

Greek Life begins fall recruitment

By JULIA BARTON
Editor in Chief

Fraternity & Sorority Life hosts this year's 2022 Fall Recruitment week at Minnesota State University, Mankato, aiming to recruit new and old students to join.

Starting Wednesday and going on through this Sunday, Fraternity & Sorority Life have planned events for recruits to find their new home.

With this being the first normal recruitment season compared to the past few years, MSU is home to four sorority chapters including Sigma Sigma Sigma, Alpha Sigma Alpha, Gamma Phi Beta and Alpha Chi Omega. The six fraternity chapters include Sigma Nu, Sigma Chi, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Kappa Psi, Tau Kappa Epsilon and Lambda Chi Alpha.

Yesterday was the Fraternity & Sorority social where recruits were able to meet potential the various chapters MSU offers. The Fraternity's social was hosted in the Performing Arts Lawn and the Sorority's in the Centennial Student Union.

Today is the open house round where recruits will visit each chapter for about 30 minutes. The goal is to get to know members of that chapter as well as learn about their philanthropy opportuni-



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO'S SIX FRATERNITY CHAPTERS HOST THIS YEAR'S GREEK LIFE SOCIAL ON THE PERFORMING ARTS LAWN AS THEY KICK OFF DAY ONE OF FALL RECRUITMENT.

ties. Tomorrow is round two where recruits can visit up to three chapters for 60 minutes, usually business casual attire is worn.

Saturday is preference round where recruits will visit only two chapters for 60 minutes. The first Preference event starts at 10 a.m. and business attire is common. Sunday, which is Bid Day, will wrap up formal recruitment as recruits will find out if they've been matched to a sorority or fraternity. Tim Tuchek,

Interfraternity Council President, who joined Greek Life in the spring semester of 2020 voiced how joining a fraternity has helped him make connections.

"I didn't have any friends in the first semester, but they made me feel super welcome," said Tuchek. "They are always there for me and we do great stuff for the community too. I went from zero friends to 260 friends."

Lauren Wojack, Panhellenic Council President, who has

been involved in Greek Life since fall 2019, agreed. "It was very tough adjusting to my first semester. My experience in Greek Life has been different every single semester, there's been some where I had to take care of my family and had to move home, but I had unending support from my sisters," said Wojack.

This year, FSL has about 260 active members and are looking to expand as formal recruitment will be wrapping up this weekend.

Free lot temporarily expanded

By EMMA JOHNSON
News Director

Until November 1, Lot 22 South has added several hundred extra parking spaces that are free of charge.

The idea to expand the free lot was proposed by the Student Government last year after hearing students complaining about lack of available spots.

Student Government President Emma Zellmer helped work with the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee to pitch the idea.

"Students always bring the idea of expanding the free lot and it's always gotten shut down," said Zellmer. "Luckily, we were able to expand it for a while, so hopefully, we are able to see how we can approach the issue going forward, if we can maintain it and other ways to expand the free lot to make sure students and staff are able to park for free."

Usually, a parking pass for the orange lot is \$152. This year, Chairman of the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee David Cowan and the committee split the nine month pass into individual ones for the fall and spring semester, each semester only costing \$35.

"\$70 [for a whole year] is a great bargain for students, over half of what students purchase," said Cowan. "If you don't want to fight finding a spot, buy an orange permit that's closer."

Cowan further explained the expansion as a way to ease pressure on students to find spots the first few weeks of the semester.

"Right now, [students] are concentrating on tuition, paying for books and materials and purchasing a parking permit is last. They're hopeful that they get here early enough to snag a free stall," said Cowan. "The advisory committee wanted to take care of the morning surge in the fall semester for several weeks until students can get other stuff taken care of and buy an inexpensive permit."

90th Student Government holds their first meeting

By JULIA BARTON
Editor in Chief

The 90th Student Government held their first official meeting of the academic year yesterday as they gave a crash course to new and returning senators as well as discuss how to best serve Minnesota State University, Mankato students.

Speaker Joey Novak opened up the meeting by giving a "How to Senate" presentation that discussed the procedure of meetings, stated what Robert's Rules are and other frequently used motions.

Other topics presented were the dress codes, etiquette at meetings and how the agendas are formatted.



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO'S 90TH STUDENT GOVERNMENT HELD THEIR FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR YESTERDAY AS THEY GAVE A CRASH COURSE TO NEW AND RETURNING SENATORS AS WELL AS DISCUSS HOW TO BEST SERVE MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO STUDENTS.

In the meeting they held an open forum where anyone in the gallery was allowed to

speaking. Some who spoke gave introductions, while others welcomed the new senators

and gave words of encouragement.

Other faculty and student leaders voiced projects they've been working on over the summer.

David Cowan, who is on the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee, and Facilities Services Director at MSU, shared an update regarding the expansion of the free parking lot which previously was only available in lot 23.

"We included several hundred additional stalls to the free lot in lot 22," said Cowan. Those who wish to utilize lot 22 and 23 must register their car through the MSU parking portal. Lot 22 South will be available for students

STUGOV on page 2▶

PARKING on page 2▶



BISRAT TADESSE • The Reporter

This year's free lot will be temporarily extended to lot 22 south until November 1.

◀PARKING from page 1

While the addition of free parking spots on campus is only a temporary fix, Zellmer believes that it's a great start for all the beginning of the semester issues.

"What we would like to see going forward is that the orange lot is permanently free and available for students to use because not only do students park in the free lot, but faculty do as well," said Zellmer.

"When [the lot] is all clogged up, it becomes a real equity issue being able to make sure our commuting students and off campus students have access to free parking to make sure they can all get to class."

When November starts approaching, Zellmer is worried about students obtaining parking tickets once the signs go down.

"I'm worried about the implications about stopping

something halfway through a semester, so we'll see how this turns out," said Zellmer.

"I'm really concerned about students, especially newer students, who might misinterpret it. I don't want students parking there and getting a ticket just because they didn't realize it ended."

However, the overall mood about the temporary expansion is optimistic as both Student Government and the advisory committee wait to hear thoughts from students and faculty.

"I'm hoping that with the feedback and having people talk about how nice it is to have enough [available spots] that we'll be able to continue to keep expanding the free lot for accessible parking," said Zellmer.

Registration for parking either in the orange lot or free lot can be found on the MSU parking portal.

◀STUGOV from page 1

to park in for free until November 1.

Officer reports then were made by President Emma Zellmer, Vice President Idman Ibrahim and Speaker Novak.

The meeting concluded with President Zellmer encouraging senators who were interested to get involved in Student United, a non-profit organization that is operated by students from the seven Minnesota state universities.

"One of our main goals is to get students involved on campus, lead the charge with student government as well as make sure student leaders feel connected to us. We all work together, the student government aren't the only student leaders on campus,"

said Zellmer.

"Being able to work with other groups such as Student Events Team, student athletes and Fraternity & Sorority life to make sure our campus is very inclusive especially as we see students are back on campus."

Vice President Ibrahim agreed with Zellmer that inclusion and equity are important.

"Creating more diversity & inclusion events and listening to other groups' concerns is a goal of mine this year," Ibrahim said.

Next week those who wish to fill vacancies are allowed to do so starting August 3, except for the off-campus senator position which will open September 7.

MAV Fest kicks off first concert

By HAFSA PEERZADA
Staff Writer

Minnesota State University, Mankato hosted its annual MAV Fest event this past Tuesday.

The event took place in the Dining Center lawn where students and attendees gathered to enjoy a night filled with music, yard games, free snacks and gift giveaways.

MAV Fest is a part of Welcome Week celebrations for incoming and returning students at MSU. Each year, the event is hosted by the Students Event Team on campus and it aims at bringing students together to socialize and connect with each other.

This year the event was sponsored by Summit and Jacob Heights, fun.com and Spectrum.

Maggie Driemeyer, the Concert Chair for the Student's Event Team, explained the main premise of the event is to let incoming students come out and meet people.

"It's a little cliché and sounds almost like a broken record at this point, but it's really important [to attend]," said Driemeyer.

"You're going to be here for four years, so you have to meet people, and since you're paying a lot for tuition, you should do everything that the university has to offer."

Driemeyer also added, "MAV Fest is advertised as a welcome week event for new incoming students to come together. It's a super casual night and anyone can walk up and



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

MAV Fest took place on Tuesday on the Dining Center Lawn. The local band "IV Play" performed a wide variety of cover songs. Food booths and game giveaway tables were also present on the lawn.

attend and it's also completely free."

This year, the event featured the local Mankato based band, "IV Play." Throughout the night, the band sang covers of numerous songs from country classics to rock'n'roll.

Driemeyer picked the band as they perform cover songs that a lot of people know.

"We really wanted to make sure that we are catering to everybody's music taste. IV Play is a local band, and they cover a lot of genres," explained Driemeyer.

The night had a lot to offer. In addition to the music, the sponsors of the night had stalls set up across the lawns which featured multiple giveaway games.

In one corner of the lawn, there was a hot dog grill out and a snack bar that was free

for all attendees. Members of the sororities and fraternities also had stalls set up for recruitment purposes.

MSU junior Pa Kou Kong attended MAV Fest and enjoyed the event.

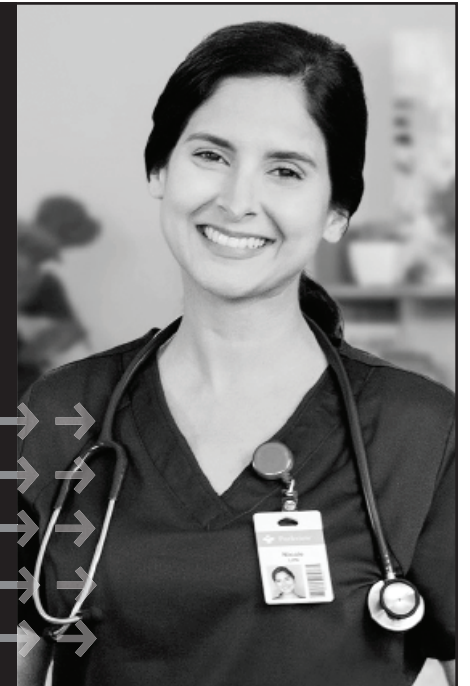
"I really liked it. We don't get that many concerts on campus, so Mavfest is always fun. Its also the first week of classes so everyone's relaxed and it's more enjoyable," said Kong.

Jeongwon Shin, a new incoming freshman at MSU, also attended the event.

"It was fun for me. I got to meet a lot of new people and I won a t-shirt and a keychain," said Shin.

The next incoming event hosted by the Student Events Team is scheduled for this Friday, August 26, 2022. It's an outdoor movie showing of "Lightyear."

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Uvalde school board fires the police chief

By ACACIA CORONADO
Associated Press

The Uvalde school district fired police chief Pete Arredondo on Wednesday under mounting pressure in the grieving Texas town to punish officers over letting a gunman at Robb Elementary School remain in a fourth-grade classroom for more than an hour with an AR-15 style rifle as 19 children and two teachers were killed.

In a unanimous vote, the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District's board of trustees fired Arredondo in an auditorium of parents and survivors of the May 24 massacre.

Arredondo, who did not attend the meeting, becomes the first officer to lose his job following one of the deadliest class-

room shootings in U.S. history.

His ouster came three months to the day after the tragedy, and less than two weeks before students return to school in Uvalde, where some children remain too scared or scarred to go back inside a classroom.

Cheers from the crowd followed the vote, and some parents walked out of an auditorium in tears.

Outside, several Uvalde residents called for other officers to be held accountable.

"Coward!" some in the audience yelled as the meeting got underway.

Arredondo, who has been on leave from the district since June 22, has come under the most intense scrutiny of the nearly 400 officers who rushed to school but waited more than 70 min-



DARIO LOPEZ-MILLS • The Reporter
Uvalde School Police Chief Pete Arredondo, third from left, became the first officer to lose his job in response to the May 24 deadly mass shooting.

utes to confront the 18-year-old gunman in a fourth-grade classroom. Most notably, Arredondo was criticized for not

ordering officers to act sooner. Col. Steve McCraw, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, has said Arredondo was in charge of the law enforcement response to the attack.

Minutes before the meeting of the Uvalde school board got underway, Arredondo's attorney released a scathing 4,500-word letter that amounted to the police chief's fullest defense to date of his actions.

Over 17 defiant pages, Arredondo is not a fumbling school police chief who a damning state investigation blamed for not taking command and wasted time by looking for keys to a likely unlocked door, but a brave officer whose level-headed decisions saved the lives of other students.

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Kentucky flood evacuees weigh in about cloudy future



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY • Associated Press

University of Kentucky men's head basketball coach John Calipari, left, puts socks on one of the kids whose families have been displaced from the eastern Kentucky flooding at a shoe giveaway for flood victims.

By BRUCE SCHREINER
Associated Press

Nearly a month after deadly flooding engulfed their houses, some eastern Kentuckians sheltering at state parks continue to wrestle with the same life-defining question — whether to rebuild at the place they call home or start over somewhere else.

Ivallean Smith, who awoke to rising floodwaters when her chihuahua licked her hand, hopes to return to the parcel of land she owns and loves. If she stays put, she says she'll have to elevate her new home with blocks to try to protect against the kind of terror she lived through late last month, when the rain never seemed like it would stop.

Cynthia Greathouse has already made up her mind — she and her husband hope to leave soon for Florida. Greathouse was nearly swept away by surging floodwaters. Starting over elsewhere just seems easier.

John Bailey, meanwhile, still isn't sure what comes next. His family's home was ruined by the water, and his kids don't want to go back. For now, they're all being lodged in hotel-style rooms at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, a vacationer's retreat tucked into the Appalachian mountains.

Late last week, 455 people were still being housed in Kentucky state parks, churches, schools and community centers, Gov. Andy Beshear said.

For those displaced by the flood, decisions on whether to stay or leave will be crucial for the future of eastern Kentucky, where the coal industry's decline has added to the region's hardships. Despite his indecision, Bailey sounded upbeat Tuesday, knowing things could have been worse.

The catastrophic flooding caused at least 39 deaths in eastern Kentucky.

"We're a lot better off than some people," he said. "Some people lost their family."

Flood victims said they've

been treated with kindness at Jenny Wiley, known for towering pines, elk-viewing tours and fishing on Dewey Lake. The state parks, American Red Cross and communities have provided meals. But for displaced families, the focus is on the future.

Federal emergency management personnel have been on site. Other services included crisis counseling and help to replace lost driver's licenses and seek disaster unemployment assistance. Those at Jenny Wiley lauded the park's staff for the hospitality extended to them. And they praised Beshear for taking up their cause.

The Democratic governor has pushed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to accelerate its approval of requests for help. In his latest move, Beshear called Kentucky's legislature into a special session starting Wednesday to take up a relief package for eastern Kentucky.

In his video announcement, Beshear talked about efforts to provide intermediate lodging for people displaced by the flooding.

"We're working to stabilize our people through a travel trailer program, where we already have nearly 100 travel trailers full and more on the way," he said.

By Tuesday, Smith, 60, had spent four days at Jenny Wiley, making her and her adult son relative newcomers. Since her home collapsed, she spent time with relatives and one night in a car wash.

Her vehicle was destroyed by floodwaters. She was hoping a friend would take her to the courthouse to obtain documents requested by FEMA. Her decision isn't final but she'd like to return to the land she owns — though she knows she won't find much there.

"We lost everything," Smith said.

Floodwaters wrecked Bailey's home, shifting it at the foundation and leaving the floors looking like "a roller coaster."

Idaho can't enforce abortion ban in case of medical emergencies



SARAH A. MILLER • Associated Press

On Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022, a federal judge said the Idaho Legislature can intervene in the U.S. Department of Justice lawsuit targeting Idaho's total abortion ban but only to present evidence about emergency abortions.

By REBECCA BOONE
Associated Press

A federal judge in Idaho has barred the state from enforcing a strict abortion ban in medical emergencies over concerns that it violates a federal law on emergency care.

The ruling Wednesday evening came after a federal judge this week in Texas made the opposite call, barring the federal government from enforcing a legal interpretation of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act that would require Texas hospitals to provide abortion services if the health or life of the mother is at risk.

In Idaho, the ban makes performing an abortion in any "clinically diagnosable pregnancy" a felony punishable by up to five years in prison. Much of Idaho's law will still go into effect Thursday, but U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill

ruled Wednesday the state cannot prosecute anyone who is performing an abortion in an emergency medical situation.

That's because abortions in those cases appear to fall under a federal health care law requiring Medicare-funded hospitals to provide "stabilizing treatment" to patients, Winmill said.

That includes cases when the health of a pregnant patient is in serious jeopardy, when continuing the pregnancy could result in a serious impairment to a person's bodily functions, or a serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

The pause on enforcement in Idaho will continue until a lawsuit challenging the ban is resolved, the judge said in the written ruling. The U.S. Department of Justice sued the Republican-led state of Idaho earlier this month, saying the abortion ban set to take effect on Thursday violates the federal Emer-

gency Medical Treatment and Labor (EMTALA) Act. Idaho's law criminalizes all abortions in "clinically diagnosable pregnancies," but allows physicians to defend themselves in court by arguing the procedure was necessary to avert the death of the mother.

Idaho Attorney General's spokesman Scott Graf said his office would not comment on the ruling because the case is still working its way through the courts. Winmill said the case wasn't about abortion rights but about whether state or federal law takes precedence in this situation. The judge in the Idaho case said it was clear federal law did.

Winmill said the Idaho law would pose a dilemma for a doctor who felt they had to, under "EMTALA obligations," perform an abortion to save the life of the mother even though they are banned under state law.

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Student loan help for millions coming from Biden



EVAN VUCCI • Associated Press

President Joe Biden in the East Room of the White House, Aug. 10, 2022. Biden is set to announce \$10,000 federal student loan cancellation on Aug. 24, for many, extend repayment pause for others.

By SEUNG MIN KIM, MICHAEL BALSAMO, CHRIS MEGERIAN, and ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

President Joe Biden on Wednesday is set to announce his long-delayed move to forgive up to \$10,000 in federal student loans for many Americans and extend a pause on payments to January, according to three people familiar with the plan.

Biden has faced pressure from liberals to provide broader relief to hard-hit borrowers, and from moderates and Republicans questioning the fairness of any widespread forgiveness.

The delay in Biden's decision has only heightened the anticipation for what his own aides acknowledge represents a political no-win situation. The people spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss Biden's intended announcement ahead of time.

The precise details of Biden's plan, which will include an income cap limiting the forgiveness to only those earning less than \$125,000 a year, were being kept to an unusually small circle within the Biden administration and were still not finalized on the eve of the announcement.

Down-to-the-wire decision-making has been a hallmark of the Biden White House, but the particular delay on student loans reflects the vexing challenge confronting him in fulfilling a key campaign promise.

The plan would likely eliminate student debt entirely for millions of Americans and wipe away at least half for millions more.

The nation's federal student debt now tops \$1.6 trillion after ballooning for years. More than 43 million Americans have federal student debt, with almost a third owing less than \$10,000 and more than half owing less than \$20,000, according to the latest federal data.

The continuation of the pandemic-era payment freeze comes just days before millions of Americans were set to find out when their next student loan bills will be due.

This is the closest the administration has come to hitting the end of the payment freeze extension, with the current pause set to end Aug. 31.

Wednesday's announcement was set for the White House after Biden returns from vacation in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The administration had briefly considered higher education schools in the president's home state for a larger reveal, but scaled back their plans.

Biden was initially skeptical of student loan debt cancellation as he faced off against more progressive Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., who had proposed cancellations of \$50,000 or more, during the 2020 primaries.

As he tried to shore up support among younger voters and prepare for a general election battle against then-President Donald Trump, Biden unveiled his initial proposal for debt cancellation of \$10,000 per borrower, with no mention of an income cap.

Biden narrowed his campaign promise in recent months by embracing the income limit as soaring inflation took a political toll and as he aimed to head off political attacks that the cancellation would benefit those with higher take-home pay. But Democrats, from members of congressional leadership to those facing tough re-election bids this November, have pushed the administration to go as broad as possible on debt relief, seeing it in part as a galvanizing issue, particularly for Black and young voters this fall.

Inside the administration, officials have discussed since at least early summer forgiving more than \$10,000 of student debt for certain categories of borrowers, such as Pell Grant recipients, according to three

Illegal road threatens rainforest

By FABIANO MAISONNAVE
Associated Press

An illegal dirt road ripping through protected areas in the Brazilian Amazon is now just a few miles shy of connecting two of the worst areas of deforestation in the region, according to satellite images and accounts from people familiar with the area.

If the road is completed it will turn a large area of remaining forest into an island, under pressure from human activity on all sides.

Environmentalists have been warning about just this kind of development in the rainforest for decades. Roads are significant because most deforestation occurs alongside them, where access is easier and land value higher.

On the east side of the new road is a massively-deforested area where Brazil's largest cattle herd, 2.4 million head, now grazes. This municipality of Sao Felix do Xingu is the country's second-largest greenhouse gas emitter, thanks to deforestation, according to Climate Observatory, a network of environmental groups. It is roughly the size of Maine and has a population of 136,000.

To the west is an area where three years ago ranchers coordinated the burning of several swaths of virgin forest in an episode famously known as the Day of Fire. This municipality, larger than Maryland, is Brazil's eighth-largest greenhouse gas emitter.

Wedged in between is the Xingu basin. The Xingu River



Xingu + Network via AP

This May 2, 2022, photo provided by Xingu + Network shows an illegal road inside a protected area called Terra do Meio (Middle Earth) Ecological Station in Para state, in the Brazilian Amazon.

that runs through it is one of the main tributaries of the Amazon River. It begins in the drier Cerrado biome, surrounded by tens of thousands of square miles of protected areas.

The Xingu River is home to several Indigenous peoples, who are now pressed on both sides by an onslaught of settlers who have built a large network of dirt roads and illegal airstrips. Experts said the stakes could not be higher.

The opportunities for new deforestation "in the center of the corridor of protected areas of the Xingu brings the risk of an irreversible breaking of the Amazon rainforest, dividing it into islands of degraded forest, which does not have the strength to resist climate change. We need to protect and maintain large forest corridors to sustain the resilience of the threatened biome," Biviany

Rojas, the program coordinator of Socio-Environmental Institute, a Brazilian non-profit, told the Associated Press.

Almost half of Brazil's climate pollution comes from deforestation, according to Climate Observatory. The destruction is so vast now that the eastern Amazon, just east of Xingu basin, has ceased to be a carbon sink, or absorber, for the Earth and has converted into a carbon source, according to a study published in 2021 in the journal Nature.

"They come to deforest, to extract timber and to dig for gold," Indigenous leader Mydjere Kayapo told the AP in a phone interview.

His people, the Kayapo, have suffered invasions from loggers and gold miners, who contaminate rivers with mud and mercury, co-opt leaders and provoke internal division.

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NASA tests a new moon rocket

By MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

Years late and billions over budget, NASA's new moon rocket makes its debut next week in a high-stakes test flight before astronauts get on top.

The 322-foot (98-meter) rocket will attempt to send an empty crew capsule into a far-flung lunar orbit, 50 years after NASA's famed Apollo moonshots.

If all goes well, astronauts could strap in as soon as 2024 for a lap around the moon, with NASA aiming to land two people on the lunar surface by the end of 2025.

Liftoff is set for Monday morning from NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

The six-week test flight is risky and could be cut short if something fails, NASA officials warn.

"We're going to stress it and test it. We're going to make it do things that we would never do with a crew on it in order to try to make it as safe as possible," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The retired founder of George Washington University's space policy institute said a lot is riding on this trial run. Spiraling costs and long gaps between missions will make for a tough comeback if things go south, he noted.

"It is supposed to be the first step in a sustained program of human exploration of the moon, Mars, and beyond," said John Logsdon. "Will the United States have the will to push forward in the face of a major malfunction?"



JOHN RAOUX • Associated Press

The moon sets in front of the NASA Artemis rocket with the Orion spacecraft aboard on pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center. The rocket has a planned liftoff for space on Monday, August 29.

The price tag for this single mission: more than \$4 billion. Add everything up since the program's inception a decade ago until a 2025 lunar landing, and there's even more sticker shock: \$93 billion.

The new rocket is shorter and slimmer than the Saturn V rockets that hurled 24 Apollo astronauts to the moon a half-century ago. But it's mightier, packing 8.8 million pounds (4 million kilograms) of thrust.

It's called the Space Launch System rocket, SLS for short, but a less clunky name is under discussion, according to Nelson. Unlike the streamlined Saturn V, the new rocket has a pair of strap-on boosters refashioned from NASA's space shuttles.

The boosters will peel away after two minutes, just like the shuttle boosters did, but won't be fished from the Atlantic for reuse. The core stage will keep

firing before separating and crashing into the Pacific in pieces. Two hours after liftoff, an upper stage will send the capsule, Orion, racing toward the moon.

NASA's high-tech, automated Orion capsule is named after the constellation, among the night sky's brightest. At 11 feet (3 meters) tall, it's roomier than Apollo's capsule, seating four astronauts instead of three.

For this test flight, a full-size dummy in an orange flight suit will occupy the commander's seat, rigged with vibration and acceleration sensors. T

Two other mannequins made of material simulating human tissue — heads and female torsos, but no limbs — will measure cosmic radiation, one of the biggest risks of spaceflight.

One torso is testing a protective vest from Israel.

◀DEBT from page 5

people with knowledge of the deliberations. That remained one of the final variables being considered by Biden heading into Wednesday's announcement.

Democrats are betting that Biden, who has seen his public approval rating tumble over the last year, can help motivate younger voters to the polls in November with the announcement.

Although Biden's plan is narrower than what he initially proposed during the campaign, "he'll get a lot of credit for following through on something that he was committed to," said Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster who worked with Biden during the 2020 election.

She described student debt as a "gateway issue" for younger voters, meaning it affects their views and decisions on housing affordability and career choices.

A survey of 18- to 29-year-olds conducted by the Harvard Institute of Politics in March found that 59% of those polled favored debt cancellation of some sort — whether for all borrowers or those most in need — although student loans

did not rank high among issues that most concerned people in that age group.

Some advocates were already bracing for disappointment.

"If the rumors are true, we've got a problem," Derrick Johnson, the president of the NAACP, which has aggressively lobbied Biden to take bolder action, said Tuesday. He emphasized that Black students face higher debut burdens than white students.

"President Biden's decision on student debt cannot become the latest example of a policy that has left Black people — especially Black women — behind," he said.

"This is not how you treat Black voters who turned out in record numbers and provided 90% of their vote to once again save democracy in 2020."

John Della Volpe, who worked as a consultant on Biden's campaign and is the director of polling at the Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics, said the particulars of Biden's announcement were less important than the decision itself.

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Pfizer COVID pill shows no benefits in teens

By MATTHEW PERRONE
Associated Press

Pfizer's COVID-19 pill appears to provide little or no benefit for younger adults, while still reducing the risk of hospitalization and death for high-risk seniors, according to a large study published Wednesday.

The results from a 109,000-patient Israeli study are likely to renew questions about the U.S. government's use of Paxlovid, which has become the go-to treatment for COVID-19 due to its at-home convenience. The Biden administration has spent more than \$10 billion purchasing the drug and making it available at thousands of pharmacies through its test-and-treat initiative.

The researchers found that Paxlovid reduced hospitalizations among people 65 and older by roughly 75% when given shortly after infection.

That's consistent with earlier results used to authorize the drug in the U.S. and other nations. But people between the ages of 40 and 65 saw no measurable benefit, according to the analysis of medical records.

The study has limitations due to its design, which compiled data from a large Israeli health system rather than enrolling patients in a randomized study



STEPHANIE NANO • Associated Press

Doses of the anti-viral drug Paxlovid are displayed in New York, on Monday, Aug. 1, 2022. Pfizer's COVID-19 pill may provide little benefit for younger adults, while reducing the risk of hospitalization and death for seniors.

with a control group — the gold-standard for medical research.

The findings reflect the changing nature of the pandemic, in which the vast majority of people already have some protection against the virus due to

vaccination or prior infection. For younger adults, in particular, that greatly reduces their risks of severe COVID-19 complications.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently estimated that 95% of Ameri-

cans 16 and older have acquired some level of immunity against the virus.

"Paxlovid will remain important for people at the highest risk of severe COVID-19, such as seniors and those with compromised immune systems,"

said Dr. David Boulware, a University of Minnesota researcher and physician, who was not involved in the study. "But for the vast majority of Americans who are now eligible, this really doesn't have a lot of benefit."

A spokesman for Pfizer declined to comment on the results, which were published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized Paxlovid late last year for adults and children 12 and older who are considered high risk due to conditions like obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

More than 42% of U.S. adults are considered obese, representing 138 million Americans, according to the CDC.

At the time of the FDA decision there were no options for treating COVID-19 at home, and Paxlovid was considered critical to curbing hospitalizations and deaths during the pandemic's second winter surge. The drug's results were also far stronger than a competing pill from Merck.

More than 3.9 million prescriptions for Paxlovid have been filled since the drug was authorized, according to federal records.

A treatment course is three pills twice a day for five days.

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Julia Barton
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In person classes are beneficial

Nearly two and a half years after the Covid-19 pandemic started, students were able to return to campus without restrictions that were previously enforced. The most notable restriction placed on academics by the pandemic was resorting to classes that were strictly online. When the surge of cases lightened, students had the opportunity to return to classes in person while wearing a mask or attend via Zoom.

While the return to school last year had many students and professors attend class through Flexsync classes, there are still professors who allow students to come to class via Zoom, despite the university's lifted restrictions. While certain students may attend remotely due to various reasons, whether that be for health or family emergencies, other students choose to Zoom from the comfort of their bed at their house. We were confined to our houses in the midst of 2020 at the peak of the pandemic; we simply had no choice. Now that classes in person have resumed, it's more beneficial for students to retain information presented in a physical setting. Students are also more engaged when they are actively focused in the classroom instead of having their camera and microphone off while they scroll through social media.

Besides gaining new information that's presented, students are able to ask questions and collaborate with other students, a task that's critical for expanding student's views while listening to other's opinions. If students need clarification on an assignment or want to consult their professor for further advice, all students need to do is talk to their professor after class. There is no need to arrange Zoom meetings. In-person interaction was extremely limited the last few years and the return of somewhat normalcy shouldn't be taken for granted. Attending classes in person is a part of the college experience as well. If students stay at home to attend school simply because they don't want to go, they will miss out on opportunities to meet other students, attend events and get involved in campus organizations.

Some students learn better when there is hands-on learning, especially science classes where labs may need to be taken. Learning from experience in person can also drastically change the way students learn and obtain information, making it easier to recall later on. Instead of getting practice from a two-dimensional image on a screen, attending classes in person makes it easier for students to get that information. Another major that directly benefits from hands-on art majors. Professors can share techniques and offer a second hand with large pieces. Art majors the last two years might not have been able to afford materials to construct pieces at their homes, making it challenging to complete their coursework.

As long as you are actively engaging in classes and working hard, it doesn't matter what way you attend class.

Perspectives

Requiem for my father



JEREMY REDLIEN • The Reporter

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

(Content note: This column includes a description of an uncompleted suicide.)

I don't know the exact circumstances under which my father passed away. I hadn't even spoken to him in over a year when I got the call from my Uncle Bruce, two weeks ago, to deliver that particular piece of news.

I had tried to stay in contact with my father, but my text message history with him consists of a long series of messages with no reply. Nearly every "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Fathers Day!" I had sent him for the last two years might as well have been sent straight into outer space. I had suspected my dad might have ended

WHY NOT TODAY?

up homeless, a fact my Uncle Bruce confirmed to me when we talked on the phone about my fathers' passing.

I know from my Uncle Bruce that my father had been ill and suffering from sepsis in his final days and that he had checked himself out of the hospital against the advice of his doctors. My dad's body was found two days later. What I do not know is where his body was found. I do not know if my father had made it to a homeless shelter where would at least

not have died alone or if he died outside, sleeping under a park bench or beneath a bridge, in pain and with no one around.

What I do know is that my father struggled with many issues, including drug addiction and mental health problems for most of his life. To call my relationship with him complicated would be like saying the Grand Canyon is kind of big. As a society, we treat the issue of drug addiction as a sin and therefore, we believe we must punish addiction via criminalization while completely dehumanizing the sinner.

We do not treat drug addiction as the issue for which it most obviously is: a public health problem.

The war on drugs, the phenomenon by which we

DRUGS on page 9 ▶

Pulse

"How was your first week of school?"

Compiled by Ajay Kasaudhan



KUSUM SHAHI THAKURI, FRESHMAN

"Exciting and chill."



JOEL TCHOUKE, FRESHMAN

"Pretty busy week, plus met a lot of new people."



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"Very fast, something is always happening."



ADY MURKINS, FRESHMAN

"It's a good week."



SURAKSHYA GAUTAM, FRESHMAN

"Excited and fun."

◀**DRUGS** from page 8

criminalize drug use and lock up users and suppliers alike, is often justified by pointing to people like myself who are the relatives of those who experience substance abuse issues. But frankly, after all the years I watched my father struggle with addiction, I cannot point to any particular way the war on drugs helped him or myself.

What is known is that the war on drugs disproportionately punishes people of color, LGBTQ individuals, and those experiencing poverty, while doing little to prevent drug addiction or abuse. Furthermore, it can render it harder for those with disabilities and serious health issues to access necessary medication and supplies. For example, when I was first diagnosed with diabetes, I remember the unnecessary difficulty I had in obtaining the needles I needed to inject insulin, a difficulty that was created by society simply to make it harder for those with substance abuse issues to obtain needles.

In an ideal world, most recreational drugs would not be illegal for adults to sell or possess, but instead heavily regulated and taxed. Recreational drugs with a high potential to cause deadly overdoses should be legally required to be sold and administered only under medical supervision.

I know how easy it is to dehumanize people who are addicted to drugs. I went through periods of my life where I hated my father.

When he moved to California when I was in sixth grade, I thought I would never be able to forgive him. But I never wanted him to die alone and in pain. That much at least, was never a fate I wished upon him. At the same time, our society's attitudes towards homeless people is little better than our attitudes towards those with addiction issues. We criminalize homelessness with the same ruthlessness and cruelty we criminalize recreational drugs.

These issues are also closely tied up as well in our flawed healthcare system. A lack of universal healthcare for example, can help create barriers to those who need treatment for substance abuse issues because many people are not going to be able to afford the price tag that comes with private drug rehab centers. I also have always felt the ads for private drug rehab centers make many of them feel extremely predatory and exploitative. In any case, better solutions are necessary and the war on drugs is not going to provide them.

Issues such as homelessness, drug addiction, and healthcare access are all issues that get exacerbated by the ways people are marginalized by their race, gender, and disability as well as their gender identity and sexuality. It is well documented that LGBTQ individuals experience higher rates of homelessness and substance abuse. Around 40% of homeless youth identify as the LGBTQ.

Local queer activists were

well enough aware of the issue of the negative impacts of drug addiction on LGBTQ individuals to be throwing "chemical free" parties in the 1980s.

This all exists in addition to the nightmare that transgender and non-binary people can experience when trying to access or receive healthcare. Wouldn't it be great if, rather than spending money to lock up large numbers of people of color and LGBTQ individuals simply for the crime of drug possession, we instead legalized and taxed drugs and used that money to fund necessary social programs?

It would be even better if some of that money went towards ensuring culturally competent training for nurses to help minimize racism and queerphobia amongst healthcare providers. My father was a complicated man and as such, I have memories good and bad. It was perhaps somewhat ironic that my father would wind up homeless himself, given that in his later years, my father was a passionate advocate for homeless people, using money he had inherited to support those in less fortunate circumstances than himself. He was argumentative and his relatively brief marriage to my mother was toxic. My earliest memories are therefore of my parents fighting.

When I was in Cub Scouts, we won 'Best in Show' in a baking competition with an elaborately frosted cake designed to look like a truck. I also remember him once stopping to assist an elderly man who had driven his car into the ditch in a remote area. First by driving the man back into town to call a tow truck (this was the pre-cell phone era) and then waiting with the man by his car until the tow truck arrived.

I watched the original Star Wars trilogy pretty much every weekend I stayed with him when I was a kid. I don't know how he didn't get sick of it, but if I asked to watch it, he always let me. One weekend after my parents had divorced while I was still in elementary school, I was staying with him. I remember him getting sicker and sicker, until he had to call my mom to come pick me up before his time with me was up.

Given how sick he had been when my mom picked me up, my mom later called one of his neighbors to check up on him, which is how we found out that he had been hospitalized.

When we visited him, I remember thinking it odd that he was able to walk about and talk. Weren't most hospital patients typically bedridden?

When I was older, I figured out that the reason he was able to walk about was because he was in the psych ward. Eventually, I came to realize that the reason he was there was because he had attempted to end his life while I had been staying with him.

Goodbye dad. May you find the peace in the next life that you weren't able to find here.

Ukraine Independence Day attack

By **DEREK GATOPAULOS** and **INNA VARENYTSIA**
Associated Press

Russian forces Wednesday launched a rocket attack on a Ukrainian train station on the embattled country's Independence Day, killing 22 people, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said after warning for days that Moscow might attempt "something particularly cruel" this week.

The lethal attack took place in Chaplyne, a town of about 3,500 people in the central Dnipropetrovsk region, Ukrainian news agencies quoted Zelenskyy as telling the U.N. Security Council via video.

The president's office also reported that an 11-year-old child was killed by rocket fire earlier in the day in the settlement.

"Chaplyne is our pain today," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address to the nation.

At one point, Zelenskyy put the number of wounded at about 50. The deputy head of Zelenskyy's office later said 22 people were wounded in the attack, which hit five passenger rail cars.

Ukraine had been bracing for especially heavy attacks around the national holiday that commemorates Ukraine's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Wednesday also marked the six-month point in the war.

Days ahead of Independence Day, Kyiv authorities banned large gatherings in the capital through Thursday for fear of missile strikes.

Residents of Kyiv, which has



DAVID GOLDMAN • Associated Press

A vendor sells blue and yellow balloons in honor of the country's National Flag Day, Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022, at Maidan Square in Kyiv, Ukraine. Mass gatherings have been banned for fear of Russian missile attacks.

been largely spared in recent months, woke up Wednesday to air raid sirens, but no immediate strikes followed.

As the day wore on, Russian bombardments were reported in the country's east, west and center, with the most serious attack apparently at the train station.

Outgoing British Prime Minister Boris Johnson marked the holiday with a visit to Kyiv — his third since the war broke out — and other European leaders used the occasion to pledge unwavering support for Ukraine, locked in a battle that was widely expected to be a lightning conquest by Moscow but has turned into a grinding war of attrition. U.S. President Joe Biden announced a new military aid package of nearly \$3 billion to help Ukrainian forces fight for years to come.

Over the weekend, Zelenskyy cautioned that Russia

"may try to do something particularly nasty, something particularly cruel" this week. He repeated the warnings ahead of the train station attack, saying, "Russian provocations and brutal strikes are a possibility."

Nevertheless, a festive atmosphere prevailed during the day at Kyiv's Maidan square as thousands of residents posed for pictures next to burned-out Russian tanks put on display. Folk singers set up, and many revelers — ignoring the sirens — were out and about in traditionally embroidered dresses and shirts.

Others were fearful.

"I can't sleep at night because of what I see and hear about what is being done in Ukraine," said a retiree who gave only her first name, Tetyana, her voice shaking with emotion. "This is not a war. It is the destruction of the Ukrainian people."

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17-year-old pilot sets world record solo flight

By VESELIN TOSHKOV
Associated Press

A 17-year-old pilot became the youngest person to fly solo around the world in a small aircraft after he landed on Wednesday in Bulgaria, where his journey kicked off five months ago.

Mack Rutherford, a Belgian-British dual national, landed on an airstrip west of Bulgaria's capital, Sofia, to complete his task and to claim two Guinness World Records.

Along with becoming the youngest person to fly around the world by himself, Rutherford is the youngest person to circumnavigate the globe in a microlight plane.

Rutherford said he hoped his achievement would inspire young people to pursue their dreams.

"Just follow your dreams, no matter how old you are – work hard and move forward to achieve your goals," he said after he stepped out of the aircraft.

His sister, Zara, who finished her own trip global flight in January at age 19, previously held the ultralight record.

Mack Rutherford took the age record from Travis Ludlow of Britain, who was 18 when he made a solo flight around the world last year.

The journey, which began



VIRGINIA MAYO • Associated Press

17-year-old Anglo-Belgian pilot, Mack Rutherford landed in Belgium before flying on to Slovakia and Sofia, Bulgaria, for the final leg of his Guinness World Record attempt to be the youngest person to fly around the world.

March 23, took Rutherford through 52 countries over five continents. He turned 17 during the trip. To set a mark recognized by the Guinness World Records, he crossed the equator twice.

Born into a family of avia-

tors, Rutherford qualified for his pilot's license in 2020, which at the time, made him the youngest pilot in the world at the age of 15.

His solo trip flying around the world kicked off in Bulgaria because his sponsor, the

web hosting company ICDSOft, is headquartered in Sofia and loaned him the plane.

Like his sister, Rutherford flew a Shark, one of the fastest ultralight aircraft in the world with a cruising speed reaching 300 kph (186 mph).

Normally a two-seater, it was modified for his long journey by replacing the second seat with an extra fuel tank.

Initially planned to take up to three months, the trip lasted longer because of several unexpected obstacles along his way, including monsoon rains, sandstorms and extreme heat.

But most of the delays were caused by waits to obtain permits and other documents required for further flight or having to alter the scheduled route if they were rejected.

The flight took him through Africa and the Gulf region to India, China, South Korea and Japan.

He crossed the northern Pacific and landed after 10 uninterrupted hours in the air on a volcanic island near the Bering Strait.

From there, he headed to Alaska and down the West Coast of the United States to Mexico. Rutherford then headed north again along the U.S. East Coast to Canada, and across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe.

On Wednesday, a huge crowd of people had arrived at the airport to welcome Rutherford and to celebrate his achievements. Among them were the three members of his immediate family.

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SPORTS

FALL CAMP IN ACTION



Maverick football is in full swing as they prepare for the 2022 season. Aiming to perform better than last year's season where the Mavs went 6-5, they are set to play their first game against the Bemidji State Beavers on Thursday, September 1.

Photos by DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Woods, McIlroy behind tech-infused golf league in new TV venture

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy are bringing their own version of team golf to the PGA Tour. A day after Woods and McIlroy announced a new media venture called TMRW Sports, they unveiled a project Wednesday that involves 18 players competing in a series of matches featuring technology as much as shot-making. It's called "TGL," a tech-infused golf league that will be held in a stadium built for the occasion where fans can watch three-man teams compete in an 18-hole match — using simulators for the long shots, live shots for the shorter ones — that will take only two hours. The league is to start in

January 2024 and feature 15 regular-season matches on Monday nights, followed by the semifinals and the finals. "For the fans, think sitting courtside at an NBA game. It's that type of environment — music, player introductions. You're right on top of the action as a fan," said Mike McCarley, the former Golf Channel president who formed TMRW Sports with Woods and McIlroy and is its CEO. "You see everything play out in front of you." TMRW Sports — pronounced "tomorrow" — was formed to build technology-focused projects with a progressive approach to sports, entertainment and media.

Among the investors is Dick Ebersol, the retired chairman of NBC Sports whose many contribution to sports on TV include Sunday Night Football.



STEVE HELBER • Associated Press

Column: Five sports stories on a dreary day

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

When you awake to a dreary day, it puts you in a bit of a mood.

Especially when you're a journalist, which for some of us is essentially a synonym for grumpy cynic. Considering we're still more than four months way from Festivus and the annual Airing of the Grievances, let's see if there's room for a new summer tradition.

Five Things That Are Bugging Me.

Here we go (in no particular order of irritation): — Deshaun Watson will return to the football field this season, albeit after sitting out an 11-game suspension, paying a \$5 million fine and getting some long-overdue treatment for his shocking behavior.

The Cleveland Browns quarterback got off easy after being accused of sexually harassing and coercing two dozen women during massage therapy sessions while he was with the Houston Texans. A former federal judge who heard the case called Watson's behavior "more egregious than any before reviewed by the NFL," which is really saying something when one considers the league's epic roll call of misbehavior down through the



JOSHUA GUNTER • Cleveland.com via AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson speaks to the media, Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022, in Berea, Ohio.

years. Nevertheless, Watson got what he wanted most of all — a chance to get back on the field sometime this season. He should use the down time to make himself a better person, but we're not holding our breath on that one. In what sounded like perverse bid to show how hard

everyone is working to save his job, Nebraska football coach Scott Frost proudly boasted of his offensive linemen puking 15 to 20 times a day at practice.

Frost gave the credit — blame might be more appropriate — to their position coach, Donovan Raiola.

"It's not because they're not in shape — he's just working them hard," Frost said, according to the Omaha World-Herald. "I think they love it. He's kind of freed them up to go be aggressive and I love the way they're coming off the ball."

Now, I'm no doctor, but

turning your program into the Junction Boys is disturbing at the very least, if not outright abusive. Frost is clearly in desperation mode after going 15-29 over his first four seasons at the helm of a once-proud program that is now just a laughingstock.

And maybe even a dangerous place to play.

— The debate over transgender athletes has taken a totally expected turn with news out of Utah that a girl was secretly investigated — without her or her parents being told — after high school officials received complaints from the parents of two girls she beat in a competition.

This wasn't the first time, either. The Salt Lake Tribune reports the Utah High School Activities Association has looked into other complaints involving supposedly transgender athletes, with a spokesman saying some involved girls who "doesn't look feminine enough."

None of the complaints have been verified, of course, but overbearing parents now have a convenient excuse anytime their kid loses. The issue of transgender athletes is a complicated one, and we've said before that any measures should be based on nuance, compassion and science. Instead, we've had a bunch of states hastily approve bans that are nothing more than an attempt to score political points.

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Knight proclaims U.S. is best entering women's hockey worlds



JOSHUA BESSEX • Associated Press

United States' Hilary Knight (21) looks on during practice at the LECOM Harborcenter rink in Buffalo, N.Y., Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022.

By JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

Hilary Knight is unaccustomed to losing, leaving the face of the U.S. national women's hockey team still feeling the sting of watching the Canadians celebrate their gold-medal victory at the Beijing Winter Games in February.

The memory following a 3-2 loss had Knight looking ahead to settling several scores before the Americans left for Denmark, where they will open the world championships with a game against Japan on Thursday.

"I truly think we're the best team in the world. And when that doesn't show up in a tournament setting, then we haven't achieved our potential," Knight told The Associated Press. "So I think we've only scratched the surface at the Olympics."

Informed there might be 23 players north of the border who might differ with her assessment of who's best, Knight shrugged and said: "That's fine. I don't care. Cool."

There might be 10 nations competing, but as is usually the case in women's hockey, the focus revolves around the United States and Canada, who will resume the next chapter of one of sports' fiercest and longest-running rivalries.

Canada has the bragging rights. The Canadians' win at Beijing came four years after losing to the U.S. at the 2018 Games in South Korea. They're also the defending world champions after a 3-2 overtime victory a year ago to end the Americans' run of five straight titles. They handed the U.S. a 3-1 loss Tuesday in an exhibition game in Denmark, too. Proud as he is of Canada's accomplishments, coach Troy Ryan was reserved when informed of Knight's

comments. "Any player or any coach, they have their opinions," Ryan said. "We definitely don't pay a whole lot of attention to what the opposition is saying. We focus on what makes us successful."

Driving Canada's success has been Ryan introducing a high-octane style of offense the women's game has not seen in the 24 years since it became an Olympic sport.

Canada went 7-0 at Beijing and outscored its opponents by a combined margin of 57-10, including a 4-2 preliminary round win over the U.S. Led by Sarah Nurse's 18 points, Canadians ranked first through sixth in the tournament's points standings, with Knight tied for seventh with 10.

As with other nations, Canada's roster is different now, with the nation missing five key players due to various other commitments. One player who will be on the ice is captain Marie-Philip Poulin, who scored the decisive goal over the Americans in each of their past two gold-medal meetings, and four times overall.

The Americans also return 18 of 23 Olympians, and feature a new coach in John Wroblewski, who replaces Joel Johnson.

Wroblewski brings an up-tempo approach of his own, and has spread his offense across four lines. That's a switch from Johnson, who stacked his best players on two lines and heavily played his veterans, who wore down as the Olympic tournament progressed.

Wroblewski, otherwise, isn't making major changes, except to emphasize more attention on finishing chances. The U.S. finished the Olympics seventh out of 10 teams in scoring efficiency with just 30 goals on a

tournament-leading 374 shots.

"This group needs to just believe in us," goalie Nicole Hensley said. "We have a lot of people in our room that have been successful at every single stage. We've done it before. We can do it again."

One issue which could overshadow the tournament are contract talks involving the American and Canadian players and their respective federations. Both contracts run out at the end of the month, with the tournament's championship game set for Sept. 4.

"It's only a distraction if we make it one," American captain Kendall Coyne Schofield said. "Yeah, of course we'd like to have it done by now, but we don't for a reason. So we'll see what happens."

The annual world championship following each Olympic year has the potential of being the most competitive because of roster turnover and with teams having had little practice time given the quick turnaround following Beijing. That leaves nations such as Finland, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and potentially Sweden having a chance to be competitive.

Such was the case in 2019, when Finland upset Canada in the semifinals and was a contentious no-goal call away from knocking off the Americans in the gold medal game.

Finland GM Tuula Puputti is cautiously optimistic her Olympic bronze medal-winning team can once again contend. Following Canada's lead, the Finns are also introducing a more up-tempo offensive attack under new coach Juuso Toivola.

"Overall, it's a good thing that we raise up the level of our game because we want to make it a product that is interesting.

Tennis star Nick Kyrgios has court case adjourned



PAUL CHIASSON • The Canadian Press via AP

Australia's Nick Kyrgios returns to Poland's Hubert Hurkacz during the quarterfinals of the National Bank Open tennis tournament on Friday, Aug. 12, 2022, in Montreal.

By Associated Press

Tennis star Nick Kyrgios didn't appear in an Australian court on Tuesday and had his case of common assault adjourned until Oct. 4.

The 27-year-old Kyrgios, who was not required to attend the Australian Capital Territory Magistrates Court, was represented by his lawyer Michael Kukulies-Smith. He was not required to enter a plea or apply for bail.

Kukulies-Smith asked for the case to be adjourned until Nov. 25 but magistrate Louise Taylor rejected that request and scheduled it for Oct. 4.

Kyrgios remains in the United States preparing for in the U.S. Open, which starts next week. The charge relates to

an incident in January of last year in Canberra that was reported to Australian Capital Territory Police in December. It reportedly involves his former girlfriend, Chiara Passari. Kukulies-Smith told the court Kyrgios "spends very little time" in Canberra, where he grew up.

Kukulies-Smith foreshadowed making an application at a future court date "capable of finalizing the matter," but did not provide details. Police charged Kyrgios by summons in July, when he was making a career-best run at Wimbledon. The charge carries a potential maximum of two years in prison. Kyrgios reached his first Grand Slam final at Wimbledon before losing in four sets to Novak Djokovic.

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GM hires give bright spot in diversity, but work remains



NAM Y. HUH • Associated Press

Chicago Bears new NFL football team general manager Ryan Poles speaks during a news conference at Halas Hall in Lake Forest, Ill., Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

By SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

Ryan Poles knew pretty quickly he was interested in the path that led to his hiring as general manager of the Chicago Bears, while Dallas Cowboys personnel man Will McClay toiled in arena football before scouting beckoned.

Both credit relationships built along the way for their spots in a promising trend of diversity hiring for the NFL, plagued for years by a poor record in opportunities for minorities in the coaching ranks.

Poles is among six minorities picked to fill the past 12 openings for general managers going back to early 2021, and McClay could have pushed the ratio past 50%. Instead, he has turned down several chances to take that title, choosing to stay as vice president of player personnel for Dallas owner, president and GM Jerry Jones.

Relationships are crucial to maintaining or expanding the roles of minorities in front offices, and the effort is never-ending, said C. Keith Harrison, lead author of the annual NFL Diversity and Inclusion Report.

“People say time is money. Trust is money, and people invest in relationships that they trust,” said Harrison, a sports business professor at UCF. “We have data that when you network and connect, engage with people that are different from you by gender and race, you have a better chance of being what we call upwardly mobile.” McClay says ownership, which is overwhelmingly white in the NFL, has a role in getting to know promising minority candidates in organizations. McClay was head coach of an arena league team owned by Jones’ Cowboys before becoming a scout, and has been with the club for 20 years.

“Jerry didn’t know me until I got to be able to spend time with him, talk to him, him to know how much I knew about football, how much I knew about relationships and trying to get that together,” Mc-

Clay said. “He wouldn’t have known that if I didn’t get the opportunity.”

Poles was about to go into marketing after he was released by the Bears, but took a job as a graduate assistant at Boston College, his alma mater, instead. Conversations with visiting pro scouts sparked his interest in the personnel side.

The 36-year-old Poles credits former Kansas City GM Scott Pioli for making the advancement of minority candidates a priority.

“He’s always taken a lot of pride in making sure that there was a pipeline from scouting assistant to area pro scout to directors and then doing that the right way,” said Poles, who was with the Chiefs for 13 years before joining the Bears in January.

“So I was fortunate to have someone that was very aware of it, and my growth and development happened probably faster because of just mentors that wanted to spend time to develop me as a person and as a personnel person and a leader,” Poles said.

Five of the six recent minority additions among GMs are Black: Poles, Washington’s Martin Mayhew, Kwesi Adofo-Mensah of Minnesota, Atlanta’s Terry Fontenot and Brad Holmes in Detroit. Pittsburgh hired Omar Khan, an Indian American, in May. Overall, eight of the 32 GMs are minorities.

“It’s huge progress that’s been made,” Holmes said. “Hopefully that progress continues.”

Fontenot, hired by the Falcons in early 2021 after 18 seasons in New Orleans under longtime GM Mickey Loomis, said the goal should be to get to a point where race doesn’t have to be a factor for head coaches or personnel chiefs.

At its recent spring meetings in Atlanta, the league conducted an accelerator program for minorities in coaching and the front office, with two members of the staff from each club participating.

Ex-Maryland star Bernhardt tries switch from lacrosse to NFL

By PAUL NEWBERYY
Associated Press

Jared Bernhardt traded in his stick for the pigskin.

Less than 15 months after being honored as the nation’s top college lacrosse player, Bernhardt has taken on the challenge of making it as an NFL receiver with the Atlanta Falcons.

“It’s very difficult,” he conceded. “You’re at the top of the sports world, the elite of the elite. That’s kind of what brought me to it, competing against the best. I’m just trying to come out here and give it my all. That’s all I can really ask for.” If the Falcons were a lacrosse franchise, the 24-year-old Bernhardt would undoubtedly be one of their best players. He starred for five seasons at Maryland, where he helped the Terrapins to a national championship as a freshman and was honored with the sport’s version of the Heisman Trophy after his record-setting senior year.

He left College Park as the school’s career leader with 202 goals and 290 points.

Now, he’s the longest of long shots on the gridiron, chasing a dream he laid out with his father Jim Bernhardt, who coached at the high school, college and NFL ranks before his death in 2019. Jared Bernhardt has played football before, both in high school in his native Florida and for another season after transferring last summer to Ferris State, a Division II col-



TODD KRIKLAND • Associated Press

Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Jared Bernhardt (83) runs through a drill during the teams open practice in Atlanta, Ga. Monday, Aug. 15, 2022.

lege in Michigan. But he was an option quarterback, never a receiver. So, not only has he given up his best sport, he’s trying to make the NFL at an entirely new position.

“There’s a lot of changes,” Bernhardt said after a practice this week at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. “Obviously, it’s a transition. But no excuses out here. You’ve got to come out here and do your job.” Despite being a neophyte at receiver, Bernhardt doesn’t look entirely out of place.


In Atlanta’s first preseason game, he hauled in a 21-yard touchdown pass from Desmond Ridder with 90 seconds remaining to give the Falcons a 27-23 victory over the Detroit Lions. Bernhardt appeared to be relying on some of his lacrosse skills as he suddenly


darted toward the middle of the end zone, muscled away from a defender and cradled the desperation throw just inside the goal line. Asked if he was channeling his lacrosse days when he hauled in that TD pass, Bernhardt replied, “A little bit.”


“Everyone wants to say the agility, the change of direction, and there are things like that,” he added. “But I think football is in its own category. There’s so much you’ve got to learn, especially being a receiver, just the craft of it, the routes, processing the plays and everything.”


Falcons coach Arthur Smith looks at Bernhardt more as a football player changing positions than a guy attempting to master an entirely new sport, noting that he guided Ferris State to a national title last season.


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Transgender kids can play girls sports in Utah after ruling

By BRADY McCOMBS
Associated Press

Transgender girls in Utah will be given the opportunity to participate in girls' sports as the school year begins, after a judge on Friday reversed a ban pending legal challenges from parents.

Instead of an outright ban, transgender girls will now be sent before a commission that will determine on a case-by-case basis if their participation compromises fairness. Utah's Republican lawmakers created the commission in a law passed earlier this year as a fallback plan to be implemented in case of an injunction against the law.

Under the law, the panel will be allowed to ask for and assess the child's height and weight in making decisions about whether a transgender girl would have an unfair advantage.

The commission, which is set to be convened in the coming weeks, will include politically appointed experts from athletics and medicine.

When proposed, the commission was criticized by advocates for transgender student-athletes — who worried they would feel targeted having their bodies measured — and proponents of an outright ban, who argued it didn't go far enough.

The commission is set to



RICK BOWMER • Associated Press

A 12-year-old transgender swimmer waits by a pool on Feb. 22, 2021, in Utah. Transgender kids in Utah will be not be subjected to sports participation limits at the start of the upcoming school year.

go into effect while the court weighs the legal challenge to the outright ban.

Members have not yet been appointed but will be in the coming weeks, legislative leaders said.

The state's association overseeing more than 80,000 stu-

dents playing high school sports has said only one transgender girl competed in their leagues last year and, with school sports already underway, it's unclear how many will go before the commission and when its decisions will take effect.

Utah's ruling marked the

latest court development in a nationwide debate over how to navigate the flashpoint issue.

At least 12 Republican-led states — including Utah — have passed laws banning transgender women or girls in sports based on the premise it gives them an unfair competitive ad-

vantage.

Transgender rights advocates counter the rules aren't just about sports, but another way to demean and attack transgender youth. Similar cases are underway in states such as Idaho, West Virginia and Indiana.

Utah's ban took effect in July after its Republican-supermajority Legislature overrode a veto by Gov. Spencer Cox, also a Republican.

Utah state Judge Keith Kelly said in the ruling putting the ban on hold that attorneys representing the families of three transgender student-athletes showed they have suffered significant distress by "singling them out for unfavorable treatment as transgender girls."

The transgender girls and the parents filed the lawsuit last May, contending the ban violates the Utah Constitution's guarantees of equal rights and due process.

The ruling was thrilling news to the girls and their families, said Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, who also represented same-sex couples in a landmark court case against Utah last decade.

"The pressure, the strain this was putting them under was so enormous," Minter said. "It is just a huge relief to have that weight lifted."



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VARIETY

Maverick Machine prepares to bring the noise

By ALEXANDRA TOSTRUD
Staff Writer

For the Maverick Machine, this past Friday marked the end of a week's worth of preparation for the fall sports season at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

With this semester being the first normal year for the band since 2019 due to COVID-19, the dedication is strong and the energy is stronger.

Michael Thursby has directed the Maverick Machine since its rebirth in 2013.

"As we finish up this year, we'll start celebrating our 10th anniversary. One of the themes that came up was the amount of time that we've had, and the time that we've lost through COVID," said Thursby. "The opening statement is the theme from Stranger Things. We play 'Clocks' by Coldplay, and then 'Time After Time' by Cyndi Lauper."

This year's halftime show, which will be performed at home football games, is titled "The Time Machine."

Rehearsals ran all day during the week of August 15, with marching fundamentals, drill formations and music rehearsals.

Members of the Maverick Machine arrived on campus beginning Saturday, August 13.



File Photo

The Maverick Machine makes itself present at various MSU sporting events. Bringing the noise to Boston last spring, they are well-known to hype up the crowds especially at the hockey games.

Among the first to return to rehearsal was the drumline.

Senior Claire Hussey is one of two drumline captains and a chemistry major.

"We have three main cadences that we need to learn by the time the rest of the band arrives on Monday, and we also

have the same amount of music the band does for the halftime show," said Hussey.

Hussey also explained that she thinks the band's energy is great this season.

"We have a lot of energy and it's a lot of positive energy. It's amazing to see and be around.

That positivity is something I don't think I've seen this late into band camp," added Hussey.

Senior music education major Brent Eckstron also noted the high spirits of the band.

"Comparing to previous years with COVID, everyone is

excited to be back. That's bringing the level of performance up a notch. Everyone is leading for themselves, and leading the group toward bigger and better things," said Eckstron. "The level that we're at this year is ten times where we've been in previous years. That goes for sound, marching and everything else."

Fall is the busiest time of year for the Maverick Machine as there are several events the Maverick Machine perform at.

"I really like Homecoming week. The bonfire, the parades, and the football game, the energy surrounding that weekend—I think that's the best event that we do in the fall," said Eckstron.

The Maverick Machine is one of numerous music ensembles on campus, and Thursby urges incoming students to try and continue passions from previous years at college.

"My advice is just to keep playing. It's a great way to come to a college campus and meet a lot of people right away, and feel more comfortable. It's a fun way to keep playing music. It's fun to be able to do something as a hobby," said Thursby. "If your major is super intensive, then you can come play in the band to destress. That's the goal."

The Maverick Machine will finish 2022 in Rome, Italy this December.

Setting the stage: theater auditions for Mavs

By LILLY SCHMIDT
Variety Editor

The start of the classes at Minnesota State University, Mankato means the start of preparation for shows on campus. The first round of mass auditions for the academic year took place this last Monday, August 21.

Students who auditioned could give their best chances for Richard III, High School Musical, and In the Next Room.

Matthew Caron, one of the directors for High School Musical explained the experience of first day auditions. "Since we do it on the first day, it makes for a really exciting and high energy first day of school because our students are of course going to school, getting here for classes and everything, but also, they've got this looming audition that's going to happen right away."

Caron continued, "But what's really fun is it does create this atmosphere of excitement and anticipation. And then the benefit of course is that right away on Tuesday, the second day of school, we start production. We're in rehearsals right away."

Third year MSU student Liza

Rotty talked about the auditioning process for her and fellow auditioners. She explained, "It can be rigorous. There's phases of it."

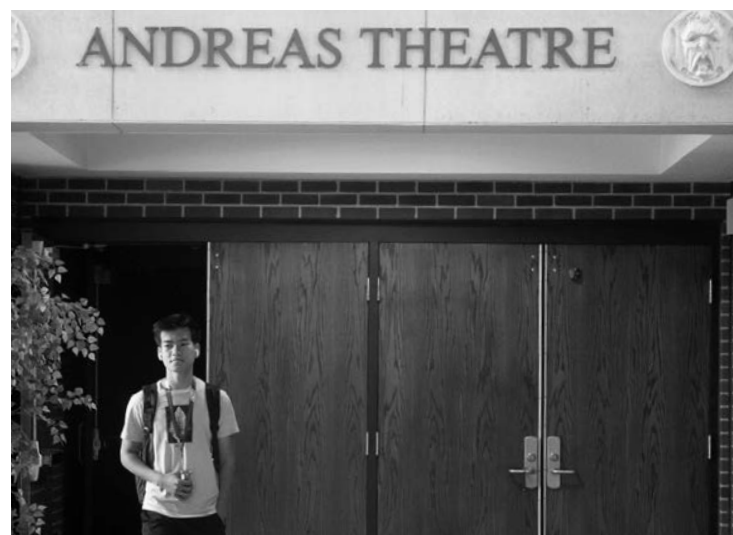
The phases are placed back to back when a student auditions.

For Monday's auditions, Rotty shared what she prepared, "I first came in with two monologues for the two plays. You have to have very specific to the style of the show monologues prepared for both. And then, if you're auditioning for High School Musical, it is sixteen bars of a Disney song, and a thirty second comedic contemporary monologue."

However, auditioning can be nerve-wracking.

If a student is nervous Caron started by explaining, "If it matters to you, you're probably going to feel nervous. And if it matters, that's a good thing. You're doing something that you'd like to do."

Caron continued, "But otherwise, it's just relaxation techniques and learning how to channel that anxiousness into constructive ways. Deep breathing, meditation. Some kind of a pre-audition ritual can often-



BISRAT TADESSE • The Reporter

Auditions are held this week in the Andreas Theatre in the Performing Arts Building.

times help focus energy, so we encourage people to do that kind of stuff."

When Rotty is preparing, she explained, "I have a playlist. It's called high energy. I always listen to some songs that put me in the right mood, and then remind myself that it doesn't matter, and it's okay. All of these things are to give you experience to look back on to grow and build your knowledge."

Students are also reminded that mistakes are okay. According to Caron, "I've seen people totally blow it in auditions. People do it a lot; they screw up, they forget a line, they forget a song. But there are people that can just turn that around and make it that it doesn't even matter, because they're so comfortable up there. They go on to the next piece and don't let it faze them."

Rotty even shared an experience of her own, "I sang in the wrong key or started on the wrong note or something. So I stopped and I was like, this isn't how I'm going to let this audition go. I started it over again and like made a stick of it. Basically started over and killed it. I felt really good about it."

Auditions are open to both majors and non-major students.

For anyone interesting, Sarah Honerman, the director for In the Next Room said, "I think it's so important that students know they can always reach out if they have questions about auditions. We always love to see new faces -- I love working with new people and would encourage everyone who is interested in auditioning to come out and make new friends."

The next round of mass auditions is September 26, for A Christmas Carol and Last Summer and Bluefish Cove.

There are also auditions on August 30 for the children's tour, which is open to freshman and transfer students.

For all the students who auditioned, and for all those preparing for more, as they say in theater: break a leg!

Jerry Allison, drummer for Buddy Holly, dead at 82



TERESA PRINCE • Gazette via AP

Allison, who played and co-wrote songs with rock pioneer and childhood friend Buddy Holly and whose future wife inspired the classic "Peggy Sue," has died. He was 82.

By KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

Jerry Allison, an architect of rock drumming who played and co-wrote songs with childhood friend Buddy Holly and whose future wife inspired the classic "Peggy Sue," has died. He was 82.

His death was confirmed Wednesday by a spokesperson for Gold Mountain Entertainment, which manages Holly's one-time backing band The Crickets, of which Allison was the last surviving original member. Further details of his death were not immediately available.

Born in Hillsboro, Texas, Allison met Holly in junior high, and they started playing together in roller rinks and The Cotton Club in Lubbock in the early 1950s, predating the rise of rock music.

The two wrote numerous hits together as teenagers, including "That'll Be the Day," inspired by a line from John Wayne in the classic Western "The Searchers."

"Peggy Sue" was covered by numerous artists, including John Lennon and the Beach Boys, and referenced in "Barbara Ann" and other songs. Holly followed with "Peggy Sue Got Married," later the title of a Francis Coppola film.

The Crickets' sound was often stripped down to rock 'n' roll basics: guitars, bass

and drums behind Holly's "hiccupping" vocals. But they also liked experimenting in the studio with multi-tracking and overdubbing and inspired generations of musicians, including the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and other British Invasion rockers. One band, the Hollies, named themselves after Holly.

But as its fame grew, the band stayed behind in Texas, while Holly moved to New York in 1958. In February 1959, Holly was killed at the age of 22 in a plane accident along with fellow musicians Ritchie Valens and J.P. Richardson, also known as the Big Bopper. The tragedy inspired Don McLean's 1972 hit "American Pie."

After Holly's death, The Crickets continued as a band to tour and record together for decades, including recording the first version of "I Fought the Law," a Sonny Curtis tune that was a hit later for The Bobby Fuller Four.

They backed the Everly Brothers and toured with Waylon Jennings, and they became well respected session players who worked with Bobby Vee, Eddie Cochran and Johnny Burnette.

The Crickets were voted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012, while Holly was inducted in 1986 in the first class of inductees.

'Katrina Babies', children of climate change

By DREW COSTLEY
Associated Press

Edward Buckles, Jr. was 13 when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and completely upended his life. Buckles and his family moved from New Orleans to Lafayette, Louisiana for several months while their hometown began to recover from the catastrophic storm.

He told The Associated Press he doesn't remember much from those months living in Lafayette, grasping for a sense of normalcy in the aftermath of one of the most destructive hurricanes in American history.

His community was experiencing so much destruction. Now as an adult, he views that blank spot in his memory as a response to the trauma of what he witnessed.

Buckles' parents asked him at the time if he was okay, but he wasn't quite able to figure that out for himself in the moment. Later the trauma resurfaced. With kids, he said, "what's responsible and what's important is that you set them up to deal with that trauma once it surfaces."

But the filmmaker said in his new documentary "Katrina Babies" that not all the children who were traumatized by living through the hurricane and its aftermath had adults checking in on them. So that's what he set out to do, capturing several New Orleans residents as they reconcile with a childhood marred by Hurricane Katrina.

The documentary, which has garnered critical praise, will be available for streaming on HBO Max on August 24 and debuts on HBO the same day at 9 pm ET, 17 years and a day after the hurricane formed in the Atlantic Ocean.

It shows how New Orleans and its people were changed by the storm. It depicts the child-



CHANSEY AUGUSTINE • AP Photo

Edward Buckles, Jr., a New Orleans native who was 13 when Hurricane Katrina hit and directed the documentary "Katrina Babies," poses underneath the Claiborne Avenue overpass for a photo in the city.

hood trauma it caused for a generation coming of age after one of the United States' first major climate-related disasters. New Orleanians featured in the documentary share stories of seeing dead people and pets, of leaving home and returning to communities destroyed, while they were still children.

The film looks at climate past and present and, the filmmakers hope, sounds alarm bells for the climate future.

"I hope this is a local and American story that will motivate people to want to do better and care about human beings, and about how intrinsically linked we are with nature and that the future is clear: There is going to be more of this," said Audrey Rosenberg, lead producer of the film.

Buckles said that while Hurricane Katrina might have been a formative experience for him and the youth of New Orleans at the time, more waters have come through since. Though he isn't a climate scientist, he knows firsthand the repeated damage wrought on his hometown by hurricanes and tropi-

cal storms made more intense by climate change.

"My grandmother lost her home due to flooding from Hurricane Katrina," he said. "She has been flooded seven more times just from tropical storms."

Cierra Chenier, 26, was featured in the documentary and also knows people who have had to rebuild multiple times since Hurricane Katrina due to subsequent hurricanes and storms.

She said the loss of culture and history in New Orleans due to repeated climate-related disasters like Hurricane Katrina shaped her decision to become a local historian and writer.

"I got into wanting to preserve our history because of how quickly I felt my childhood became history," she said. Even though the storm was 17 years ago, she said, it continues to shape the present.

"In preserving our stories, writing about those stories and narrating those stories, it's always connected to the present and we can form better solutions for the future," she said.

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Blondie opens vaults for box set

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

For decades, a New Wave treasure trove sat in a converted barn. For fans of the band Blondie, it was the equivalent of the Ark of the Covenant tucked away in a rickety storage space.

Inside the building just outside Woodstock, New York, were 100 reel-to-reel tapes, half a dozen cassettes, a few storage tubs crammed with records, flyers and even a stray Andy Warhol print.

The haul chronicled the rise of Debbie Harry and Co. as they tried on many styles, from reggae and rap to rock, adding in punk, 1960s girl group pop and disco. The cache was in bad shape, but promising.

“When we first walked in, I knew that something was going to come out of it,” said Ken Shipley, a producer who specializes in unearthing precious lost sounds as part of the Numero Group. “It just seemed to me that there was going to be no shortage of materials for us to sort through.”

What has emerged is the comprehensive, 17-pound box set “Blondie: Against the Odds, 1974-1982,” with 124 tracks and 36 previously unissued recordings, demos, outtakes and remixed versions of Blondie’s initial six studio albums.

There’s also an illustrated discography and a 144-page commentary by all seven original band members.

Listeners can hear early versions of what would become the hit “Heart of Glass” — it was initially just called “The Disco Song” — and “I Love You Honey, Give Me a Beer,” an original demo for the song that became the country-inflected “Go Through It.”

There are snazzy covers of The Doors’ “Moonlight Drive” and Ike and Tina Turner’s “Sexy Ida,” as well as “Out in the Streets” by The Shangri-Las.

There’s also a one-of-a-kind home recording of Johnny Cash’s “Ring of Fire” — originally recorded at a slow speed to save money — and the never-released-until-now song, “Mr. Sightseer.”

The collection is the red-hot center of a band that during the late 1970s and early ’80s had eight Top 40 hits, including four No. 1s: “Heart of Glass,” “Call Me,” “The Tide Is High” and “Rapture,” which is regarded as the first No. 1 hit to feature rap. There’s also a five-track 1975 album demo that includes “Platinum Blonde,” a sort of band mission statement.

The tapes and tubs were stored in guitarist Chris Stein’s converted barn but locating them was only part of the journey.

They were waterlogged from a flood and were infested with mold.

They’d endured years of



CHARLES SYKES • Invision via AP

Clem Burke, from left, Debbie Harry and Rob Roth attend a screening of “Blondie: Vivir En La Habana” during the 20th Tribeca Festival in New York on June 16, 2021. The band is releasing a box set “Blondie: Against the Odds, 1974-1982,” with 124 tracks and 36 previously unissued recordings, demos, outtakes and Blondie’s initial six studio albums.

blazing heat and freezing cold. And then there were the unauthorized fans — rats and mice who had made the material their homes.

But Shipley and co-producer Steve Rosenthal didn’t panic: They knew analog audio tapes are actually hardy things and so donned masks, vacuumed and baked the cache.

Then they got to work mastering and mixing.

“Ken and I work with analog tapes a lot, and it’s a very resilient format,” said Rosenthal. “If you flooded a hard drive, it’s toast. That’s not the way it is with analog tapes.”

In addition to the Woodstock cache, Shipley and Rosenthal combed through the vast Universal archives, looking in New York, Los Angeles and London for lost Blondie assets.

The final set, coming via The Numero Group and UMe, represents six years of work.

“The real joyous moments of making this thing was discovering things that nobody had ever heard,” said Shipley. “The most revealing things to me are always when you’re hearing that DNA of a song coming together.”

The box set marks the first time the band — Harry, Stein, drummer Clem Burke, bassist Leigh Foxx, guitarist Tommy Kessler and keyboardist Matt Katz-Bohen — authorized a collection and participated in the process.

“I think they were really gracious with allowing their histories to be examined, getting all seven members of the band into one book.

That had never happened before,” said Shipley. “There were a couple of moments where they didn’t want things in, but then we convinced them that we made them sound really good.”

The band named the collection “Against the Odds” because of its unlikely climb to the summit of cool — an unusual group with a rare female singer and a mix of styles that was too pop for many in the punk scene.

It was that eclecticism that

Shipley rediscovered while revisiting Blondie’s six studio albums recorded for Chrysalis — “Blondie,” “Plastic Letters,” “Parallel Lines,” “Eat to the Beat,” “Autoamerican” and “The Hunter.”

“They were really varied,” he said. “When you listen to an album like ‘Autoamerican,’ that is like everything but the kitchen sink.

There’s a reggae song, there’s a rap song, there’s mariachi horns. There’s all these different sort of elements to that record that I think are really, really unexpected.”

Burke, the drummer, said the material and songs seem like souvenirs of a lost time, one his bandmates took for granted at the time.

He’s happy the set comes out while the band is still creating — touring with a new album due this fall.

“I think it’s an interesting look into the creative process of the evolution of certain songs,” he said. “We never would have thought that we would still be here today.

Looking back at our archives, it’s pretty amazing.”

A special part of the collection is simply called “Home Tapes,” which includes tunes recorded on a four track reel-to-reel in Stein and Harry’s home between 1978-79.

It includes a demo for “Sunday Girl” — inspired by Stein missing Harry and one of her cats, Sunday Man — and a languid, airy take on “The Hardest Part.”

All this was pulled from a collection of moldy, munched material left to the elements — a cache luckily rescued from a group of musicians who claimed to have no interest in their past.

“This is not a band that I think looks back. They’re not known to be people who are terribly concerned after the work is done. It’s like, ‘We’ve already done the work. It’s your job to assess the work,’” said Shipley.

Arden Cho spotlight as ‘Partner Track’ star

By ALECIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

As Arden Cho moved into the final stages of auditioning for the new Netflix series “Partner Track,” she had an especially good feeling about the job after a Zoom meeting with producers.

“I believe it was a more than an hour and a half producer session, which is quite on the long side. I remember when it ended, one of my best friends from Hawaii was visiting and waiting in the living room. She was like, ‘Oh, I can breathe now. I haven’t been breathing for the last hour and a half. I’m so nervous. How did it go?’ I looked at her and I was like, ‘I think I have a job. I think I’ve got this.’ Luckily, I was right.”

In “Partner Track,” debuting Friday, Cho plays Ingrid Yun, an attorney whose goal is to make partner at the old boys club law firm she works for in New York. She excels at the job but must navigate microaggressions and favoritism shown toward her male, mostly white coworkers.

The expectations of the job

always come first for Ingrid, so her personal life takes a back seat.

The series is based on a novel by Helen Wan.

Cho, who is best-known for her roles on MTV’s “Teen Wolf” and “Chicago Med,” says the more she researched the character, the more she realized they had a lot in common.

“Once I started prepping and really getting into it, I was like, ‘Wait, this is more about her being a 29-year-old woman at this very tough point in her life.’ And I’m like, ‘Wait, I’ve done this. I’ve been there.’ I was like, ‘Oh, I know this girl. And I was like, I am this girl.’ There are very few times in my career where I’ve felt so connected to a project. The shoe fit.”

Creator and co-executive producer Georgia Lee believes Cho brings a relatability to the character.

“When we saw Arden’s audition, we were so excited to see this great blend of steely toughness with, at the same time, a sweet vulnerability as well,” Lee said.

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Chiefs Len Dawson dies at 87

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

Whether it was in the huddle during the early days of the AFL or behind the microphone as the NFL grew into the behemoth it is today, Len Dawson carried himself with an unmistakable swagger and self-assurance that earned him the well-worn nickname “Lenny the Cool.”

He was a Hall of Fame quarterback who led the Kansas City Chiefs to their first Super Bowl championship, then a Hall of Fame broadcaster who brought football into the homes of millions on the iconic HBO show “Inside the NFL.”

“Len was my first sports hero and he remained someone I admired and respected his entire life,” Chiefs owner Clark Hunt said. “His impact on the Kansas City Chiefs and everyone who has worked for the organization cannot be overstated.”

Dawson’s family announced his death Wednesday at the age of 87. No cause was given, though Dawson had had prostate cancer and quadruple heart bypass surgery over the years. He had been in hospice care since Aug. 12.

The Chiefs intend to honor Dawson during their preseason finale against Green Bay on Thursday night, Hunt said, though the details were still to be decided. Other memorials will be arranged according to the wishes of his family. “With wife Linda at his side, it is with much sadness that we inform you of the passing of our beloved Len Dawson,” his family said in a statement issued by KMBC, the TV station where he worked as an anchor. “Len was always grateful and many times overwhelmed by the countless bonds he made during his football and broadcast careers.”

Dawson’s career was going nowhere when he joined the Hunt family’s nascent AFL franchise, then located in Dallas. But along with Hall of Fame coach Hank Stram, Dawson led it to three AFL titles and two Super Bowls; the Chiefs would lose to Green Bay in the inaugural one before beating Minnesota three years later at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans.

He was the MVP of that 23-7 triumph over the Vikings in January 1970, then proceeded to set numerous franchise records that only now Patrick Mahomes is surpassing.

Dawson was enshrined in Canton as a player in 1987, then received the Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award from the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2012.

“I’ve been blessed for what I had the opportunity to do,” Dawson said told The Associated Press in 2017. “I could not have accomplished so much without my teammates and colleagues, and I’m grateful for each of them.”



COLIN E. BRALEY • AP Photo

Former Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Len Dawson stands on the sideline during the second half of an NFL football game against the Denver Broncos in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 30, 2017.

Dawson remained a beloved figure in Kansas City, even as his health declined and he cut back on public appearances. He would go out of his way to make time for fans, whether it be a photograph or signature.

The latter often was scrawled upon a seminal photo from halftime of the first Super Bowl: the exhausted quarterback, white uniform covered in grass stains, sitting on a folding chair with a cigarette in his mouth and a bottle of Fresca at his feet.

It perfectly captured a time and place. And it perfectly captured “Lenny the Cool.”

“He was always under control,” Stram recalled years later. “I said to him once, ‘Leonard, make sure that you never let them see you sweat.’ And he said, ‘Coach, quarterbacks don’t sweat. Quarterbacks perspire.’”

Sophisticated yet blue-collar to his core, Dawson was born June 20, 1935, the ninth of 11 children of James and Annie Dawson in the manufacturing town of Alliance, Ohio. He was a three-sport athlete at Alliance High School, setting records in both football and basketball, but turned his focus to the gridiron with a scholarship to Purdue.

Dawson led the NCAA in passing efficiency as a sophomore while also playing defense and kicking. And by the end of his college career, he’d thrown for more than 3,000 yards in an era defined by ground-and-pound football.

He was chosen by the Steelers in the first round of the 1957 draft, but wound up riding the bench behind Earl Morrall as a rookie and then failed to beat out Bobby Layne for the starting job the following season. When the Steelers traded him to the Browns, Dawson was unable to beat out Milt Plum for the job and was summarily released.

With the sudden freedom to play anywhere, Dawson jumped to the upstart AFL and the Texans, lured in part by the chance to play for one of his old Purdue coaches. It was Stram who managed to tap into his talent, helping Dawson become one of the league’s prolific pass-

ers, as the Texans went 11-3 in 1962 and won the first of three titles together.

The second came in 1966, when Dawson led the Chiefs to an 11-2-1 record and a 31-7 blowout of the Bills in the AFL title game. That earned the Chiefs the chance to face the powerhouse Packers of coach Vince Lombardi in the inaugural Super Bowl, where Dawson threw for 210 yards and a touchdown in a 35-10 defeat.

It was the 1969 season that proved to be the most memorable of Dawson’s career, though. He hurt his knee against the Patriots in Week 2, forcing him to miss the next five games, but returned to lead the Chiefs over the defending champion Jets and rival Raiders to reach what would be the final Super Bowl before the AFL-NFL merger.

“It was overwhelming,” Dawson said after the victory over Minnesota.

“It’s just, you know how that relief comes with you now that it’s over with, and we’ve been successful? That’s the feeling that I had when I came off the field.”

Dawson played six more seasons in Kansas City, setting many records that stood until Mahomes came along. The two became fast friends, and Dawson was overjoyed when the young quarterback led the Chiefs to their second Super Bowl title with a come-from-behind victory over the 49ers in February 2020.

“RIP to the legend Len Dawson,” Mahomes tweeted Wednesday, accompanied by photos of them together. “The legacy and impact you made on Kansas City will live on forever.”

“I did all those postgames with him and I think the world of him,” Chiefs coach Andy Reid said at the time. “He has been there, he has done it — it doesn’t matter the age gap or the time away from being in the huddle. He just gets it. I love that part of it. He is a Hall of Famer all the way around.”

“Len was really the first big sports celebrity in Kansas City,” Hunt said. “He was the undisputed leader of that Chiefs team that won the Super Bowl.”

Independent Spirit Awards make awards gender neutral



JORDAN STRAUSS • Invision via AP

A general view of atmosphere at the 37th Film Independent Spirit Awards on Sunday, March 6, 2022, in Santa Monica, Calif.

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

The Film Independent Spirit Awards will now feature gender neutral film and television acting categories and raise its budget cap to \$30 million, the organization said Tuesday.

“We’re thrilled to join the other festivals and award shows that are already moving to celebrate great acting without reference to gender,” Josh Welsh, Film Independent’s president, said in a statement. “We’re also happy to welcome non-binary performers into the Spirit Awards without forcing them to choose to identify as male or female.”

The Spirit Awards honor smaller budget indie films and are known for its starry, free-wheeling ceremony that’s

part of the awards season run-up to the Academy Awards.

It joins several prominent awards organizations that have made the switch to non-gendered awards, including The Grammys, The Gotham Awards and the MTV Movie & TV Awards. The categories will now be “best lead performance” and “best supporting performance.”

Raising the eligibility cap from \$22.5 million to \$30 million for a film production is intended to acknowledge the rising costs of making films.

“It has been a long time since we substantially increased the budget limit for eligibility,” Welsh said. “This new cap allows us to continue to celebrate the same breadth of work that we have in the past.”

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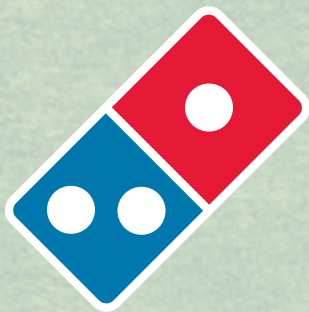
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