

50th Mahkato Wacipi creates unity

By ALEXANDRA TOSTRUD
Staff Writer

This past weekend, Land of Memories Park in Mankato hosted the 50th annual Dakota Wacipi, or pow-wow. The Wacipi was attended by natives and non-natives from across the Midwest and celebrated Dakota culture in the spirit of reconciliation.

The Wacipi began on Friday with education day, a program for Mankato area sixth graders, where they learned about Dakota history from community elders as part of their Minnesota history curriculum.

Megan Heutmaker is the coordinator for education day with the Wacipi, as well as the director of the American Indian Affairs office at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

"As they're learning about Minnesota's history, [students] get to come here and have hands-on experiences with our elders. I think that's what really sticks with you—when you get to live and hear and listen to



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

The 50th annual Dakota Wacipi, or Pow-wow, took place in Mankato last weekend at the Land of Memories Park. Several dancers entered the area to kick off the weekend and all the events that took place throughout.

people who have these stories to share," Heutmaker said.

At 7 p.m. Friday, the Grand Entrance began for registered dancers. The Mahkato Wacipi is a traditional pow-wow instead of a contest pow-wow.

In a traditional pow-wow, registered dancers receive \$20 for participating and keeping the tradition alive.

As the sun set, dancers entered the arena to kick off the weekend. All ages participated—

community elders danced, as did tiny toddlers.

After the Grand Entrance, which took place three more times throughout the weekend, the announcer called an inter-tribal where anyone may dance regardless of if they wore regalia.

Some dancers came to the Wacipi from across the Midwest, like Todd Runnels and his daughter, Danica Runnels, from Nebraska.

"This is one of the pow-wows we like coming to. Everyone here is really friendly—from the volunteers parking cars, to the concessions, to the other dancers. This one stands out," said Todd Runnels.

"It's inclusive to everyone. I've been dancing since I could walk. It's something that brings me joy and brings other people joy," added Danica Runnels.

11-year-old Carissa Espinoza was another dancer on Friday night, who previously won the title "Miss Lower Sioux" with a speech about how she would

CULTURE on page 2

Nursing students affected by nurses' strike

By JULIA BARTON
Editor in Chief

Students enrolled in Minnesota State University, Mankato's nursing program were affected by the statewide nurses' strike last week that went from Sept. 12 to Sept. 14. Nearly 15,000 nurses participated in this three-day strike that included 15 hospitals around the Twin Cities and Twins Ports area.

Believed to be one of the biggest private-sector nurses' strikes in the U.S., the strike impacted the lives of those who protested, those who were patients and those who continued to work at the hospitals during the strike.

Patricia Young, Chairperson of the School of Nursing within the College of Allied Health and Nursing, has been at MSU since 1986 and recalls the last MNA strike in 2017.

"I think the issues they are fighting for are similar. They are looking at trying to maintain safe staffing levels and a better nurse-to-patient ratio that's one concern, and of course salary," said Young. "This strike is an educational opportunity and really broadens the nursing students' perspective and look at the bigger picture."

Strike guidelines consist of letting the hospitals know a week in advance when a strike will take place as they need time to prepare and potentially bring in out-of-state nurses to help with the workload.

Most hospitals may take up to a week or longer to reorganize after the strike in order to get their staff back to a regular workflow. Frequent switches between a patient's normal healthcare providers can delay patients from receiving quality healthcare.

Currently, MSU's nursing program has seven clinical groups consisting of about eight students per group. Those clinical sites can range anywhere from the Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato

STRIKE on page 2

Bend of the River Festival brings the country

By EMMA JOHNSON
News Director

On Saturday, MSU Athletics and Kwik Trip collaborated together to host the inaugural Bend of the River Music Festival. With cornhole, vendors and concerts, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Organizer Robyn James said that MSU Director of Athletics Kevin Buisman approached James and her business partner Jerry Braam back in 2019 about hosting a festival on campus. The event was delayed due to Covid and Hockey Day Minnesota.

"It's kind of a collaboration with [MSU Athletics] wanting to showcase the campus and athletics and then our team coming in to do something good for the community by raising money for high school and MSU athletics," James said.

The idea for the festival's name originated from the geographical location of the two rivers that come together and wanting to reach as many surrounding communities as possible.

"We wanted to reach many communities in the Bend of the River area. We wanted a name to stick with us for a long time and something anyone in the river valley community could consider their own," James said.



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Jimmie Allen belts out a song at the inaugural Bend of the River Festival at Blakeslee Stadium on Saturday night. A portion of the proceeds from the event went to MSU Athletics and high school athletic programs in the area.

Planning for the event started back in November of 2021. While lining up artists and vendors took nine months to coordinate,

James is hopeful to make the festival a yearly occurrence based on the outcome of the event.

"We hope to make this a mainstay in the community and keep it coming year after year," James said.

Juan Moreno was the winner of the competitive division of the cornhole competition. Moreno competed as a part of Central Minnesota Cornhole, a St. Cloud based organization that runs cornhole tournaments around Minnesota. Moreno has been with the group for three years.

"We started in 2020 and said 'let's get this [group] going, and then Covid hit. Because nothing was open, we waited a year to get competitions going,'" Moreno said.

While Moreno said that he enjoys hanging out and meeting new people, his competitive streak hasn't gone away. Moreno has been playing cornhole for nine years and practices for tournaments quite a bit.

"I practice 10 hours a week for tournaments. The sport's growing and I'm hoping to get better," Moreno said.

Throughout the festival, MSU athletes were in attendance, signing autographs on posters. Following the cornhole tournament, IV (Foreplay) was the first band of the night to perform. Artist Jason Nix followed shortly after.

Academy of Country Music **FESTIVAL on page 2**



DYLAN ENGEL • The Reporter

Before the performances at the Bend of the River Festival this weekend, people had the chance to watch a cornhole tournament. Both competitive and social divisions took place with the winners earning a cash prize.

◀FESTIVAL from page 1

Awards (ACM) New Female Artist of the Year nominee, Priscilla Block, then took the stage and performed her most well known song, “Thick Thighs.”

After her performance, MSU President Edward Inch, Kevin Buisman and Stomper came to the stage to receive the \$50,000 check MSU Athletics received from the event. Local

high schools raised \$2,500 for their schools and volunteers for the event put in 350 hours of service.

As the sun set and the sky turned dark, headliner Jimmie Allen performed his set.

Allen was awarded New Artist of the Year at the Country Music Asscoaiton Awards and New Male Artist fo the Year at the ACM awards this year in

March.

Best known for his song “Best Shot,” the Delaware local danced and sang his way up until the end of the night that concluded around 9:45 p.m.

With plenty of performances and fun to be had, the Bend of the River Festival brought the community together for a good cause.

◀CULTURE from page 1

represent the Lower Sioux and a dance.

“I really like to dance. It makes me feel alive. I get to be myself when I dance, and I just feel happy,” Espinoza said.

MSU had a presence at the Wacipi through a booth with information for prospective students and community members interested in Indigenous Peoples Day events on campus.

MSU students were at the booth as well as Heutmaker, including freshman Tamera Smith.

“I have friends that are native, and I wanted to learn more about the Wacipi,” Smith said.

Near the entrance to the grounds was the education tent where spectators could learn more about the U.S.-Dakota War, and the Dakota 38. This execution was the largest in American history, and hap-

pened in 1862 in Mankato. The tent also had information about modern issues, such as the high rates that Indigenous women go missing in the U.S. compared to other groups and the lasting impacts of Native American boarding schools.

The Mahkato Wacipi is made possible by a volunteer committee that does the planning for each year. For committee leader David Brave Heart, this Wacipi is his final one serving the community in this way. Brave Heart suffers from ALS, and is stepping down after this year.

“Everyone in a leadership position wants a well-oiled machine that empowers all the volunteers and workers. At what point are we going to pass that on to the next leaders? I like the term ‘service leadership’. I lead by example, and try to build a solid community,” Brave Heart

said.

In addition to dancing, those who attended had access to countless vendors selling anything from jewelry, regalia materials, and musical instruments. There was also an abundance of concessions for dancers to fuel themselves through the weekend.

Even with all the other aspects of the Wacipi, Brave Heart’s focus always comes back to the history of the Mahkato Wacipi.

“My favorite memories are always the Grand Entries. They happen for the people and have the spirit of people coming together—visiting, laughing, telling jokes. But keep your eye on the reason we’re here— to reconcile what happened in 1862. We’re trying to change a narrative on both sides. To me, that’s what means the most,” Brave Heart said.



KALEB BETWOS • The Reporter

Students attended the Careers in Nursing and Healthcare Career Fair to learn more about potential job opportunities. The nurses’ strike in Minnesota has several students looking closer at areas of employment.

◀STRIKE from page 1

to facilities in the Twin Cities area such as Abbott Northwestern.

“Some of our students are out three weeks while the hospitals prepare for all of the nurses coming in from out of state,” Young said.

Students must put in 60 hours for their clinical sites over the span of a few weeks. According to Young, three of those clinical groups are missing about 30 hours of those 60.

Lauren Merten-Johnson, a third-semester senior in the nursing program, is a student representative of her clinical cohort at Abbott Northwestern.

“We weren’t allowed to go to our clinical so now we have to make those hours up in one way or another,” Merten-Johnson said.

Being a part of a hospital that has a union is an important quality she looks for when job searching post-graduation

in May.

“You can’t provide sufficient patient care if you aren’t backed by the facility you work for. We see the benefits of the strike but also the downside because we are not able to have clinical,” Merten-Johnson added.

Nurses may be subjected to 12-hour work days and all-around patient care. Other nurses around the state have been seeing the results of the strike as there was an influx of patients in other hospitals.

“At the clinical place I was at, there were more patients because they were coming from the other hospitals that were affected so it was busier than usual,” Piper Gare, second-semester nursing student at MSU, said.

Other students in the program agreed that, even though they were still able to attend their clinical sites, they were

STRIKE on page 4▶

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MSU's 2022 Homecoming royalty announced

By **JULIA BARTON**
Editor in Chief

This year's Homecoming royalty welcomes 10 new members as homecoming festivities are planned throughout this week at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

This year's royalty consists of Gabriella Sanchez, Dylan Gregory, Nick Huynh, Koshangi Jha, Emma Knutson, Kayla Dorshak, Elizabeth Spiegelhoff, Tyler Pickel and Maria Rios De Santiago.

The homecoming committee has selected 10 MSU students who they think represent the student body and university. On Thursday, following the lip-sync contest, two will be chosen for king and queen regardless of their gender or sexual orientation in the Bresnan Arena.

Those who put their name in the hat this year all did for unique reasons.

Nick Huynh, who is on this year's royalty court is also a senior at MSU majoring in bio-medical science and chemistry and is looking forward to the week of school spirit. "I never really had a high school experience, I started college when I was 16 years-old," Huynh said. "This is my last year so I want to get involved as much as I can and have a big celebration."

Others wanted to represent the student body and all of the different layers that make up



JULIA BARTON • The Reporter

Homecoming royalty Elizabeth Spiegelhoff (left), Emma Knutson, Kayla Dorshak and Nick Huynh at the Centennial Student Union Mall on Monday.

MSU.

"I wanted to apply because I wanted to represent everything MSU does like academics, sports or RSO's and to support the community," Kayla Dorshak, a senior at MSU majoring in Mass Communications, said. "I'm looking forward to the lip-

sync because that is always a fun one to go to."

Those who are selected to the court are chosen by using a 10-point scale. The categories include how well they demonstrate leadership on campus, involvement in campus activities, academic excellence and their

ability to represent MSU with a positive image.

"I wanted to do royalty because I think our campus overall has a lot of ways to get involved and make a difference on campus," Emma Knutson, who is on MSU's royalty court and senior majoring in dance and market-

ing, said. "I'm taking part in the food-eating contest this week."

Those who are on the royalty court this year are judged based on a rubric that includes 15% attendance at homecoming events, 40% candidate interviews and 45% being judged on the royalty vote itself.

◀**STRIKE** from page 2

aiding more patients than normal.

"It was kind of hard because

I was on a med search floor so my nurse had three to four patients and I'm only with her for one patient, so I didn't really get

to talk to her as much," Kiersten Hanisch, second-semester nursing student at MSU, said.

The nurse's union is seeking

about a 30% raise in salary over the span of three years. However, most hospitals in the Twin Cities have stated it is not within their

budget and have countered at a 10-12% raise over those three years according to the Twin Cities Hospital press release.

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Kick off homecoming week by attending several events

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

Homecoming week is officially in motion at Minnesota State University, Mankato. To kick off homecoming, MSU hosted an event yesterday at the Centennial Student Union Mall for students to hear live music and get pumped up for the festive week ahead. The band, “Mark Joseph and the American Soul,” played from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and played both covers and original songs. Students seemed to enjoy the music as some took photos and videos while doing their homework.



JULIA BARTON • The Reporter

Homecoming week kicked off with a performance by “Mark Joseph and the American Soul” on the Centennial Student Union Mall Monday.

Senior at MSU, Meghan Larson, was at the event yesterday. Larson was sitting and enjoying the live music while doing homework. She is trying to do what she can in her last year to be involved in events happening during homecoming week.

“Being positive on campus and going to events happening on campus, like listening to the live music,” said Larson. “The band was pretty good. I only heard their last song, but they still sounded good.”

One of the events hosted this week is the lip-sync battle happening on Thursday, Sept. 22. The event takes place in the Bresnan Arena in the Taylor Center. Larson said she might be going to the event to show school spirit.

“I think just everything going around on campus is fun.

Lip-sync is always really fun to watch, and their performances are usually pretty good,” said Larson. “I’ve also just been seeing what’s going around on campus. So that’s kind of what I’ve been doing lately.”

On Saturday, Sept. 24, a homecoming parade will happen at noon. It will start on Warren Street and end on Stadium Road. Organizations like the Maverick Machine, the homecoming royalty, and many other student groups will be marching in the parade.

Matthew Jensen, a junior at MSU and drum major for the Maverick Machine, will be conducting the band through the parade and during the football game. He is excited for the busy week ahead of him and

showing his school spirit.

“I love seeing the entire crowd all just in purple and gold and cheering for our team to win the game,” said Jensen. “I’ll be in the parade with the Maverick Machine, and it will be an awesome time. [I’ll be wearing] purple and gold all week.”

Maggie Howe, a junior at MSU, lives on one of the streets where the parade will take place.

“I heard there was a parade, and that sounds fun. I live on Stadium Road, so I might be at the parade, but I’m not too sure about it,” said Howe.

Students can go to MSU’s website and click the homecoming tab to learn more about this week’s events.

How to get a student loan refund if you paid during Covid



MANUEL BALCE CENETA • Associated Press

Students in Delaware celebrate 2022 graduation. The Department of Education says borrowers who hold eligible federal student loans and have made voluntary payments since March 13, 2020, can get a refund.

By ADRIANA MORGA
Associated Press

When President Joe Biden announced a plan to forgive student loan debt, many borrowers who kept making payments during the pandemic wondered if they’d made the right choice.

Borrowers who paid down their debt during a pandemic freeze that started in March 2020 can in fact get a refund — and then apply for forgiveness — but the process for doing that hasn’t always been clear.

If you think you’re eligible, here’s what you need to know:

Borrowers who hold eligible federal student loans and have made voluntary payments since March 13, 2020,

can get a refund, according to the Department of Education.

For some people, that refund will be automatic.

You can get a refund without applying if your payments brought your loan balance below the maximum debt relief amount: \$10,000 for all borrowers, and \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients.

Borrowers can check their balance in their studentaid.gov account.

For example, if a borrower paid \$100 a month for 10 months of the pandemic and their balance is now \$8,000, that \$1,000 will automatically be refunded.

Then they can apply to get the rest of their debt forgiven.

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Strong earthquake shakes Mexico's Pacific coast



FERNANDO LLANO • Associated Press

People gather outside after a magnitude 7.6 earthquake was felt in Mexico City, Monday, Sept. 19. There were no immediate reports of damage from the quake that hit at 1:05 p.m. pacific time.

By FABIOLA SANCHEZ and MARIA VERZA
Associated Press

A magnitude 7.6 earthquake shook Mexico's central Pacific coast on Monday, killing at least one person and setting off a seismic alarm in the rattled capital on the anniversary of two earlier devastating quakes.

There were at least some early reports of damage to buildings from the quake, which hit at 1:05 p.m. local time, according to the U.S. Geologic Survey, which had initially put the magnitude at 7.5.

It said the quake was centered 37 kilometers (23 miles) southeast of Aquila near the boundary of Colima and Mi-

choacan states and at a depth of 15.1 kilometers (9.4 miles).

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said via Twitter that the secretary of the navy told him one person was killed in the port city of Manzanillo, Colima when a wall at a mall collapsed.

In Coalcoman, Michoacan, near the quake's epicenter, buildings were damaged, but there were not immediate reports of injuries.

"It started slowly and then was really strong and continued and continued until it started to relent," said 16-year-old Carla Cárdenas, a resident of Coalcoman.

Cárdenas ran out of her family's hotel and waited with neighbors.

UN leaders discuss Covid's impact

By BIANCA VAZQUEZ TONESS and JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

With COVID-related school disruptions setting back children around the world, activists implored world leaders Monday to prioritize school systems and restore educational budgets slashed when the pandemic hit.

The summit on transforming education, held at the U.N. General Assembly ahead of the annual leaders' meeting, was expected to produce commitments from the world's nations to ensure that children everywhere from sub-Saharan Africa to the United States don't fall too far behind.

"Seven years ago, I stood on this platform hoping that the voice of a teenage girl who took a bullet in standing up for her education would be heard," said Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai, a U.N. messenger of peace.

On that day, countries, corporates, civil society, all of us committed to work together to see every child in schools by 2030. It is heartbreaking that halfway through that target date, we are facing an education emergency."

Nigerian youth activist Karimot Odebode was more pointed. "We demand you take responsibility," Odebode told the General Assembly. "We will not stop until every person in every village and every highland has access to an education."

The percentage of 10-year-old children in poor and mid-



SETH WENIG • Associated Press

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai speaks during the Transforming Education Summit at United Nations headquarters, Monday, Sept. 19. The UN discussed Covid's impact on global education.

dle-income countries who cannot read a simple story increased to an estimated 70% — up 13 percentage points since before the pandemic shuttered classrooms, according to a report from the World Bank, UNESCO and UNICEF.

Will the world's leaders do enough to help their youngest citizens learn to read and gain the other skills they need to thrive? It will require addressing systemic problems that existed before the pandemic, dignitaries and students say.

Countries will need to increase spending, change policies to increase access for girls and disabled students, and modernize instruction to stress critical thinking rather than rote memorization.

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for us to radically transform education,"

U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed told reporters ahead of the education summit at U.N. headquarters in New York. "We owe it to the coming generation if we don't want to witness the emergence of a generation of misfits."

When COVID-19 closed schools around the world in spring 2020, many children simply stopped learning — some for months, others for longer.

For many, there was no such thing as remote learning. More than 800 million young people around the world lacked internet access at home, according to a study by UNICEF and the International Telecommunication Union in December 2020.

More recent studies underscore the pandemic's lasting effects. "The learning losses from COVID were enormous," Mohammed said.

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Queen Elizabeth II mourned around world

By DANICA KIRKA,
MIKE CORDER and
SAMYA KULLAB
Associated Press

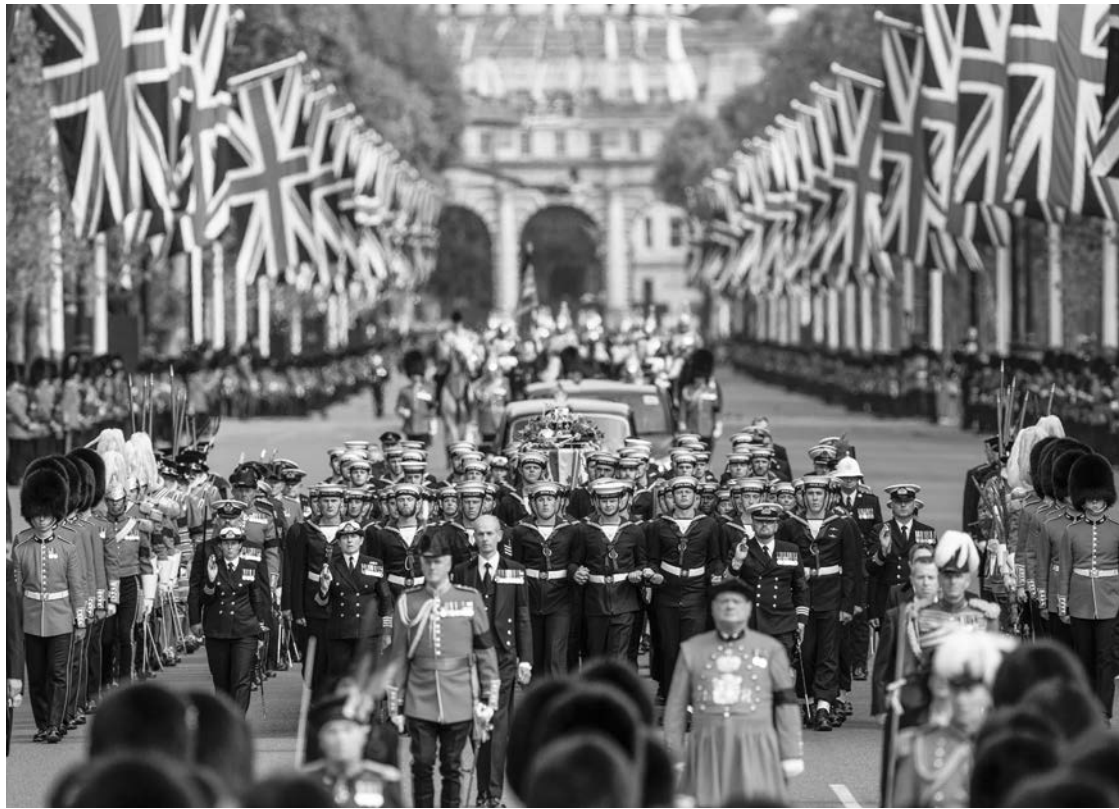
The United Kingdom and the world bade farewell to Queen Elizabeth II on Monday with a state funeral that drew presidents and kings, princes and prime ministers — and crowds in the streets of London and at Windsor Castle — to honor a monarch whose 70-year reign defined an age.

In a country known for pomp and pageantry, the first state funeral since Winston Churchill's was filled with spectacle: Before the service, a bell tolled 96 times — once a minute for each year of Elizabeth's life.

Then, 142 Royal Navy sailors used ropes to draw the gun carriage carrying her flag-draped coffin to Westminster Abbey, where pallbearers bore it inside and about 2,000 people ranging from world leaders to health care workers gathered to mourn.

The trappings of state and monarchy abounded: The coffin was draped with the Royal Standard and atop it sat the Imperial State Crown, sparkling with almost 3,000 diamonds, and the sovereign's orb and scepter.

But the personal was also present: The coffin was followed



VADIM GHIRDA • Associated Press

The coffin of Queen Elizabeth II is pulled past Buckingham Palace following her funeral service in Westminster Abbey in central London, Monday, Sept. 19. The Queen will be buried next to her late husband, Prince Phillip.

into the church by generations of Elizabeth's descendants, including King Charles III, heir to the throne Prince William and 9-year-old George, who is second in line.

On a wreath atop the coffin, a handwritten note read, "In

loving and devoted memory," and was signed Charles R — for Rex, or king.

"Here, where Queen Elizabeth was married and crowned, we gather from across the nation, from the Commonwealth, and from the nations of the

world, to mourn our loss, to remember her long life of selfless service, and in sure confidence to commit her to the mercy of God our maker and redeemer," the dean of the medieval abbey, David Hoyle, told the mourners.

The service ended with two

minutes of silence observed across the United Kingdom, after which the attendees sang the national anthem, now titled "God Save the King."

The day began early when the doors of Parliament's 900-year-old Westminster Hall were closed to mourners after hundreds of thousands had filed in front of her coffin.

Monday was declared a public holiday in honor of Elizabeth, who died Sept. 8 — and hundreds of thousands of people descended on central London to witness history.

They jammed sidewalks to watch the coffin wend its way through the streets of the capital after the service.

As the procession passed Buckingham Palace, the queen's official residence in the city, staff stood outside, some bowing and curtsying.

Mark Elliott, 53, who traveled from the Lake District in northern England with his wife and two children to watch the procession, got up at 1:30 a.m. to stake out a good viewing location near the palace.

"I know we don't know the queen, but she's been our head of state for 70 years, you feel as though you know her, you feel as though she's part of the family. It is kind of moving," he said.

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MANKATO MOVERS

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Editorial

Editorials represent the opinions of The Reporter editorial board. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the college, university or student body.

Julia Barton
Editor In Chief

Emma Johnson
News Director

Lilly Schmidt
Variety Editor

Show that Maverick Spirit

Homecoming is the week that is the most looked forward to. With several events taking place throughout the week, students should seize the opportunity to partake in all the opportunities the university has to offer.

Homecoming allows students to build a sense of community. It is the time of year for students to share a bond over their community and school they attend.

It gives students a chance to see what clubs and activities students can join, which is a great way for students to get involved. With all the events that take place, there are several opportunities to make new friends.

Whether it is participating in game day tailgating or going to the lip sync battle, students are bound to meet others with similar interests.

The week of homecoming also creates a sense of school spirit. By uniting with other students and organizations.

Students can get overwhelmed by schoolwork and extra-curriculars and by taking time to focus on fun activities can boost student's overall moods.

Wearing purple and gold, screaming the absolute loudest and taking time to spend with your friends boosts not only the school's spirits, but everyone's attitudes as well.

With all the festivities going on, there is bound to be something for everyone. Attend the lip sync battle, watch the food eating competition or cheer at the bonfire; at least one of the events should catch your attention.

With the week ending in the concert, parade and football game, the energy just grows and grows. Students should have no problem attending one, if not, several events throughout the week.

Homecoming also creates memories through students. Students never know what event will create a memory that they recall years from now.

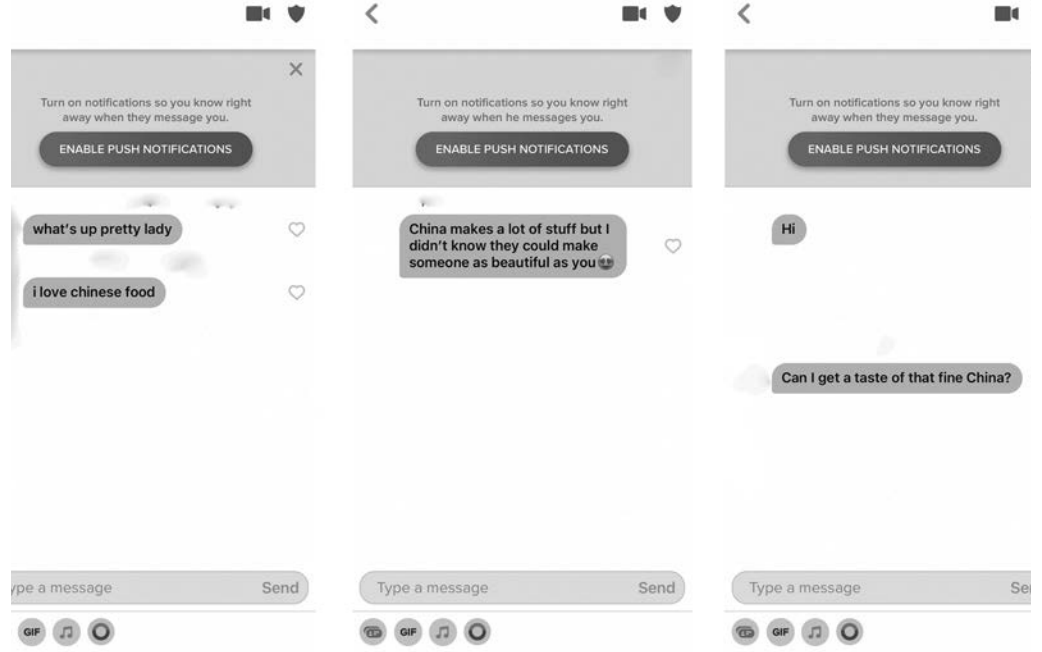
Be it the victorious football win or the rowdy cheers of watching the bonfire tower collapse, the most memories are made during homecoming week. However, these memories cannot be made if students do not participate in the events homecoming has to offer.

Homecoming only happens once a year and students should take advantage of every event that occurs at MSU.

Students should step out of their comfort zones and participate in everything they can to ensure that their school spirit does not go to waste.

Perspectives

Made in China: is this normal?



JULIA BARTON • The Reporter

Above are some real messages I was sent on Tinder within the last few months.

By JULIA BARTON
Editor in Chief

As I heard the all too familiar sound of the Tinder *ding* go off on my phone while I pretended to do my homework, I opened my phone with excitement just to be disappointed by another white male asking me “what’s your favorite anime?” I sighed. I don’t even watch anime, so why would he ask that? Then I remembered: I’m Asian.

Dating online has become the norm for anyone 30 years old or under. In today’s society, “sliding into the DM’s” is how most people meet, if not through a mainstream dating app. I am no exception as most college students in their 20s have Tinder, Hinge, Bumble and the list goes on.

However, I don’t think it is the norm to be so specifically addressed about your particular race right out of the gate as the first pickup line to a girl.

Initially, I thought I was the only one receiving pickup lines such as “I love Chinese food” or “Can I get a taste of that fine China?” Then I realized this was so weird.

I’m not sure if it’s the microaggressions or the flat-out racism that really makes me fall head over heels for a guy. I even got a message that said “ni hao” (knee how) which is “hello” in Chinese.

One of the more unique ones I recently received was “Were you apart of the one-child policy adoption boom?” That one, I admit, was kind of funny, albeit true.

Coming to Mankato and living in a predominantly

white city, I have experienced so many out-of-pocket comments on dating apps that were unprovoked. In all honesty, I am guilty of addressing the elephant in the room and making a quick joke about it before someone else does. That is how I survived growing up in a white suburban city. I even have a tattoo that says “Made in China.”

I will never forget the first date I went on with a Chinese guy.

We booked a nice dinner at a sushi restaurant and had a great time chatting about our dream jobs until he asked me “so do you speak Mandarin?” I immediately blushed out of embarrassment and sarcastically said “no, is that a deal breaker?” He then proceeded to say “Well kind of. My mom only speaks Mandarin so it would

COLUMN on page 9▶

Pulse

“What homecoming event are you excited for?”

Compiled by Bisrat Tadesse



KATELYN MISSLING,
FRESHMAN

“Bonfire.”



KAYLA DENNY,
FRESHMAN

“Movie on football field.”



LEXI FRUTH,
FRESHMAN

“Movie on football field.”



EYOEL AREGAHEGN,
SOPHOMORE

“The Homecoming football game.”



KIRUBEL MICHAEL,
SOPHOMORE

“Bonfire.”



TAMER AYOUB,
SENIOR

“Looking forward to watching the football game with my friends.”

Uvalde children grapple with gun trauma

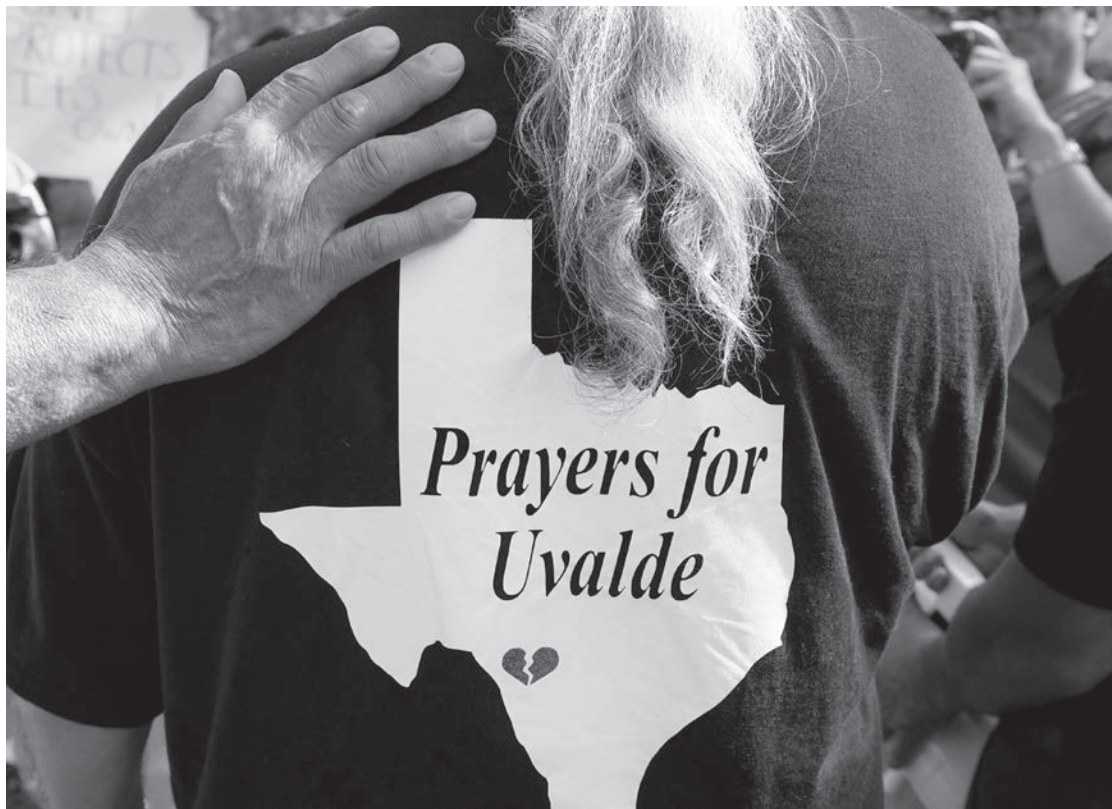
By ACACIA CORONADO and ADRIANA GOMEZ
Associated Press

One girl runs and hides when she sees thin people with long hair similar to the gunman who stormed into her Uvalde school and killed 21 people. One boy stopped making friends and playing with animals. A third child feels her heart race when she's reminded of the May 24 massacre that killed a close friend — once at such a dangerous pace that she had to be rushed to a hospital, where she stayed for weeks.

The 11-year-old girl has been diagnosed with anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. She and her family spoke to The Associated Press on condition her name not be used to protect her identity.

"I never lost someone before," she said, adding that her friend who was among the 19 students and two teachers killed in the United States' deadliest school massacre in a decade would encourage her through hard times. "She was a very strong person."

As students get ready to return to school in Uvalde on Tuesday for the first time since the massacre at Robb Elementary, PTSD symptoms are start-



ERIC GAY • Associated Press

Students who survived the May 24 shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas are spending the summer grappling with post-traumatic stress disorder. Meanwhile, parents find themselves unable to help them.

ing to show. Parents are finding themselves unable to help, and experts worry because communities of color such as the largely Hispanic city of Uvalde face disparities in access mental

health care. For low-income families, it can be even harder, as access to limited resources requires long waits for referrals through medical assistance programs such as Medicaid. "It's

hard hearing what these kids are going through at such a young age," said Yuri Castro, a mother of two boys in Uvalde, whose cousin was killed in the shooting and whose sons were once

taught by the two slain teachers.

Castro knows of children so traumatized they have stopped speaking. School shootings dramatically upend survivors' lives. For some, symptoms linger for years and high-quality treatment can be difficult to find.

In recent years, Texas lawmakers have focused on spending money on mental health services, devoting more than \$2.5 billion during the current fiscal year.

But according to the 11-year-old girl's family — lifelong residents of Uvalde — the only mental health center in the area — just blocks from Robb Elementary — was seldom used or discussed, raising worries about the lack of awareness regarding signs and symptoms of mental illness and the stigma surrounding seeking help.

The mother of the 11-year-old girl whose racing heart led to her hospitalization says open conversations about mental health were previously taboo in the heavily Latino community, where culturally, mental health is brushed off as feeling lazy, bored or throwing a tantrum.

"I remember growing up it was like, 'Go over there, you are just being chiflada,'" the mother said, using a Spanish word that means "acting spoiled."

◀COLUMN from page 8

be hard to communicate with her." Needless to say, there was no second date.

Even when I was young I remember my mother telling me that because of my race boys would like me. At the time I

brushed it off thinking "what is she talking about, no boys ever come up to me in school." I now understand what she meant.

I get this identity pushed on me that I don't even identify with. Jokes on them, I'm actually adopted.

All of the Asian stereotypes they are looking forward to fetishizing all head down the drain.

Society, especially in the past few years, has felt so bipolar to me when it comes to their view of Chinese people.

One year, everyone blames us for bringing Covid into the United States with former President Donald Trump calling it the "China virus" or others calling it "The Kung Flu."

The next year, I get labeled as foreign and exotic; someone

who has an "exciting persona."

As a Chinese woman, why should I have to fear the guy I just matched with on Tinder having an Asian fetish?

I am proud of being Chinese; however, my heritage is not your 'How you doin;')

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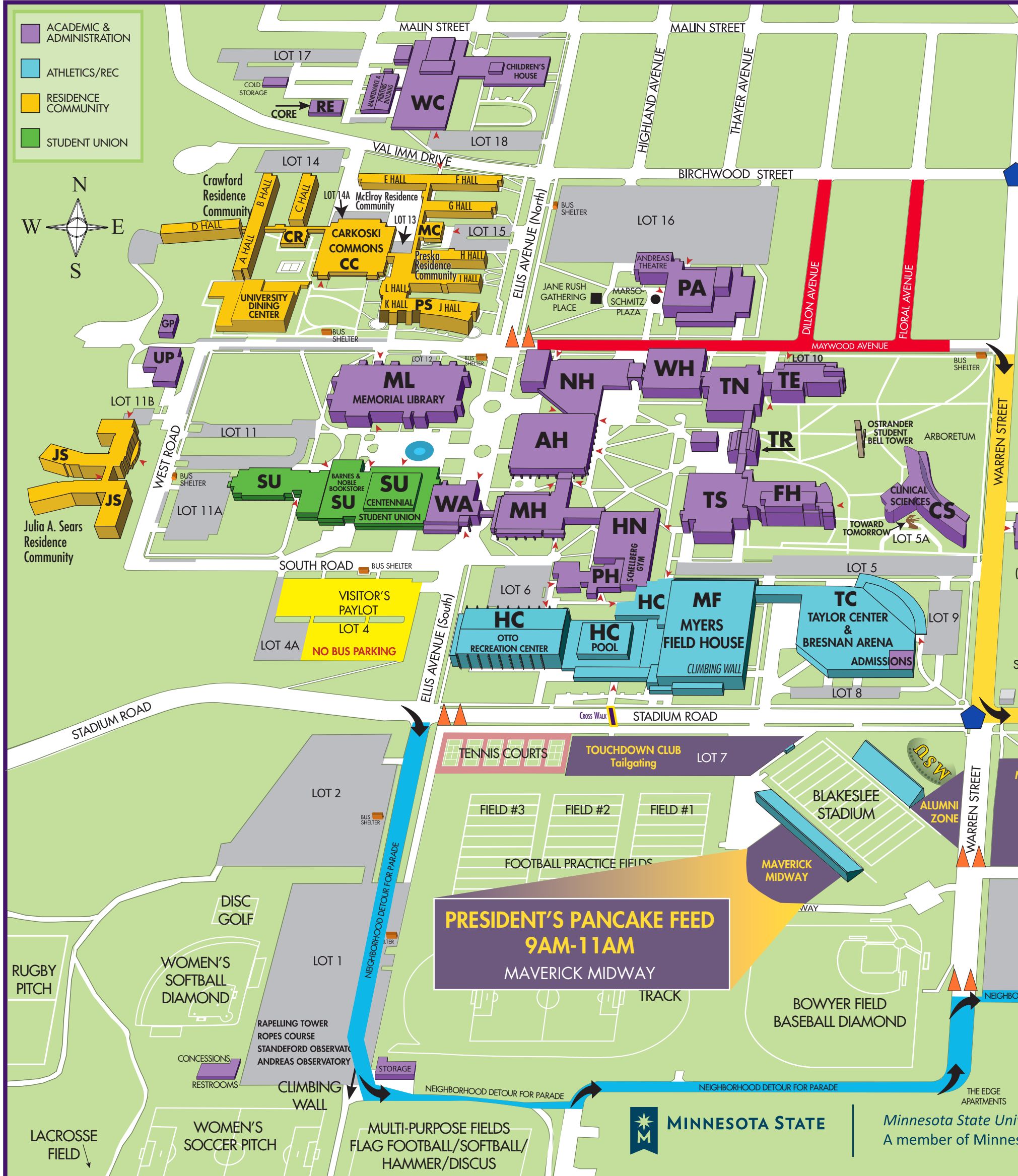
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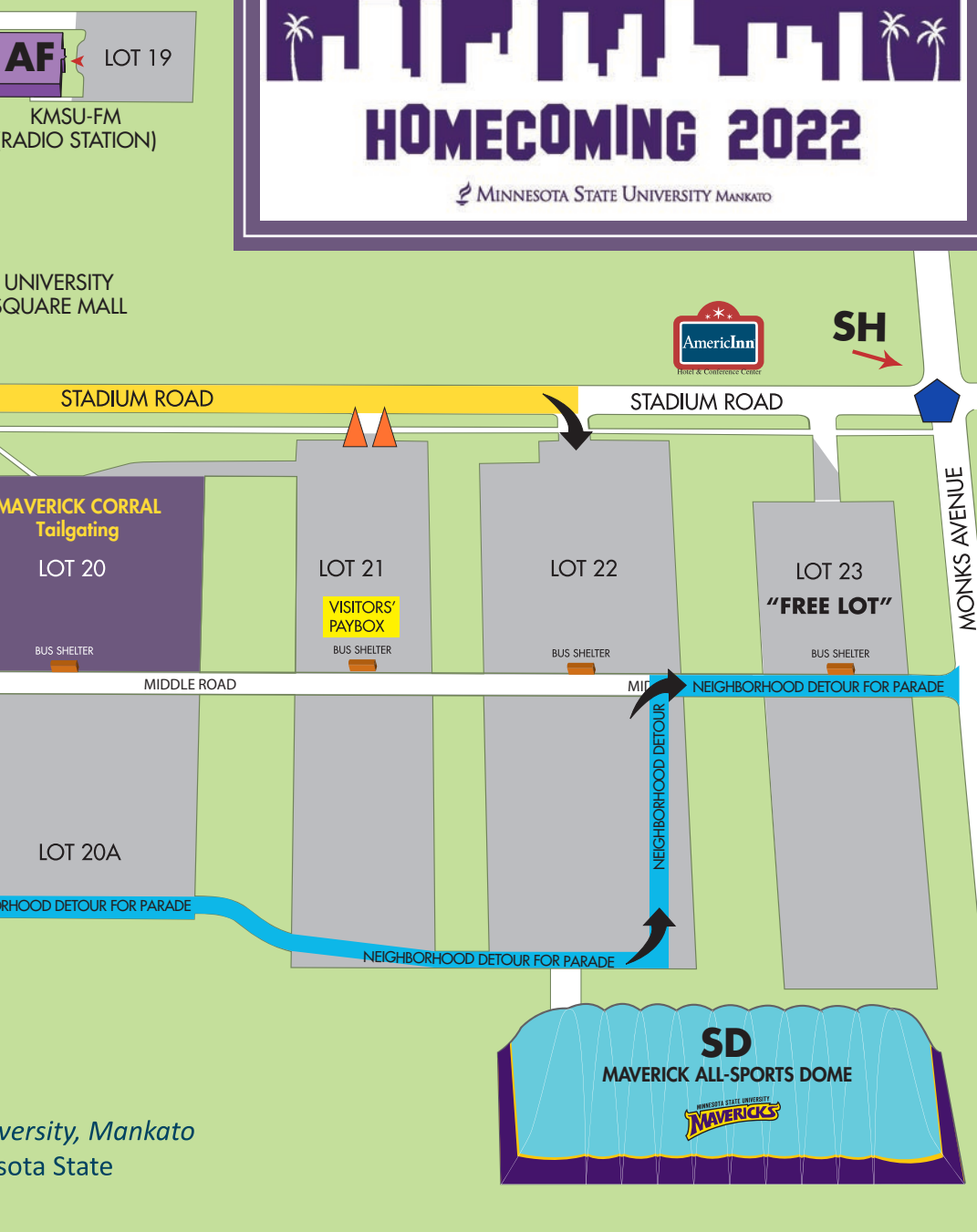
WELCOMING 2022

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PARADE MAP

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

- Route ■
- Line-Up General Units ■
- Neighborhood Detour for Parade ■
- Police Officer with Car ⬠
- Road Blocked ▲▲



EVENTS

HOMECOMING ROYALTY VOTING

[HTTPS://MANKATO-MNSU.PRESENCE.IO/FORM/2021-HOMECOMING-ROYALTY-VOTING](https://mankato-mnsu.presence.io/form/2021-homecoming-royalty-voting)

Voting opens September 19th at 8 AM and is open until 12 PM September 22nd

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[HTTPS://MNSUEVENTTICKETS.UNIVERSITYTICKETS.COM/EVENT.aspx?id=1621](https://mnsueventtickets.universitytickets.com/event.aspx?id=1621)

Kick-Off Event - 12:00 PM

CSU Mall

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Dodgeball Tournament - 7:00 PM

Myers Field House

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Food Eating Contest - 12:00 PM

Hearth Lounge

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Office Decorating Contest - Judging 2 PM

Minnesota State Campus

Homecoming Lip Sync & Coronation

7:00 PM

CSU Ballroom

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Athletics Hall of Fame - 7:00 PM

CSU Ballroom

Bonfire + Fireworks + Concert - 7:00 PM

Blakeslee Stadium

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

President's Pancake Breakfast - 9:00 AM

Blakeslee Stadium

2022 Homecoming Parade - 12:00 PM

Warren Street, Mankato

Alumni Zone - 12:30 PM

Blakeslee Stadium

Football vs. University of Mary - 2:00 PM

Homecoming Game - Blakeslee Stadium

SPORTS

Mavs capture first place in Call of Duty



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

On Saturday, Sept. 17, Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center in downtown Mankato hosted the Rockstar Energy Collegiate Esports Invitational in the main arena.

By ALI REED
Staff Writer

After a day consisting of over 12 hours of gaming in front of a large audience and numerous cameras, Minnesota State University, Mankato's Esports team captured the first place trophy for Call of Duty.

On Saturday, Sept. 17, Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center in downtown Mankato hosted the Rockstar Energy Collegiate Esports Invitational in the main arena. 16 schools from the Midwest area came together to compete for the top spot in three different video games, with

\$5,000 on the line.

The three games consisted of Call of Duty: Vanguard, Rocket League and Super Smash Bros Ultimate. Each school showcased the talents of two teams for Call of Duty and Rocket League, while only one team from each school competed in Super Smash Bros. Multiple games were being played at the same time around the arena, while Call of Duty took over the main stage.

Two players from one of MSU's Call of Duty teams shared their thoughts on the event. "Looks great, I'd definitely love to come here again," said Peyton Vegdahl (Bibby). "It has

been so fun. It's a really great atmosphere," said Braden Patterson (Bladezy).

Setting up for the event took hours of work the night before. Screens were set up across the entire floor area, as well as the stage, with gameplay being shown on two jumbotrons. Sponsoring companies had interactive booths placed in the back. Bleachers were in place on the sides of the arena with many people watching as the competition unfolded.

To apply even more pressure, professional gamer GarrettG was at the event. He spoke early in the day and later set up a meet and greet booth. He spent

time with players and fans and offered up his gaming advice. "I think it's awesome having him here," said Patterson. "It's a great way to grow the event."

The world of Esports is in fact growing immensely. Colleges across the nation have launched Esports programs at an increasing rate. Patterson touched on his thoughts about the growth rate of Esports. "I think it will only get bigger and bigger as more people see it and get into it," said Patterson. "It will become more common with events like these, so hopefully we can continue traveling."

Anyone who was unable

to attend, the Invitational was filmed and live streamed on 'Twitch.' The event was very professional, with commentators talking viewers through the gameplay. For those with interest in checking out the events of the competition, it is still available to stream on "MinnesotaStateMankato" 'Twitch' account.

The Mavericks put up a stunning performance in all three games, but nothing could get in the way of placing in Call of Duty. Both MSU teams made it into the top three, with Maverick Gold placing 3rd and Maverick Purple taking home the grand prize.

Opendorse backs Minnesota State University, Mankato athletes

By CHARLIE GROEBNER
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State University Mavericks are proud to announce a brand-new sponsorship to the athletics program.

Opendorse has become the official

NIL sponsor of Maverick athletics and athletes. One of the more talked about topics in collegiate sports for the longest time has allowing students to be paid and market their likeness to companies.

While student athletes put their bodies on the line for nothing, both

schools and leagues are making money off the success of the programs and play from the events.

In June 2021 several states passed Name, Image, Likeness Laws (NIL) which granted students the ability to make money from third parties and publicly promote themselves.

As a result, both schools and leagues are lifting a lot of the bans the have on students' athletes making money.

The big factor in all of this is how much of an impact that this has on student athletes.

They are the ones who are reaping

ATLETES on page 13 ►

Esports invitational at the Civic Center



Photos by Lilly Anderson

16 schools from the Midwest area came together to compete for the top spot in three different video games, with \$5,000 on the line.

ATHLETES from page 12

the rewards of all the hard work they have done. Andrew Miller, freshman goaltender said that the agreement has been beneficial not only for himself, but for several student athletes.

“I was excited about it, I always thought it was interesting that we couldn’t do stuff like this. In the past we worked so hard as kids to get this level and could only get paid through scholarships. Now we can do these agreements and make money of our name and likeness. Especially since I have known people who have worked incredibly hard to get to this level and now can make what they are worth,” said Miller.

One of the ways that will help students in navigation NIL is currently the newest sponsor of the MSU Mavericks.

Opendorse is a site that has become one of the most popular sites for student athletes to market and promote them-

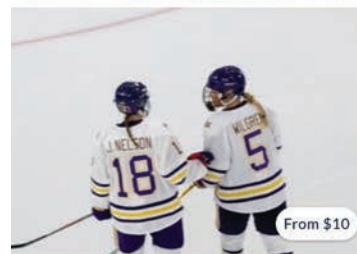
selves.

Once they create their own profile, they can set specific prices for appearances, autographs, and even be recommended business deals.

Currently they are partnered with several different colleges from the likes of Alabama, Ohio State, Oregon, and other big-name universities. Now they are starting to expand to lesser-known schools like Pacific Lutheran, Saint Thomas, and of course MSU.

Miller said that he has been blown away with how involved that they have been since they agreed to sponsor them.

“Last year they came to us and have been an absolute trailblazer for us. They have helped us with every single aspect of the process of finding the deals. It also is nice because the student athletes get 100% of the profit. We have been absolutely blown away about what they have been doing for us and look forward to this partnership,” said Miller.



amie Nelson Women's Ice Hockey • Minnesota State Univ... opendorse.com

JULIA BARTON • The Reporter

In June 2021 several states passed Name, Image, Likeness Laws (NIL) which granted students the ability to make money from third parties and publicly promote themselves.

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Diggs scores 3 TDs for Bills in 41-7 rout of Titans

By JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

Josh Allen threw four touchdown passes, including three to Stefon Diggs, and the Buffalo Bills rolled past Derrick Henry and the Tennessee Titans 41-7 in their home opener on Monday night.

The Bills followed a season-opening 31-10 rout of the Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams by throttling an opponent that has been their nemesis in each of the past two seasons. Fullback Reggie Gilliam and linebacker Matt Milano, with a 43-yard interception return, also scored touchdowns for Buffalo. Allen topped 300 yards passing for the 15th time of his career, completing 26 of 38 attempts for 317 yards, and sat out the entire fourth quarter. Diggs had 12 catches for 148 yards. He has exceeded 100 yards in each of his first two games, a feat accomplished previously for the Bills only by Hall of Famer Andre Reed.

“When we execute, how we know we’re supposed to execute, success typically leads to success,” Allen said. “We’re just trying to be the best version of ourselves.”

The Bills have topped 30 points twice after doing so nine times last year. And their defense limited Tennessee to 182 yards of offense and 12 first downs, while registering two sacks and forcing four turnovers. The Titans, coming off a 21-20 season-opening loss to the New York Giants, opened 0-2 for the first time since 2012. The two-time defending AFC South champions face numer-



JEFFERY T. BARNES • Associated Press

Buffalo Bills’ Stefon Diggs, second from left, celebrates with quarterback Josh Allen, second from right, after they connected for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans.

ous questions about a defense that gave up 313 yards passing a week after allowing 238 yards rushing. Meantime, Henry and their offense continue to sputter. The two-time rushing champion was limited to 25 yards on 13 carries while scoring on a 2-yard plunge.

“We got our (butts) kicked, plain and simple,” coach Mike Vrabel said after the most lopsided loss in his four-plus seasons coaching the Titans. “They outplayed us and they outcoached us, and that’s the definition of it. We’re going to go back to work and try to figure out how to win

a football game.”

Injuries affected both teams, the most serious involving Bills cornerback Dane Jackson, who hurt his neck in a troubling collision with a teammate and was taken to a hospital for evaluation. The Bills said Jackson had full movement in his limbs.

Coach Sean McDermott said Jackson was still awaiting test results. The entire Bills team gathered around Jackson as he was loaded into an ambulance on the field.

“You go from being a coach to just a human. That’s a real moment,” McDermott said.

“Just praying for him. It’s an unfortunate situation.”

Otherwise, the two-time defending AFC East champion Bills continued making a splash in their second consecutive prime-time appearance, while at the same time easing frustrations of the past, including a 42-16 loss to Tennessee in 2020.

Still stung by memories of Allen being stuffed for no gain on fourth down near the goal

line in the final seconds of the last season’s loss 34-31 loss in which Buffalo squandered a seven-point fourth-quarter lead, the Bills scored on their opening drive and never looked back.

“When you can play a game like that, it doesn’t matter who it’s against,” Allen said. “That’s a good team that we played. It’s a very well-coached team. For us to go do that was great.”

Up 10-7, Allen and Diggs took over by connecting for two touchdowns spanning halftime. Faking left, Allen found Diggs in an opening for a 4-yard touchdown with a minute remaining in the second quarter.

Allen and Diggs then blew the game open by connecting on a 46-yard touchdown on Buffalo’s first possession of the second half. Given time in the pocket, Allen threw a perfectly placed pass to Diggs, who reached out to catch the ball before tumbling head-first into the end zone.

The wheels fell off for the Titans, who were outscored 24-0 in the third quarter. Tennessee rookie Kyle Philips muffed a punt for a second consecutive week, and Ryan Tannehill threw interceptions on consecutive possessions.

Tannehill finished 11 of 20 for 117 yards and was benched following Milano’s interception with 3:49 left in the third quarter. Rookie Malik Willis took over, and if Tannehill continues to struggle, Tennessee fans will want to see more of the young backup.

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Jefferson keeps Vikings moving in new offense

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

Justin Jefferson has proven to be one of the most difficult receivers in the NFL to cover, starting his third season seemingly with the potential to dominate the game for the next decade.

The Minnesota Vikings are trying to toughen the task for their opponents, just by making it harder to figure out where Jefferson is going to be.

As the 23-year-old keeps moving up on the lists of all-time records, the Vikings are moving him around the field as much as their playbook and the rules will allow — particularly before the snap.

“I can be so many different places,” Jefferson said. “That’s how we kind of get away from the man to man, and if they do play man to man, we’ve got something for it.”

New coach Kevin O’Connell uses the term “illusion of complexity” to describe the offense he and his staff have installed with the Vikings, meaning an attempt to make the other team think there’s a lot going on when the assignment for each player is actually quite simple. Jefferson’s first of two touchdowns in the opener last week against Green Bay, when he torched the Packers for 184 receiving yards in the 23-7 victory, was a fourth-down play that began with him running from left to right behind quarterback Kirk Cousins before the ball was snapped. Fellow wide receiver Adam Thielen was lined up in the slot, and his slant route prompted two Packers defenders to initially



BRUCE KLUCKHOHN • Associated Press

Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Justin Jefferson (18) celebrates after catching a pass for a first down during the second half of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers, Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022.

turn his way. That left Jefferson all alone in the flat for the walk-in score.

“You know seven times out of 10 that he’s involved in the offensive play. Then when you get him moving, now the defense has to think — rethink what he’s doing from the position that he started in to what he’s doing in the new position,” said Vikings cornerback Patrick Peterson, providing the other-side-of-the-ball perspective. “It’s going to be a great ride, and I can’t wait to see where it’s going to take us.”

Thielen, who’s in his 10th year in the league, has marveled at Jefferson’s swift mastery of the position since he was drafted in the first round in 2020.

“He makes it look so easy and smooth that it doesn’t really like flash out at you,” Thielen said. “Maybe the play wasn’t necessarily designed for man coverage, but he was able

to beat it anyway.”

The syncing of the offense will be challenged on Monday night when the Vikings visit Philadelphia and those relentlessly raucous Eagles fans. Jefferson will be squarely in the spotlight again, as the player the Eagles passed on to draft wide receiver Jalen Reagor instead, one spot in front of him.

“That’s when I like to have the best game, to showcase to the world what I have, and my argument is being the best receiver,” Jefferson said, adding: “Every mock draft had me going to Philly, so when Philly was on the board, getting a phone call and it being Minnesota, it was definitely a shocker. But I’m definitely happy, way more happy, to be here than there.”

Reagor was traded to the Vikings last month. Minnesota also signed linebacker Jordan Hicks in the spring.

Astros clinch AL West for 5th time in 6 years

By DICK SCANLON
Associated Press

The Houston Astros clinched their fifth AL West title in six years, getting a leadoff home run from Jose Altuve in a 4-0 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Monday night.

“It’s been a great start to the season,” third baseman Alex Bregman said. “This is a first step in the right direction for this ballclub. We’ve just got to stay focused and know what a tough task is ahead of us.” Headed to the postseason for the sixth straight season, Houston won for the eighth time in nine games and improved the AL’s best record to 97-51.

“This is the start of it,” manager Dusty Baker said. “You’ve got to get to this point first, and then you get to the next point and the next point and the next point. You’ve just got to appreciate where we are right now, and get back to

work tomorrow.”

Houston has led by the division by nine games or more since June 15.

“Even though we expected to be here, it’s never something I take for granted,” pitcher Justin Verlander said. “I’ve been a part of a lot of teams that made the playoffs, but I’ve played with guys who played 10 years and never experienced this. All those things kind of run through your head in these situations.” Luis Garcia (13-8) won his fifth straight decision, giving up two hits and four walks in five innings while striking out four. Hunter Brown pitched three innings and Héctor Neris finished the five-hitter, the Astros 16th shutout this season.

“It was a fun ride and we’ve got to enjoy it,” said catcher Christian Vázquez, who was acquired on Aug. 1. “This is the first step and if we continue to do our thing, we’re going to be fine.”



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Qatari faces LGBT-rights appeal before World Cup

By CIARAN FAHEY
Associated Press

Qatar's ambassador to Germany was urged Monday to abolish his country's death penalty for homosexuality at a human rights congress hosted by the German soccer federation two months before the Middle East country stages the World Cup.

Fan representative Dario Minden switched to English to directly address the Qatari ambassador, Abdulla bin Mohammed bin Saud Al Thani, at the congress in Frankfurt.

"I'm a man and I love men," Minden said. "I do — please don't be shocked — have sex with other men. This is normal. So please get used to it, or stay out of football. Because the most important rule in football is football is for everyone. It doesn't matter if you're lesbian, if you're gay. It's for everyone. For the boys. For the girls. And for everyone in between."

Minden continued: "So abolish the death penalty. Abolish all of the penalties regarding sexual and gender identity. The rule that football is for everyone is so important. We cannot allow you to break it, no matter how rich you are."

You are more than welcome to join the international football community and also, of course, to host a big tournament. But in sports, it is how it is. You have to accept the rules."

Al Thani was to be given a chance to respond later, though his comments were to remain off the record. Only the opening 90 minutes of the federation's congress were broadcast to the



HESSEIN SAYED • Associated Press

Peru fans cheer before the World Cup 2022 qualifying play-off soccer match between Australia and Peru in Al Rayyan, Qatar, Monday, June 13, 2022.

public and no journalists were invited to the event.

Federation spokesman Stefan Simon said it was not the organization's decision to hold the majority of the congress off camera, but "we received a clear request from some participants that they would like to discuss these matters internally with us. They did not want to discuss in public. We respected that."

Qatar's laws and society have come under increased scrutiny in the past decade.

Major General Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Ansari, a senior leader overseeing security for

the tournament, previously told The Associated Press that rainbow flags could be taken from fans at the World Cup in Qatar to protect them from being attacked for promoting gay rights.

Al Ansari insisted that LGBTQ couples would still be welcomed and accepted in Qatar for the World Cup despite same-sex relations remaining criminalized in the conservative Gulf nation.

Before Minden spoke Monday, Al Thani complained to the congress that the issue of human rights was diverting attention from the tournament.

"We all care about human rights. But I would have enjoyed (it) more if I saw some concentration not only on just one subject, but the enjoyment of football and the football effect on people around the world," Al Thani said.

The ambassador referred to the last World Cup in Russia, its invasion and takeover of Crimea in Ukraine, and human rights abuses in that country, "and there was not focus, neither from Germany, neither from any country in Europe."

Al Thani said Qatar abolished the controversial kafala

system that required migrant workers to have a sponsor, a system that left many workers vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, and that the country had introduced a minimum working wage and a compensation fund for workers to make claims of rights abuses.

"Yes, we are not perfect. We are not claiming we are perfect, but it's a journey that we will write," Al Thani said.

The ambassador invited soccer fans to go for themselves to "enjoy the football, see the different cultures," and meet with migrant workers once they get there.

"You'll see them in hotels. You'll see them in public transport. Ask them," Al Thani said.

He then referred to Bayern Munich's long-standing sponsorship deal with Qatar.

"Bayern Munich has been spending the last four or five years coming for a winter camp in Doha. Why don't they speak out? Why don't they say they've been to Doha? (If) they think it's appalling, say it publicly, or just shut up," Al Thani said.

"Because you know, you have the ability to be there. You have the ability to meet the people, speak to them. If you think there is something wrong, say it. Do not hide behind the bush."

German soccer federation president Bernd Neuendorf called on the Qatari government to establish, "without any ifs or buts," working centers where migrants can go in the event of employer violations, and a compensation fund for the relations of workers who died or were injured on World Cup construction sites.

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VARIETY

MSU Professor art exhibition at 410



BISRAT TADESSE • The Reporter

The 410 Project is located downtown Mankato. It serves as space for artists and community members to explore contemporary art. Artist Wade Davis used COVID to explore art, and now that the chaos is coming to a calm, he is sharing his creations.

By JOEY ERICKSON
Staff Writer

On Friday, the 410 Project Gallery opened an art exhibition, showing pieces from MNSU professor Wade Davis.

According to Davis, the upcoming art show came from the last two years, and the rocky roads they've caused. After a global pandemic, protests in the street, and a presidential election that caused an uproar, Davis knew he had one thing to do.

"After months of doom-scrolling and staring at Zoom screens, I needed a change and a new challenge," Davis said. "For me, the answer was to roll up my sleeves and make art."



Courtesy Photo

Davis is a business law professor, having graduated and acquired a bachelor's, master's and doctorate degree, all related to law. While he's been

involved in the legal world for many years, his introduction to the art world is a relatively recent one. He created his first print just over a year ago.

Davis took a Sabbatical last

year, opening up his schedule and giving him room to engage in his newfound hobby.

"I haven't done any art since high school," Davis started, "It was the middle of COVID with everything going on...everything was serious and doom, I just picked up a pencil and took this little class online, and then from that I started back at it."

Much of Davis' artwork is inspired by childhood nostalgia; more specifically, the evolution of TV from when he was a kid to today, from a tiny nine-inch box set to a flat-screen and the MTV channel.

"It used to be that we had our little TV with the bunny ears and aluminum foil trying to get reception, and organizing our lights to get the two hours

Gallery on page 18▶

Getting comfy with the Women's Center

By LILLY SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

Mai Ker Thao struggled to feel comfortable with her identity as an Asian American. In order to fit in, she felt required to highlight the American portion of her identity - she had to "culturally switch."

It wasn't until Thao discovered the Women's Center that she reached the full potential of being comfortable with herself as an Asian American and as a feminist. Now, she is the Graduate Assistant for the Violence Awareness and Response Program.

"If students want an office like that, or space like that, I feel like the Women's Center is a space," Thao said. "The Women's Center is an office that supports anyone who identifies as a woman, but we are open to other students and we do a lot of academic advising. We do anything to support students."

In order to introduce new students to the Women's Center, they hosted a slumber party event. The event took place Thursday. The movie of the evening was "Hidden Figures," which is an autobiographical film about influential women of color at NASA.

Thao explained, "I'm calling it the slumber party and movie. We're actually gonna have a sleepover, but it's called that because they're gonna be staying later than what they're probably used to staying on campus."

MSU freshman Sohpia Nilson said, "It was a really fun event. The idea of a slumber party was really fun because it's snacks and a movie and comfortable clothes."

Freshman Claire Kirchner said, "I really liked that it was in the Women's Center because I didn't know where the Women's Center was. I knew it was in the CSU, but I don't know my way around the CSU. It was nice to be able to come to the CSU and learn not only where the Women's Center is, but where the multi-cultural center is."

Kirchner suggested, "If you're thinking about doing it and you're nervous, just do it. The worst that's going to happen is you're going to get there and you're gonna be like, 'Oh, so I guess this wasn't really my crowd.' And then guess what? You don't have to go again. Definitely don't knock it before you try it."

The movie was followed by a light discussion, and free blankets were given to those who attended. This event was MSU student Sofia Itskovich's first experience with the women's

WOMEN on page 19▶

Students get up close with rare animals at the reptile show

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

The Students Events Team organized for an employee of the Owatonna Reptile Amphibian Discovery (RAD) Zoo to visit Minnesota State University, Mankato, on Sept. 14 to show students the fascinating reptiles they have. The event took place of the Dunung Center lawn on campus from 12-3 p.m. Reptiles they displayed included snakes, turtles, and more. Jamie Pastika, the Zoo Director at Owatonna RAD Zoo, did three different shows, each an hour long.

Students watched Pastika give a 50-minute spiel on each

of the reptiles he brought, as well as walk the reptiles around the crowd for students to see them up close. After the show, students got to interact with the reptiles for ten minutes and ask him questions about the different reptiles he brought.

These events help educate students on reptiles and show that they are not as scary as one may think.

"I think it's great just for people to learn that these animals aren't scary, and to gain an appreciation for our wildlife," said Pastika. "We also have a show on Saturdays at the zoo. We try to make sure everyone gets up close and gets a chance to experience interacting with an animal." At-



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Squirt the alligator soaking up all the sun on the Dining Center lawn.

las James, the Educational Entertainment Board Member for

Student Events Team, helped REPTILES on page 18▶

Once home to a princess, Malta remembers the queen



RENE ROSSIGNAUD • Associated Press

An external view of Villa Guardamangia, Malta, Friday, Sept. 16, 2022, where the newlywed Princess Elizabeth lived for months at a time between 1949-1951.

By KEVIN SCHEMBRI ORLANDO
Associated Press

A dilapidated villa outside Malta's capital where a young Princess Elizabeth and her husband lived for a fondly recalled period before she became queen has become a focal point of Malta's remembrance of the late monarch and her ties to the former British colony in the Mediterranean.

Flowers and wreaths have crowded the door of Villa Guardamangia, where Elizabeth and Prince Philip spent months at a time between 1949 and 1951, following the death of the woman who would go on to serve for 70 years as Queen Elizabeth II. Philip, a Royal Navy officer, was assigned to Malta in the early years of the couple's marriage.

"Visiting Malta is always very special for me," the queen said in Malta in 2015, when she visited the island nation for a Commonwealth meeting in what became her final visit. "I remember happy days here with Prince Phillip when we were first married."

Unlike in some other former colonies, where the monarch's

death has conjured up memories of oppression or lasting economic disparities as a legacy of British rule, residents of Malta generally remember the monarch with respect.

The Maltese government in 2020 purchased Villa Guardamangia, which had fallen into disrepair, and is renovating the dwelling with the aim of turning it into a museum documenting the history of Malta's relationship with the British monarchy.

"Obviously, Malta was a colony, too, so there are people who also remember that Britain had colonized us," said former President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca. "But I don't think people really mix the issue of being colonized and the queen. The queen carried a lot of respect."

Malta's current president, George Vella, plans to represent the country at the queen's Monday funeral in London.

Malta's colonial past saw political clashes and a few riots, but also some pushes for the country to become closer to the United Kingdom. After attempts by a major political party for integration with the U.K. failed in the 1950s, Malta steadied on a path towards

self-determination and eventually gained its independence in 1964. Elizabeth remained Malta's head of state until 1974, when Malta became a republic.

"Having lived here when she was still a princess, Malta is the only country that Queen Elizabeth II could call home outside of the United Kingdom," said Noel Zarb, who helped handle communications for the Maltese president at the time of the monarch's last visit.

The Commonwealth is a political association of 56 countries, most of them former British colonies like Malta. Zarb recalled that as recently as the 2015 meeting in Valletta, "everywhere the queen went, there was still that sentiment of warmth, hospitality and welcome."

Coleiro Preca, who hosted the queen at San Anton Palace that year, said the queen remained interested in Malta and clearly had fond memories of her time there.

"She could remember a lot of details about Malta, especially about the time she spent in the country at the beginning of her marriage," the former president said.

◀GALLERY from page 17

of cartoons on a Saturday. And that ultimately, moved to cable and MTV," Davis said. "So that's one key thing, that theme of media and what it meant to grow up in the 80s as that media evolved."

Other themes Davis covers in his art include the idea of conforming and belonging in today's society, while challenging that notion at the same time, celebrating 80s pop culture. He even boarded his hori-

zons to imagine past lives for his adopted pets.

"I've got a 14-pound cat who's kind of the monster of the house, and we've got an old 8-pound poodle. Some of that [art]... I was like 'Well what do my pets do at night?' I put them in the middle of adventures... these adventures of their youth. It was projecting them out in things I think would be fun."

Some of the key takeaways Davis hopes that viewers take from his art include a reflec-

tion on growing up, light social commentary, and a bit of levity.

"I think that these images really resonate with people of my generation because it's what we grew up with, but also I think people of [Generation Z] because it's the history of looking back."

The art show's opening reception was last Friday, Sep. 16th, from 7 to 9 p.m., and the exhibition runs until Oct. 1st, all at the 410 Project Gallery.



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Snake challenges Stomper's position for most loved animal on campus.

◀REPTILES from page 17

organize this event. One of the things he does in his role is to bring in speakers that can help educate students and have fun with it.

"We held this kind of event last spring, and we loved the crowd, so we decided to bring it back again for this fall," said James. "We were able to bring it outside this time like we originally planned last spring."

One of the reptiles was an alligator, Squirt, who is roughly six years old. She had tape wrapped around her mouth because her bite was as hard as a dog's. Pastika did not want her to accidentally bite anyone who came to the show. It does not hurt the alligator, and he said it is like humans wearing a seatbelt. She only wears it during shows, taken off as soon as they return to the zoo.

Second-year student Valarie Weber said they had never pet an alligator before the show. However, after the experience, Weber said it was their favorite reptile from the show.

"I like snakes a lot, but I can't say I've ever pet an alligator before today. So that one would be my favorite," said Weber.

Another one of the reptiles brought out was Spike, a bearded dragon. The reptile is common in Australia and can

make excellent pets, as they are low-maintenance. First-year grad-student, Liz Jacobson, said that she would want to get a bearded dragon in the future, along with some snakes.

"I used to have a bearded dragon. I know in the future I want to have a couple of snakes and bearded dragons again," said Jacobson. "I think they're awesome. They seem chill."

Jacobson continued, "They seem good with interactions, and it's exciting to interact with the animals we don't see in nature all that much."

There are many opportunities for students to learn more about reptiles and other animals at the Owatonna RAD Zoo.

"We do have internships. We've had quite a few students come here to intern at our zoo. And later, many of them have worked at our zoo after internships," said Pastika.

"We also have some volunteer opportunities for those students that are really interested in working with reptiles but maybe not a full-on internship."

The event was a great way for students to interact with something outside their comfort zones and learn about opportunities outside of campus.

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Q&A: James Cameron on the return of 'Avatar'



ZACK FELLMAN • 20th Century Films via AP

This 2009 image released by 20th Century Films shows filmmaker James Cameron on the set of "Avatar." Cameron's long-awaited "Avatar" sequel, "The Way of the Water" will be released later this year. On Friday, "Avatar" will be re-released in theaters.

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

Thirteen years after James Cameron plunged moviegoers into the cosmic world of "Avatar," the lush, distant moon of Pandora is finally orbiting back into view.

Cameron's "Avatar" industrial complex has been whirling in high gear for some time; production on the upcoming sequel, "Avatar: The Way of Water," began back in 2017. But after shuffling through half a decade's worth of release dates, Cameron's science-fiction epic is poised to again blanket movie screens and transport willing travelers back, in 3-D, to the land of the Na'vi. For even the visionary filmmaker of "Titanic" and "The Terminator," the relaunch of "Avatar" is, as Cameron said in a recent interview from Wellington, New Zealand, "a big bet." A third "Avatar" is already in post-production, and production has begun on a fourth. The record-breaking \$2.8 billion in box office that "Avatar" grossed made the coming "Avatar" armada a far-from-risky wager. But a lot has changed since the original's release, when Netflix was still renting DVDs by mail and Cameron

was working for 20th Century Fox.

To whet moviegoers' appetites ahead of the Dec. 16 debut of the three-hour "Avatar: The Way of Water" — and remind them of a movie world they may have lost touch with — the Walt Disney Co. on Friday will rerelease "Avatar" in a remastered, 4K, HDR version that he says is "better than it's ever looked."

It's an opening salvo in Cameron's ambitious plan to sketch a yet-grander sci-fi saga, and to again conjure a cinematic experience, as he says, "that you simply cannot have in the home." Taking a break from all the "Avatar" juggling, Cameron talked re-watching the original, his expectation for "The Way of Water" and why he nearly quit the "Avatar" business.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Does "Avatar" seem like a long time ago to you?

CAMERON: It feels like yesterday at times and then obviously it feels like more than a decade other times. The time has passed quickly. I've been doing all sorts of interesting things. Deep ocean research. Building submersibles.

Writing four epic movies. Now finishing up "Avatar 2" and we're mid-process in post on "Avatar 3." So "Avatar" has never been far from my mind. I constantly go back to it, obviously in the remaster process making it better than it's ever looked before. I'm kind of just living on Pandora right now.

CAMERON: In terms of the presentation, we're authoring in high-dynamic range, which I think is very important. I don't think anybody should go see a movie because it's authored a certain way. That's just part of our showmanship. I think the reasons to see this film are the same reasons to see the first one. You enter a world. You become fully immersed in it. You feel like it surrounds you and you become an inhabitant there, and you get to linger there. You go on that journey. Of course, in the new film, it's a bit longer because we have more characters and more story to service. I think people are very story-driven. When they get a set of characters they like and they get involved in their problems, they'll follow it for scores of hours across multiple years of limited series. I'm not worried about that part of it.

◀WOMEN from page 17

center.
Itskovich described the environment as, "Safe, comfortable and a positive vibe."

This, in turn, is one of the goals of the center.

"We're hoping to be a safe space for students. We want them to have a space where they feel like they could be themselves or come relax, to

do homework and chill with friends. That's one of our big goals," Thao said.

In order to achieve this, Thao explained, "We give out free menstrual products, free condoms, [and] free pregnancy tests. We teach pregnancy resources and health resources, where to get STD testings. We do a wide range, and even if it's not related to our office, we still

want people to come in here and ask us, and we will always try to make sure we find them what they need, or lead them in the right direction."

The Women's Center is located on the second floor of the CSU, and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays for students to take advantage of any of these benefits.

Immersive Claude Monet exhibit planned for NYC



LUKAS SCHULZE • O&M via AP

This combination of photos shows images from "Monet's Garden: The Immersive Experience" in Berlin on Jan. 11, 2022.

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

Acres of water lilies will bloom on Wall Street this fall, at least digitally.

A massive, immersive exhibition celebrating French artist Claude Monet will make its U.S. debut in downtown New York starting in November, promising a multisensory experience that puts visitors as close to inside his iconic flower paintings as possible.

"Monet's Garden: The Immersive Experience" will splash the Impressionist pioneer's paintings across walls and floors of a spacious, one-time bank building and boost the effect by adding scents, music and narration in multiple language.

"To be able to address more

than just two senses I think will immerse people a bit more," said Dr. Nepomuk Schessl, producer of the exhibition. "We certainly hope it's going to be the next big thing."

Visitors will be greeted by aromas of lavender and water lilies wafting in the air and learn much about Monet, who during his long life evolved from a gifted but slightly conventional landscape painter churning out realistic images to a painter whose feathery brushstrokes captured shifting light, atmosphere and movement.

The exhibit begins Nov. 1 at the Seamen's Bank Building at 30 Wall Street and runs until Jan. 8. Tickets are on sale now, and Schessl hopes it will tour the U.S. in 2023.

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