even if they don't have any public performances right now.

"The important thing is that the daily training can be completed, because training is like brushing your teeth," she told The Associated Press. "And the tragedy is that if you have phases where you can't do that at all, then you can never make up for it."

At the same time, Theobald said she's been contacting other company directors across Europe to see if she can help find

the uprooted dancers new jobs. "What we need now, of course, are positions in ensembles, and those who are coming ... are mainly classically, highly classically trained dancers," Theobald said.

While there are about 70 dance ensembles in Germany, not all of them are so exclusively focused on classical dance like most of the companies in eastern Europe, but often practice modern dance too.

So it will take adaptation by the new dancers to study and get used to the different, western European styles.

On Wednesday morning, more than 30 dancers were practicing their moves at a workout room in Berlin — among them eight refugees, including two Brazilian dancers who had fled from Russia recently.

Many arrive in Berlin without anything and are now getting lots of practical help from the Berlin ensemble — anything from dance shoes to housing. "You have to imagine, these are people who have left everything behind, they have very little with them. That starts with the pointed shoes," said Theobald.



Associated Press

About 200 dancers from Ukraine and Russia have recently requested help from Berlin's famous State Ballet after having fled or considering to run away to Germany. Dancer Iana Salenko (center) frequently attends training.

Because the situation is so dynamic, with many dancers reaching Berlin and then some quickly moving on to other des-

tinations, the company said it was difficult to say how many exactly had received help already.

Those escaping Ukraine include people from all over the world who used to dance.

AFRICA from page 19 family for them."

Vice President of African Affairs Deborah Bamigbade explained some of the planned events that will showcase African culture.

"We're going to be having singing, we're going to have dances from different parts of Africa. We're also going to have food to give everyone a taste of Africa,"

said Bamigbade.

Performers for the night include MSU students Udo Ovrati, Michael Kriss and Gency Lynch, along with various other dancers.

Bamigbade has felt the impact of Africa Night from previously attending as it allows her to show her culture and how important it is for students to understand African culture.

"I learned that a lot of people have the wrong perception of Africa and I believe Africa is so beautiful with its cultures. Being able to bring that out there to show the world that we have unique cultures is very important," shared Bamigbade.

Regha and Bamigbade have received help from the campus community to set up the night.

"We have students that want

to be part of the event by participating and helping out in decorating for the events and help us on stage that day," said Regha.

"We [also] have students helping us with the performances. [Some] are going to dance and there are [some] students who are going to add musical performances."

For anyone interested in coming to the event, Bamigbade en-

courages students to attend not only to have fun, but to learn something new.

"It is a time to just be a part of something, be a part of the African community," said Bamigbade. "Africa is a very big continent with so many languages, so many foods, so many tribes. It will be great for you to come and be a part of us and stand with us."

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Disney workers hosted walkout

By MIKE SCHNEIDER and
BRENDAN FARRINGTON
Associated Press

Even though only a small percentage of Walt Disney Co. workers participated in a walkout Tuesday, organizers felt they had won a moral victory with the company issuing a statement denouncing the anti-LGBTQ legislation that sparked employee outrage.

Throughout the day, pockets of employees staged demonstrations at various sites across the country, including near Orlando's Walt Disney World and Walt Disney Animation Studios in California. According to a Disney official, there had been no interruptions in any operations. Disney employed 190,000 workers last October, with roughly three-quarters working in its theme parks division. The debate forced the company into a balancing act between the expectations of a diverse workforce and demands from an increasingly polarized, politicized marketplace.

On one side are LGBTQ advocates and Disney employees calling for the walkout in protest of CEO Bob Chapek's slow response in publicly criticizing Florida legislation that opponents dubbed the "Don't Say Gay" bill.

The legislation awaiting the governor's signature bars instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity in kindergarten through third grade.

On the other side are politicians like Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who accuse the

entertainment conglomerate of bending to woke politics. Earlier this month, the company decided to temporarily suspend political contributions in Florida. DeSantis, who has been tacking toward the Republican base on culture war issues, is seen as a 2024 presidential hopeful.

Union leaders for the tens of thousands of unionized workers at Disney theme parks in Florida and California said they saw no walkout momentum among their members, advising them not to do so because it would defy contractual obligations.

Evan Power, Leon County's Republican Party chairman, said he believes a strident minority of Disney employees are pushing the issue, and DeSantis has more to gain by taking the side of parents who want more control over education and "sexual conversations" in early grades at school.

In a Tuesday Facebook post, Disney wrote that the company opposes "any legislation that infringes on basic human rights" and stands "in solidarity" with LGBTQ employees "who make their voices heard today and every day." A half-dozen Disney workers gathered Tuesday morning at an Orlando LGBTQ center to write letters in support of queer students. "You're Amazing. You Matter and We Care" and "It Gets Better," they read, next to a drawing of a rainbow.

"We are creators, and we felt that we could be creative and productive and write letters of encouragement to LGBTQ youth," said Gabe, a Walt Dis-



PHELAN M. EBENHACK • Associated Press

Disney cast member Nicholas Maldonado protests his company's stance on LGBTQ issues, specifically on the Don't Say Gay Bill, while participating in an employee walkout at Walt Disney World, Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

ney World product development manager who didn't want his last name used for fear of having his privacy invaded.

Scores of Disney workers marched outside the company's Burbank, California, studios, including one carrying rainbow-colored Mickey Mouse doll and chanting, "Say gay!"

"We had a great group out here just to show our support for our queer employees and their families," said Nora Rogers, a production supervisor at

Walt Disney Animation Studios.

Disney, whose movies and properties shaped generations of children around the world, has spoken out several times in recent years about contentious social and political situations.

In January 2021, it said it would suspend political donations to lawmakers who voted against certifying President Joe Biden's electoral victory.

It also threatened to pull business from Georgia, a favorite of movie and TV studios,

following a 2016 anti-gay bill, which was ultimately vetoed by the then-governor.

Chapek, who became CEO in 2020, has now drawn fire for speaking out about the gender identity bill only after it passed the Florida Legislature.

About 20 Disney workers gathered at New York City's Stonewall Inn, birthplace of the gay rights movement, to write letters in support of families affected by the Florida legislation.

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Judge ends Amanda Byne's conservatorship

By ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

Actor Amanda Bynes was released Tuesday from a court conservatorship that put her life and financial decisions in her parents' control for nearly nine years.

Ventura County Superior Court Judge Roger Lund terminated the conservatorship at a hearing in a courtroom in the Southern California city of Oxnard, her attorney David A. Esquibias said.

"The court determines that the conservatorship is no longer required and that grounds for establishment of a conservatorship of the person no longer exist," Lund wrote in court documents outlining the case before he issued his decision.

Bynes, now 35, shot to fame on a pair of Nickelodeon shows as a teenager, but struggles with mental health, substance abuse and the law prompted her parents to establish court control through a conservatorship in 2013.

Bynes' conservatorship played out, and came to an end, far more quietly and less contentiously than that of Britney Spears, who had a long, often bitter and public fight to free herself from a similar arrangement.

Bynes' parents agreed that the conservatorship should end and no one else objected to the court's decision.

Her mother, Lynn Byne, had acted as her conservator since it was established nearly nine years ago.

At the time, her parents told the court they were deeply concerned that their daughter, then 27, might have hurt herself or others unless they were allowed to assume control of her medical care and finances.

Bynes was 13 when she landed her own hit variety program, "The Amanda Show" on Nickelodeon and also appeared on the network's sketch series "All That."

She went on to star in the TV series "What I Like About You" and in movies, including "What a Girl Wants," "Hairspray" and "She's the Man."

She has not acted since the 2010 Emma Stone film "Easy A" and has publicly said she retired from acting.

Bynes has said in interviews that she has been sober for several years.

Publisher pulls Anne Frank's book

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

A group of Dutch historians has published an in-depth criticism of the work and conclusion of a cold case team that said it had pieced together the "most likely scenario" of who betrayed Jewish teenage diarist Anne Frank and her family in German-occupied Amsterdam during World War II.

The cold case team's research, which was published early this year in the book "The Betrayal of Anne Frank: A Cold Case Investigation," by Canadian academic and author Rosemary Sullivan, immediately drew criticism in the Netherlands. Now, in a 69-page written "refutation," six historians and academics describe the cold case team's findings as "a shaky house of cards."

The book's Dutch publisher repeated an earlier apology and announced Tuesday night it was pulling the book from stores.

The book said that the person who revealed the location of the Frank family's secret annex hiding place in an Amsterdam canal-side building was likely a prominent Jewish notary, Arnold van den Bergh, who disclosed the location to German occupiers of the Netherlands to save his own family from deportation and death in Nazi concentration camps.

The Dutch historians re-

viewed the team's work and concluded that the "accusation does not hold water."

The historians said the book "displays a distinct pattern in which assumptions are made by the CCT (Cold Case Team), held to be true a moment later, and then used as a building block for the next step in the train of logic."

This makes the entire book a shaky house of cards, because if any single step turns out to be wrong, the cards above also collapse."

In response, the cold case team's leader, Pieter van Twisk, told Dutch broadcaster NOS the historians' work was "very detailed and extremely solid" and said it "gives us a number of things to think about, but for the time being I do not see that Van den Bergh can be definitively removed as the main suspect."

Since the book's publication in January, the team has published detailed reactions to criticism of its work on its website.

Dutch filmmaker Thijs Bayens, who had the idea to put together the cold case team, conceded in January that the team did not have 100% certainty about Van den Bergh.

"There is no smoking gun because betrayal is circumstantial," Bayens told The Associated Press at the time.

The Frank family and four other Jews hid in the annex,



PETER DEJONG • Associated Press

A group of Dutch historians has published an in-depth criticism of the work and conclusion of a cold case team that said it had pieced together the "most likely scenario" of who betrayed Jewish teenage diarist Anne Frank.

which was reached by a secret staircase hidden behind a bookcase, from July 1942 until they were discovered in August 1944 and deported to concentration camps.

Anne and her sister died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Anne was 15. Only Anne's father, Otto Frank, survived the Holocaust.

He published her diary after WWII and it quickly became an enduring symbol of hope and resilience, read by millions around the world.

The director of the Anne Frank House museum, which is based in the building where the Frank family hid said in Janu-

ary that there remained "many missing pieces of the puzzle. And those pieces need to be further investigated in order to see how we can value this new theory."

On Wednesday, the director, Ronald Leopold, said question marks the museum had in January about the cold case team's conclusions "are supported by the counter-examination of leading historians."

You may not consign someone to history as Anne Frank's betrayer if you do not have conclusive proof.

We hope that this counter-investigation clears Van den Bergh's name from blame.



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