

Mavericks at full capacity

By ALEXANDRA TOSTRUD
Staff Writer

Minnesota State's residence halls have implemented a waitlist for interested students. The five communities are at full capacity for the first time since COVID restrictions were in place for campus living.

Director of Residential Life Cindy Janney said she is optimistic about what the need for a housing waitlist means for campus culture.

"This feels better. COVID was hard on everybody. COVID was hard on CAs, it was really hard on hall directors," said Janney.

Maverick Insider, a newsletter run by the Centennial Student Union, stated there are over 100 students on the waitlist, but according to Janney, the availability and demand for housing will constantly shift throughout the fall semester.

While on the waitlist, Residential Life will suggest off-campus options.

"It's an ongoing process — what cancellations have come in, what spaces are now available, and who's on the waitlist that we can offer a space to. For example, if it's a space where the roommate is a man, and the person on the waitlist is a woman, then we aren't offering that person a space," Janney said.



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

Over Welcome Week, Residential Life helped students pack the dorm halls which are at full capacity.

Despite the waitlist, Res Life is ensuring current residents receive their desired living arrangements.

Unlike other universities across the country, dorm rooms designed for two are not being filled with three students, according to Janney.

Students on the waitlist will

also not be placed in more expensive room types than requested when possible.

"When the space we have available is more expensive than the student's request, and the student asks for a lower-priced room, we prioritize moving the student to the lower-priced room," Janney relayed from res-

idential staff.

While the freshman class of 2027 is not larger than last year's record-breaking size, MSU's current freshman class makes up most of the resident hall population.

"We tend to see them [returning students] moving to sin-
MOVE IN on page 2

Strike averted... for now

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

A potential strike involving 200 Minnesota State employees, along with members at six other universities in the Minnesota State system, was averted earlier this month when the two sides reached a tentative agreement.

The agreement, reached Aug. 15, will go before union members for approval Aug. 31. Votes will be counted Sept. 7.

Since April, the 2023-25 contract has been under negotiation. In a salary comparison on asfrising.com, since 2010, Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty's (MSUAASF) average increase in wages is 2.33%. The Minnesota Association of Professional Employees's (MAPE) average is just over 6%.

Union members say Wages haven't kept up with inflation. The strike would have affected multiple areas on campus such as athletics, financial aid and admissions, residential life, student activities and advising.

"We think that the work we do is really critical to supporting students and we want to be able to support our staff who are doing that work," Women's Center Director Liz Steinborn-Gorley said.

The strike was supposed to take place on the first day of classes. There are more than 200 MSUAASF members among MSU's employee ranks. Other campuses with MSUAASF members include Bemidji State, Metro State, Moorhead State, Southwest Minnesota State, St. Cloud State and Winona State.

Prior to the recent agreement, about 98% of MSUAASF voted to authorize a strike.

MSU faculty held a practice strike Aug. 3 before negotiations began. Faculty walked around campus near the intersection of Stadium Road and Ellis Ave. They waved homemade signs and chanted while cars honked as they passed.

Steinborn-Gorley said the practice strike was staged to show a significant

Boom Chicka Pop receives legacy award

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

Mankato received a "pop of positivity" as Angie's BoomChickaPop received a legacy recognition from the U.S Small Business Administration.

The SBA celebrated its 70th anniversary July 30. To mark the milestone, the SBA honored legacy businesses nationwide that grew from startups into household names.

While Minnesota chose to honor BoomChickaPop, other businesses recognized by the SBA were Chobani, Under Armour and Nike.

"To be in that group of businesses is an honor," BoomChickaPop Founder Angie Bastian said.

The recognition also meant a lot to Gov. Tim Walz, who was in attendance, as the Bastians are his neighbors and former colleagues.

"They're my dear friends and to watch a story of folks start a



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

Founders Dan and Angie Bastian (center and far right) were honored for the Small Business Administration 70th anniversary.

business in their garage and turn it into a multinational, multi-million dollar corporation while keeping the Mankato values is a big deal to me," Walz said. "It's exciting to see them be honored like this."

Bastian said when she and

her husband Dan bought their first kettle back in 2001, she "didn't imagine we'd be with the governor," or that the company would grow into what it is today.

"We never aimed for this, but every step of the way, we grew

and then we believed we could do the next thing. It was sort of surprising, but you never know what could happen," Bastian said.

Besides selling popcorn in the U.S., BoomChickaPop is an international company with products sold in Singapore, Peru and Canada to name a few.

Bastian said the success of BoomChickaPop helped other small businesses after they sold the company to Conagra Brands back in October 2017.

"A lot of our employees spun off and started their own businesses. They saw if we could do it, anyone could do it," Bastian said.

In addition to presenting the legacy recognition to the Bastians, Walz proclaimed Aug. 3 to be Small Business Administration Day.

SBA District Director Brian McDonald said the largest change they've experienced is how the program evolved depending on the economy's needs.
LEGACY on page 7

STRIKE on page 2

New student rally motivates Mavericks to be their best



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

President Edward Inch addressed the class of 2027 at the new student rally on Friday. Student Body President Sierra Roiger and Student Events Team Vice President Atlas James also gave remarks.

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

The class of 2027 received a warm Maverick welcome Friday at the new student rally.

Students packed the stands at Blakeslee Stadium as the Maverick Machine played tunes to pump students up.

Assistant Director of Student Events Team Bill Tourville said the mission for Welcome Week is to help students get adjusted to living on campus.

“We want students to meet new friend, feeling comfortable and getting ready for the classes so that they’ll be academically successful, but also socially successful,” Tourville said.

While the rally is a valued tradition at Minnesota State, it wasn’t always held on Friday. Tourville said the rally was amped up back in 2016.

“It was on Sunday right before classes started and we needed a little bit more of a pur-

ple and gold type celebration of being a Maverick,” Tourville said. “We worked together with Residential Life to have this on Friday mornings after most people moved in and they officially enter the university.”

Student Body President Sierra Roiger opened the event by telling students that having mixed emotions around starting school are completely normal and they aren’t in it alone.

“Reach out to your fellow students, your professors, your advisors. We’re all here to help you succeed,” Roiger said.

Roiger told students to immerse themselves into organizations around campus as well as resources for students to utilize such as the bus system and the Maverick Food Pantry.

She closed off her speech by recognizing their potential.

“You all are the future leaders, thinkers and change-makers of this world. So dream big, work hard, and never under-

estimate the impact you can make,” Roiger said.

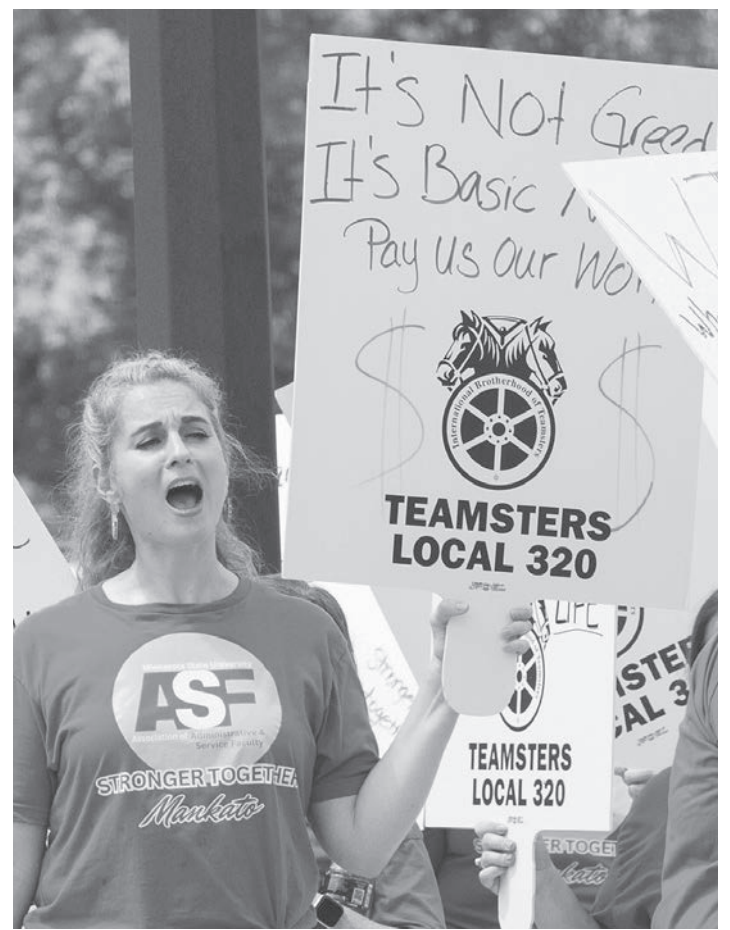
Following Roiger’s remarks, MSU President Edward Inch encouraged students to study hard, get involved and enjoy the experience of being in a university community.

“We want you to deeply immerse yourself in the various disciplines that you are going to study, but university life is more than sitting in the classroom,” Inch said. “There’s so many more things that happen on the university campus that are important for us to remember to engage in.”

Student Events Team Vice President Atlas James spoke on his journey to MSU from Kentucky and the opportunities he’s been given.

Having been homeless at 19 years old, he saved up enough money by working to get an apartment. He recalled his struggles led him to where he is

RALLY on page 3▶



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Faculty went on a practice strike earlier this month to protest for better wages after getting a 2% increase the last few years.

◀**STRIKE** from page 1

number of faculty would be impacted.

“We’re not weak. We have an incredible impact on the student experience,” Stein-

born-Gorley said, prior to the tentative agreement being reached. “Management will harm our students if we are forced to go on a strike because we don’t get an equitable contract at the bargaining table.”

◀**MOVE IN** from page 1

gle rooms,” Janney said.

Despite the higher costs associated with on-campus living, the residence halls provide a convenient experience for MSU students, even upper-classmen.

Henry Bowring-McDonough is a senior anthropology and Spanish double major who has lived in Preska, McElroy and Stadium Heights.

While many returning students find accommodations off-campus, Bowring-McDonough stayed in residential life for a convenient and stress-free experience after his semester abroad.

“I didn’t want to try and

find a mid-year lease, or deal with paying rent, or anything like that. I lived in campus housing abroad, too, so it felt like the easy choice,” he said.

Bowring-McDonough also noted the difference in a post-quarantine campus.

“My freshman year started in the fall of 2020 when things were a lot scarier. I just put on a Galactic Bingo with my co-lead Katie Stewart and our team of amazing volunteers from the Student Events Team and Fraternity and Sorority Life this past Saturday. I don’t think I could’ve imagined even going to something like that in 2020. I’m very proud of how far we’ve come and how different everything feels.”

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Fries are hot, but so is asking for consent



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Women's Center Director Liz Steinborn-Gorley spoke to students about the importance of consent in relationships and friendships.

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

Engaging conversation "Consent is Sexy: FRIES are HOT!" was organized by the Women's Center, LGBTQ+ Center, and Violence Awareness and Response Program to discuss sex and the importance of consent.

"This is going to be super fun, super interesting and embarrassing for everyone," said BreShaun Kearns, Graduate Assistant for Women's Center.

During the event, speakers talked about consent in various types of relationships. The conversation involved students via different games. The event began with a Kahoot game, where students had a chance to answer questions related to their sexual life.

Besides personal sexual life, the Kahoot asked students whether they were or knew someone who was sexually assaulted.

"Something we know is true is that the first six weeks of the Fall semester had the highest rates of sexual violence of the whole academic year. Based on our results here, we know that 36% of people in this room have experienced sexual violence," said Liz Steinborn-Gorley, the Director of the Women's Center. "That is why we are here today and try to do something engaging and memorable."

◀RALLY from page 2 today.

"I had a newfound determination that proved to me that I could do anything I want, to achieve anything. Here I am on the stage continuing to prove to myself that I can do that," James said.

Students then walked through the Alumni Arch near the bell tower on their way to the Backyard Bash.

Faculty and Greek Life lined the pathway, cheering them on as they entered their new chapter at MSU.

Freshman Josie Bohn is an agribusiness major who came

In addition to the games, the event presented skits and asked students to identify red and green flags using glow sticks given to the attendees. The event gifted french fries, t-shirts, and other items to over the 50 students in attendance.

"Just asking 'Can I give you a hug?' or 'Are you comfortable with that?' is an example of how people should use consent," said sophomore Emily Hodge. "Everyone has different boundaries, and knowing and asking about them is very important."

Senior student Mark Moore enjoyed learning something new via games at the event.

"I think it was important that they discussed the red flag/green flag situations and kind of talked about why someone would put up a green flag while a lot of other people put up the red flag," said Moore.

"Consent is Sexy: FRIES are HOT!" not only talked about students' sex lives but introduced various resources available for students on campus.

"I think it was good that they showed that there are different resources for people because when they asked if we know someone who has experienced sexual violence, there were a lot of people who said yes," said sophomore Graeson Quast. "So I think it's important that people know that there are resources so they can share them with others who need to know about it."

to MSU for the proximity to her hometown of Omaha, Nebraska.

"I wanted to go out of state, but I didn't want to go too far from home," Bohn said.

Freshman Macallan Meehling also attended the rally. As a Spanish major with an international business minor, Meehling said he's looking forward to meeting new people.

"I came to MSU because I like all of the opportunities they have," Meehling said.

While Bohn said she enjoyed the food and walking through the arch, Meehling

RALLY on page 11▶

Tropical Storm Hilary wrecks havoc

By DAMIAN DOVARGANES
and JORDI LEBRIJA
The Associated Press

Tropical Storm Hilary inundated streets across Mexico's arid Baja California Peninsula with deadly floodwaters Sunday before moving over Southern California, where it swamped roads and downed trees, as concerns mounted that flash floods could strike in places as far north as Idaho.

Forecasters said Hilary was the first tropical storm to hit Southern California in 84 years, bringing floods, mudslides, high winds, power outages and the potential for isolated tornadoes. The storm already dumped more than 6 inches (15.24 centimeters) of rain in some mountain communities and threatened more than an average year's worth of rain in inland desert areas.

Hilary made landfall along the Mexican coast in a sparsely populated area about 150 miles (250 kilometers) south of Ensenada Sunday, then moved through mudslide-prone Tijuana, threatening the improvised homes that cling to hillsides just south of the U.S. border. By Sunday evening, the storm had moved over San Diego and was headed north into inland desert areas.

As evening fell in California, the National Weather Service in Los Angeles warned of significant flooding risk throughout populous mountain areas along



DAMIAN DOVARGANES • The Associated Press

Homeless people use plastic tarps to shield themselves from a light rain brought by Tropical Storm Hilary in downtown San Diego.

the coast northeast of Los Angeles.



Mud and boulders spilled onto highways, water gushed onto roadways and tree branches fell in neighborhoods from San Diego to Los Angeles. Dozens of cars were trapped in floodwaters in typically hot and dry Palm Desert and surrounding communities across the Coachella Valley. Crews pumped floodwaters out of the emergency room at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage.

Hilary could wallop other Western states with once-in-a-century rains, with a good chance of it becoming the wettest known tropical cyclone to douse Nevada, Oregon and

Idaho. Hilary was expected to remain a tropical storm into central Nevada early Monday before dissipating.

The Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation's second largest school system, said all campuses would be closed on Monday. San Diego schools postponed the first day of classes from Monday to Tuesday.


"There is no way we can compromise the safety of a single child or an employee, and our inability to survey buildings, our inability to determine access to schools makes it nearly impossible for us to open schools," Superintendent Alberto Carvalho said at a media briefing.

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Kenry & Malik

Kenry about being a mentor: "I wanted to change someone's life and knowing that someone like Malik looks up to me and trusts me, means everything. Being a mentor is life changing; you never know whose life you can impact just by being yourself."

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Kelsey about being a mentor: "I wanted to become a mentor because I wanted to provide a support system for someone else. Mentoring not only makes a positive impact on your mentee, but you get to have fun while doing it! It's a relationship that will last a lifetime."



Hunter & Lincoln


Lincoln about having a mentor: "He understands what I'm saying & he has the perfect response... He's made a great impact on my life; he's like the friend that perfectly understands you... Thank you!"



Jayde & Kelsey

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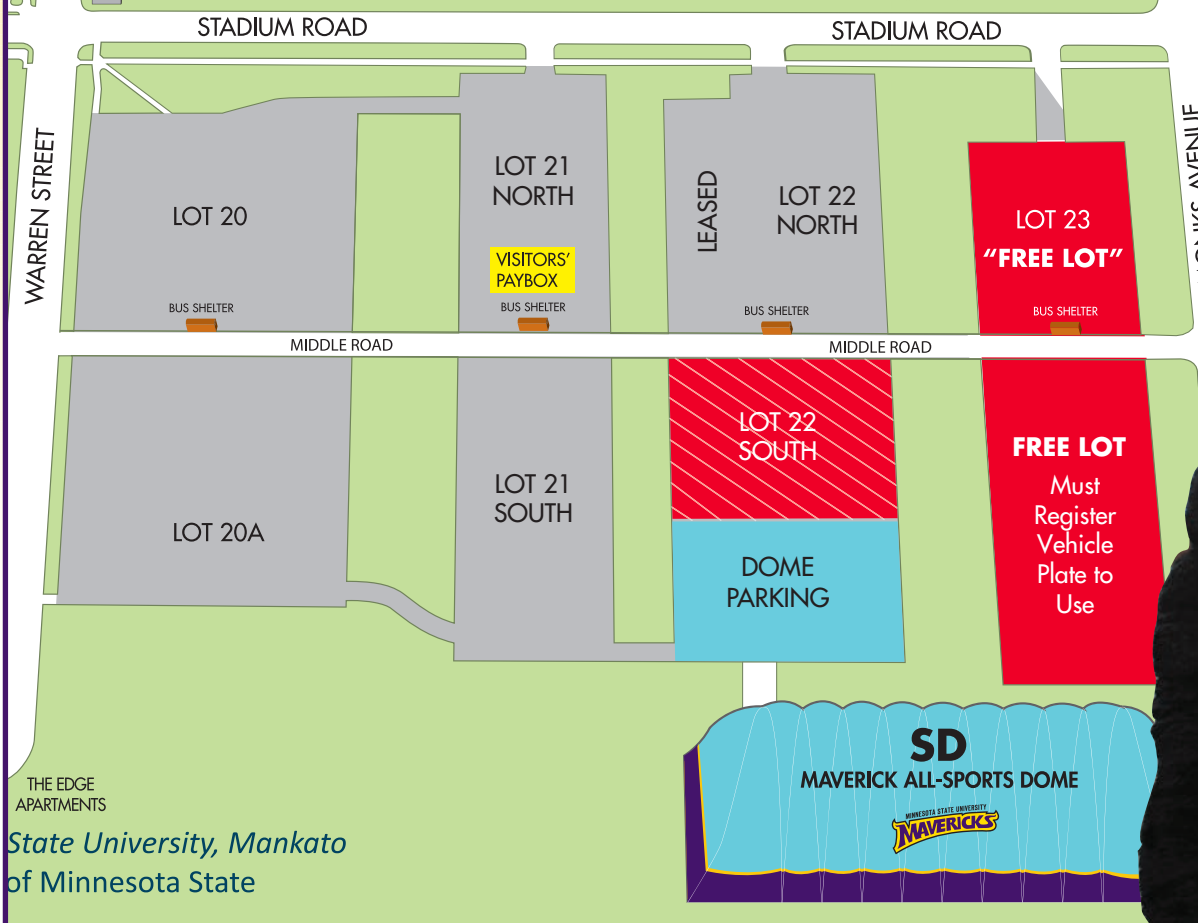
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State University, Mankato
of Minnesota State

FDA approves RSV vaccine for moms-to-be

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
The Associated Press

U.S. regulators on Monday approved the first RSV vaccine for pregnant women so their babies will be born with protection against the scary respiratory infection.

RSV is notorious for filling hospitals with wheezing babies every fall and winter. The Food and Drug Administration cleared Pfizer's maternal vaccination to guard against a severe case of RSV when babies are most vulnerable — from birth through 6 months of age.

The next step: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must issue recommendations for using the vaccine, named Abrysvo, during pregnancy.

(Vaccinations for older adults, also at high risk, are getting underway this fall using the same Pfizer shot plus another from competitor GSK.)

"Maternal vaccination is an incredible way to protect the infants," said Dr. Elizabeth Schlaudecker of Cincinnati Children's Hospital, a researcher in Pfizer's international study of the vaccine. If shots begin soon, "I do think we could see an impact for this RSV season."

RSV is a coldlike nuisance for most healthy people but it can be life-threatening for the very young.

It inflames babies' tiny airways so it's hard to breathe or causes pneumonia.

In the U.S. alone, between 58,000 and 80,000 children younger than 5 are hospitalized each year, and several hundred



Pfizer via The Associated Press

U.S. regulators on Monday, Aug. 21, 2023, approved the first RSV vaccine for pregnant women so their babies will be born with protection against the scary respiratory infection. Vaccines for older infants are on the way.

die, from the respiratory syncytial virus.

Last year's RSV season was extremely harsh in the U.S., and it began sickening tots in the summer, far earlier than usual.

Babies are born with an immature immune system, dependent for their first few months on protection from mom.

How the RSV vaccination will work: A single injection late in pregnancy gives enough time for the mom-to-be to develop virus-fighting antibodies that pass through the placenta to the fetus — ready to work at birth.

It's the same way pregnant women pass along protection against other infections.

Pregnant women have long been urged to get a flu shot and a whooping cough vaccine — and more recently, COVID-19 vaccination.

Pfizer's study included nearly 7,400 pregnant women plus their babies. Maternal vaccination didn't prevent mild RSV infection — but it proved 82% effective at preventing a severe case during babies' first three months of life. At age 6 months,

it still was proving 69% effective against severe illness.

Vaccine reactions were mostly injection-site pain and fatigue. In the study, there was a slight difference in premature birth — just a few weeks early — between vaccinated moms and those given a dummy shot, something Pfizer has said was due to chance.

The FDA said to avoid the possibility, the vaccine should be given only between 32 weeks and 36 weeks of pregnancy, a few weeks later than during the clinical trial.

If enough pregnant women get vaccinated, Pfizer has predicted the U.S. could prevent as many as 20,000 infant hospitalizations a year and 320,000 doctor visits.

The only other option to guard babies from RSV: Giving them lab-made antibodies.

The FDA recently approved a new drug that's the first one-dose version, recommended for all infants younger than 8 months before their first RSV season starts.

Beyfortus, from Sanofi and AstraZeneca, is expected to be available this fall.

Cincinnati's Schlaudecker, a pediatric infectious disease specialist, said both the new antibody drug and the maternal vaccine are eagerly anticipated, and predicted doctors will try a combination to provide the best protection for babies depending on their age and risk during RSV season.

Another Cincinnati Children's physician who's cared for seriously ill RSV patients volunteered to participate in Pfizer's vaccine study when she became pregnant.

"The last thing a parent wants to see is their kid struggling to breathe," Dr. Maria Deza Leon said. "I was also at risk of being the person that could get RSV and give it to my son without even realizing."

Deza Leon received her shot in late January 2022 and her son Joaquin was born the following month.

While she hasn't yet learned if she received the vaccine or a dummy shot, Joaquin now is a healthy toddler who's never been diagnosed with RSV.

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Alabama can enforce ban on puberty blockers and hormones



KIM CHANDLER • The Associated Press

On Monday, Aug. 21, 2023, a federal appeals court ruled that Alabama can enforce a ban outlawing the use of puberty blockers and hormones to treat transgender children.

By KIM CHANDLER
The Associated Press

A federal appeals court ruled Monday that Alabama can enforce a ban outlawing the use of puberty blockers and hormones to treat transgender children, the second such appellate victory for gender-affirming care restrictions that have been adopted by a growing number of Republican-led states.

A three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated a judge's tem-

porary injunction against enforcing the law. The judge has scheduled trial for April 2 on whether to permanently block the law.

Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall called the ruling a “significant victory for our country, for children, and for common sense.”

“The Eleventh Circuit reinforced that the State has the authority to safeguard the physical and psychological wellbeing of minors,” Marshall said.

In lifting the injunction, the judges wrote that states have “a compelling interest in protecting children from drugs, particularly those for which there is uncertainty regarding benefits, recent surges in use, and irreversible effects.”

The decision leaves families of transgender children, who had been receiving treatment, scrambling for care. The injunction will remain in place until the court issues the mandate, which could take several days.

Stem cells from one eye show promise in healing



BUTCH DILL • The Associated Press

Phil Durst, who has undergone an experimental stem cell procedure with his eyes, sits for a portrait in Homewood, Ala. His left eye bore the brunt of a 2017 work accident, which stole his vision.

By LAURA UNGAR
The Associated Press

Phil Durst recalled clawing at his face after a chemical from a commercial dishwashing machine squirted into his eyes, causing “the most indescribable pain I’ve ever felt — ever, ever, ever.”

His left eye bore the brunt of the 2017 work accident, which stole his vision, left him unable to tolerate light and triggered four to five cluster headaches a day.

Then he underwent an experimental procedure that aims to treat severe injuries in one eye with stem cells from the other.

“I went from completely blind with debilitating headaches and pondering if I could

go another day — like really thinking I can’t do this anymore” to seeing well enough to drive and emerging from dark places literally and figuratively, he said, choking up.

The 51-year-old from Homewood, Alabama, was one of four patients to get stem cell transplants as part of the first U.S. study to test the technique, which could someday help thousands.

Though additional treatment is sometimes needed, experts say the stem cell transplant offers hope to people with few if any other options.

Results of the early-stage research were published Friday in the journal *Science Advances*, and a larger study is now underway.

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Immigrant workers' lives, livelihoods and documents in limbo



JAE C. HONG • The Associated Press

When the most deadly U.S. fire in a century ripped across the Hawaiian island, it damaged hundreds of drinking water pipes, resulting in a loss of pressure that likely allowed toxic chemicals along with metals and bacteria into water lines.

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN, JULIE WATSON and ANDREW SELSKY
The Associated Press

Freddy Tomas was working in his yard in Lahaina when the fire advanced with stunning speed right up to his fence. He rushed to save valuables from a safe inside his house but realized he didn't have time and fled, his face blackened with soot.

Days after fleeing in his pickup truck, amid smoke so thick he could only follow the red taillights of the vehicle in front of him and pray they were going the right way, the retired hotel worker from the Philippines returned to his destroyed home with his son to look for the safe. Tomas, 65, said it had contained passports, naturalization papers, other important documents and \$35,000.

After sifting through the ashes, father and son found the safe, but it had popped open in the fire, whipped by hurricane-force winds, and its contents were incinerated.

For immigrants like Tomas, Lahaina was an oasis, with nearly double the foreign-born population of the U.S. mainland. Now, those workers are trying to piece their lives back together after the Aug. 8 fire leveled the town.

Maui County and the Maui Police Department on Sunday confirmed the identities of another five victims of the wildfires that devastated the area, the county website said. The confirmed death toll remained at 114 as investigators continued to search the area.

Hawaii Gov. Josh Green said Sunday on the CBS News show "Face the Nation" that "an army of search and rescue teams" with 41 dogs have cov-

ered 85% of the impacted area.

Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen said in a social media post Sunday that 27 victims have been identified and 11 families were notified of the losses. The FBI and the Maui County Medical Examiner and Coroner office are working together to identify the recovered remains.

"There are currently 850 names on the list of missing persons," Bissen said, adding that the number represented a positive change from the original list containing more than 2,000 names.

"Over 1,285 individuals have been located safe. We are both saddened and relieved about these numbers as we continue the recovery process. The number of identified will rise, and the number of missing may decrease," Bissen said, explaining there is an expectation of daily fluctuations and that he plans to provide an update each day.

Jobs had been plentiful in the town that boasted a row of restaurants and shops along Lahaina's Front Street, bordering the azure waters of the Pacific.

Lured as well by its beautiful vistas and laid-back lifestyle, foreign workers had flocked to Lahaina from all over the world.

And they contributed significantly to the population and economy.

The presence of immigrant workers in Lahaina boosted the proportion of its foreign-born residents to 32%, compared to 13.5% for the United States as a whole, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated in July 2022.

The labor shortage related to the COVID-19 pandemic created more opportunity for job seekers. In February, employers

were trying to fill 14,000 jobs in Hawaii — roughly double the number of unfilled job openings that existed before the pandemic, Hawaii News Now reported, citing state economists. Restaurants in Lahaina were literally hiring people off the street.

Many foreign-born workers lost everything in the inferno. Some residents perished.

The Mexican Consulate in San Francisco said two men were confirmed dead and was helping to arrange the return of their remains to their families in Mexico. A Costa Rican man was also among the 100-plus dead and many more remain missing.

The consulate said some 3,000 Mexican nationals are believed to be living on Maui, many working in pineapple fields, in hotels and restaurants, and other establishments with ties to tourism.

Mexico's Consul General in San Francisco, Remedios Gomez Arnau, dispatched three staff members to Maui to help Mexican citizens deal with the tragedy.

The Mexican government has been in contact with at least 250 of its citizens in Maui, she said, and reissued passports and birth certificates lost in the fire.

"Many of them lost everything because their homes burned down, and they lost their documents," she said in an interview Friday.

With businesses burned down, legions of those who survived are now jobless. Many are also without a place to live after the blaze also tore through housing of many people who worked at the town's hotels and resorts. And others are without a clear path forward.

◀LEGACY from page 1

"Most recently during the COVID pandemic, we were able to find \$22 billion in pandemic relief to Minnesota small businesses. They're a big component of the workforce and a huge driver of the economy, so supporting small businesses is a win-win," McDonald said.

McDonald said small businesses are impacting Minnesota's economy as over 543,000 small businesses have brought in more than \$33 million. They also make up 46% of the workforce.

Walz said small businesses have played an important role in furthering Minnesota's economy.

"Small businesses are foundational. We were recently named the top five business state, top four state to live in and we have the fifth most diverse economy," Walz said. "Those things happen when people can have good jobs like they can at BoomChickaPop and across the Mankato community. It's exciting."

McDonald said the reason they honored BoomChickaPop with the legacy recognition was

for the impact it has had on the community.

"It's a story of starting small, not going at it alone and using SBA programs and resources," McDonald said. "They worked with mentors for seven years and now there's over 300 people. It's really the American Dream."

Walz said he'd like to see small businesses grow in equity, specifically with women-owned businesses and in communities of color.

"We know that business growth in the Twin Cities is happening, but making sure that they are expanding in all corners of the state," Walz said.

Bastian's advice to entrepreneurs is not to get it perfect before they start.

"There's nothing that's perfect. Just try to do it as best as you can and bring people along," Bastian said. "Don't give up. Keep knocking on doors until someone says 'come in and we'll give you what you need.'"

You can reach out to SBA at sba.gov or on their LinkedIn page.

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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.

Emma Johnson
Editor In Chief

Mercedes Kauphusman
Variety Editor

Hayden Lee
Sports Editor

Lilly Anderson
Photo Editor

We are the MSU Reporter

Since 1926, The Reporter at Minnesota State University, Mankato has been supplying students and faculty with MSU-related content. Our staff of writers, photographers and ad representatives has been student run since day one. This year's staff are ready to take on new stories, opportunities and challenges. Let's take a look at the brand new editorial board.

Emma Johnson, a returning member, is entering her junior year and new role as Editor in Chief. She spent the last few years working her way up from Staff Writer to Variety Editor, News Director and now Editor in Chief. She recently worked as an intern at Keloland Media Group in her hometown Sioux Falls, South Dakota where she produced the 5 p.m. newscast.

Lilly Anderson is a returning staff member, now entering her new position as the Photo Editor. She'll be entering her junior year majoring in media and communications. Previously, she was a staff photographer, capturing campus events, sports games and theater shows. She spent her summer working as a photo intern at the Mankato Free Press.

Hayden Lee is also a returning staff member, taking on the Sports Editor position. He joined The Reporter last fall as a sports staff writer. He covered women's tennis, men's basketball and wrote several lengthy columns about his opinions in the sports world.

Senior Mercedes Kauphusman is a returning staff member, now as the Variety Editor. Majoring in communications, she covered student events on campus ranging from themed nights to student workshops. Prior to working at The Reporter, she wrote for HerCampusMNSU.

Rounding out the editorial board, Alexandra Tostrud is returning as a copy editor. From in-depth investigative news to music events to features, she's written it all over the last two years. Last spring she wrote a column on her adventures while she studied abroad at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

As the first issues of the year come out this week, the editorial staff is excited to assume their new roles and strive to achieve great plans this year. We plan on expanding more into our multimedia outlets by expanding into podcasts with new shows releasing this fall.

To keep up with what's going on around MSU and The Reporter, pick up a copy on one of the many newsstands around campus, follow us on Instagram @msureporter and online at www.msureporter.com. If you have any story ideas or are interested in joining, come stop by CSU 293.

Perspectives

Embracing the chaos of change



Courtesy of Emma Johnson

While I may have looked fine in this photo, no one could guess I was dealing with anxiety.

I'll be honest, I've never been a big fan of change and I don't think anyone truly is. I had to learn that the hard way this summer.

After spring break, I had secured my summer down to a T.

Work hard at my internship, spend lots of time with my friends and prepare for my new role as editor in chief.

Life would go on as it had since I was little. Then came the week before finals.

What I thought was me catching the tail end of a stomach bug for a few days became a full fledged episode of anxiety.

I've always been an anxious person since I was little. My first bad episode was when I was six years old after an earthquake in Haiti. After talking to the pediatrician, I was able to go on with my life like it never happened.

Sure, there was some lingering anxiety over tests



Emma Johnson
Editor In Chief

and other minor life problems here and there, but it was nothing compared to this.

My physical symptoms knocked me to the ground. My head felt like a river constantly. I was extremely nauseous and didn't feel like eating. I stopped doing things I typically enjoyed. Myriad other symptoms contributed to the demise of my well-being.

Two weeks passed and I felt the lowest I've felt in my life.

When my doctor said I wasn't dying and all my symptoms were related to mental health, I was relieved yet shocked.

There was no way it could cause me that much trauma. She told me to continue to monitor my symptoms and to come back in if they worsened.

Once I started my internship, everything faded away. There was still some small nagging part in the back of my mind, but nothing like how it was. My summer was going (almost) according to plan.

However, in mid-July, the symptoms came back with a vengeance.

Stronger than they were before and coming on quicker, I felt like I was spiraling downward with no way out.

When I went back to my doctor, she suggested I start taking medication to help out with everything on top of the therapist I had just started seeing.

Now, I've been on medication for a month and am seeing a therapist on a monthly basis.

COLUMN on page 11▶

Pulse

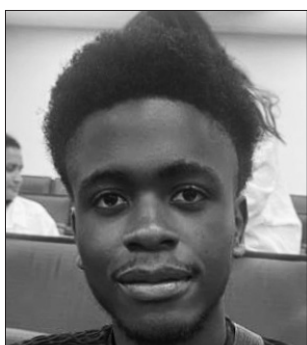
“What are you most looking forward to this year?”

Compiled by Amalia Sharaf



ROSHIT NIRAULA,
JUNIOR

“A boatload of assignments and projects to get done with school.”



JOEL TCHOUKE,
SOPHOMORE

“I am excited about projects and developing skills.”



BETHAL GEBREGIORGIS,
SOPHOMORE

“Meeting new students and participating in social events.”



EMMA BRUELIE,
SOPHOMORE

“Meeting new people and making new friends.”



HALEY NELSON,
JUNIOR

“Excited to challenge myself and start learning.”



EDIDIONG UKOENNIN,
SOPHOMORE

“Taking a class outside of my major for my own qualification.”

Study abroad personality downloading...

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

If you could go anywhere in the world to study abroad, where would you go? The United Kingdom? France? Germany? Ireland?

What about The Netherlands?

The Netherlands were always such an unknown country to me, but I picked up a flyer in class one day, offering a trip to this country created by the developers at Mojang. Most of the time, I would disregard these types of things, but I thought it would be fun for my friends and I to hop into a Nether portal and go over to the European country.

Two of my closest friends and I had a master plan to go out to see the world this summer, but for one reason or another, they were not able to go. This left me faced with the decision: do I cancel my reservation and just keep working for Isanti County or do I travel halfway across the world, by myself, to stay in a country I have no knowledge about for three weeks?

Well, I took the chance, and it was something I will forever be grateful for.

My study abroad experience got off to a rocky start, landing in Amsterdam at 8:30 a.m. Oh,



Courtesy of Hayden Lee

There is an Aldi in the Netherlands, because of course there is. Could they have at least budgeted for a Target?

by the way, there is a seven hour time difference from Minnesota to The Netherlands, meaning it was really 1:30 a.m. local time. And I, being the experienced, smart traveler that I am, did not get a wink of sleep on the plane ride. I did end up meeting some of the people that I would spend

my time there with, but we didn't end up leaving the airport until around noon or one.

For someone who grew up in a town with less than 2,000 people living in it, public transportation was already pretty foreign to me, but being there made me realize that it can actually be an

effective and convenient way to get around. The two or three hours we spent getting on and off trains and buses all around the country gave me my first real glimpse at the country that I would be staying in, and at first sight, I really wasn't that impressed, to be completely hon-

est.

I don't know what I was expecting, but the country was more rural than I thought it would be, which at the time was underwhelming, but it grew on me.

My first week, I was so jet-lagged, tired and confused I really didn't get to take it all in at the moment. I was taking a class called Sport Event Marketing: Future of the Olympics. Which for me, is amazing. We went around the country touring sports facilities like Team TOC and the Gelredome, home of Vitesse, a Dutch football club.

In this class, my eyes were opened up to how other parts of the world view sports. For example, as U.S. citizens, we love going to football and basketball games because of the experience we get from the entire event. It is more of an entertainment business. But to compare it, most football fans in the Netherlands are like Philadelphia Eagles fans. Passionate, competitive, and at times violent. To keep it brief because I know Emma will be on me about word count, this class greatly improved my perspective.

The following week, I took a class called Education for All, which I thought would be a general education class about the Netherlands. It was not. It was **NETHERLANDS on page 10**

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Trump and his allies double down on election lies



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL • The Associated Press

Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks as he visits the Iowa State Fair, Saturday, Aug. 12, 2023, in Des Moines, Iowa.

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and DAVID KLEPPER
The Associated Press

A federal indictment and one in Georgia charging Donald Trump with lying about the 2020 election to overturn President Joe Biden's win have done nothing to slow the geyser of election falsehoods flowing from the former president and his supporters.

Just two days after the Georgia indictment, one of Trump's most enthusiastic backers took the stage at a conference in Missouri to again spread election misinformation. Mike Lindell, the owner of MyPillow who is a vocal promoter of the myth that the 2020 presidential election was stolen, kicked off an event on purported election crimes with a video about fraud.

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It included footage from November 2020 that purported to show a Fulton County, Georgia, election worker pulling a briefcase of ballots from under a desk to surreptitiously add them to the tally.

As evidence has since shown, the worker, Ruby Freeman, was simply doing her job — pulling out a standard government container full of real

ballots that had to be counted. Three different counts of the Georgia vote, including one by hand, showed the ballots were tallied properly and the results were accurate.

But Freeman and her daughter, who also worked in the elections office that night, were targeted by Trump and his allies and accused of helping throw the election to Biden, compared to drug dealers and deluged with threats. The women testified before the congressional Jan. 6 committee about their ordeal and sued several Trump backers, including former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, for libel. The lies about them are a central part of last week's indictment of Trump and his allies for allegedly conspiring to spread misinformation to steal the Georgia election.

Yet they persisted. During his conference, Lindell prefaced the video by saying "it isn't about evidence."

◀NETHERLANDS from page 9
a class for teachers. I am not a teacher. It was not for me. I don't have much to say about that class. However, in my second week, I got a roommate.

Jonas was a German student who was just coming over for the week to take a quick class with one of his close friends, Lea. After a weird but funny introduction, the three of us went out into the city we were staying in, Groesbeek. After eating some fries with absolutely no seasoning at all, the three of us formed somewhat of a trio.

Despite being from completely different parts of the world, the three of us understood each other, and it honestly blew my mind that in such a short amount of time,

I could relate and share my thoughts with them. They introduced me to a German tradition, Abendbrot, which translates to "evening bread". During Abendbrot, families sit down and assemble their favorite open-faced sandwiches to eat amongst good company towards the end of their day. If it seems pretty simple, that's because it is. What I realized while doing this is that Americans don't have time to just slow down and eat bread with the people we love. It doesn't necessarily need to be bread and the people we love, but taking part in a tradition like that is really cool to me.

In my final week, I took Sport Nutrition. Aka, do not eat like an American. It was a cool class that taught me how

to plan, develop and execute healthy eating habits, but I'm sure you gathered that from the class title.

All in all, The Netherlands were an amazing experience because of the people I met in the place I was learning about. The combination of those two things made for an experience that is unlike anything else I have ever done. For what it's worth, I would like to say thank you to my mom, dad, and Ali, you guys are probably the only ones reading this anyway. You gave me the confidence and motivation to go through with this and keep going with it. I really appreciate and love you guys for that.

Maybe next year I will go to Sri Lanka. Skol.

San Francisco launches driverless bus service



TERRY CHEA • The Associated Press

A driverless shuttle stops for a passenger on San Francisco's Treasure Island as part of a pilot program to assess the safety.

By TERRY CHEA
The Associated Press

First came the robotaxis. Then the driverless buses arrived.

San Francisco has launched an autonomous shuttle service — less than a week after California regulators approved the expansion of robotaxis despite traffic and safety concerns.

The free shuttle will run daily in a fixed route called the Loop around Treasure Island, the site of a former U.S. Navy base in the middle of San Francisco Bay. The Loop makes seven stops, connecting residen-

tial neighborhoods with stores and community centers. About 2,000 people live on the island.

The all-electric vehicle, which doesn't have a driver's seat or steering wheel, is staffed with an attendant who can drive the bus with a handheld controller if necessary. The county is offering the shuttle service as part of a grant-funded pilot program to assess how autonomous vehicles can supplement the public transit system.

San Francisco is one of a growing number of cities worldwide that are testing the program.

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Local governments are spending billions of pandemic relief funds



ANDREW HARNIK • The Associated Press

Federal officials estimate that local governments now have spending plans in place for most of the money they received under a prominent pandemic relief law. In some cases, it's hard to know exactly how the money is being used, because some governments haven't supplied details about their projects.

By DAVID A. LIEB and KAVISH HARJAI
The Associated Press

Joplin officials say they have big plans for \$13.8 million of pandemic relief funds the tornado-ravaged southwestern Missouri city received under a two-year-old federal law. Yet the latest federal records show none of the money has been spent — or even budgeted.

In fact, about 6,300 cities and counties — nearly 1 in 4 nationwide — reported no expenditures as of this spring, according to an Associated Press analysis of data released by the U.S. Treasury Department. About 5,100 of those listed no projects — either planned or underway. So what gives? Is the money not needed? Are cities just sitting on it?

Local and federal officials told the AP in interviews that the publicly available data is misleading — pockmarked by differing interpretations over exactly what must be reported, lagging in timeliness and failing to account for some preliminary planning. Critics contend it's an indication of a flawed pandemic response.

Federal officials estimate that governments have spending commitments for more than 80% of the funds, even if that's hard to tell from their reporting requirements.

Joplin, for example, plans to spend its pandemic aid on housing projects, high-speed internet, streets, a bicycle park, public safety equipment and more. The City Council approved the plan last month. But it won't show up on federal reports until October.

The city, which was devastated in 2011 by one of deadliest tornadoes in U.S. history, took a deliberate approach

with its pandemic aid to develop “really transformational projects,” said Leslie Haase, the city's finance director.

Over the past couple years, it leveraged the pandemic aid to win millions of additional dollars of state grants. With the combined funds, it plans to relaunch an expired post-tornado program that helps people make down-payments on homes. The city also plans to spend millions of dollars to repair or demolish old houses.

“I think by the time 2026 rolls around, Joplin will be a better community,” Haase said.

The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan — passed in 2021 by a Democratic-led Congress and signed by President Joe Biden — contained \$350 billion of flexible aid to states, territories, tribes, counties, cities and towns. The Biden administration says the money was intended to provide both immediate aid amid a health crisis and a longer-term boost for communities.

Governments must obligate that money for projects by the end of next year and spend it by the close of 2026.

As of their April reports, more 26,500 governments collectively had spent 43% of their funds and approved plans for spending 77% of the money, according to the AP's analysis.

The actual amount of spending commitments likely is well over 80% when accounting for lag times and different reporting approaches taken by local governments, said Gene Sperling, the White House American Rescue Plan coordinator.

“What you see across the country is that counties, cities, states overwhelmingly have committed these funds, are using them, are on track to meet

their legal deadlines to have all the funds obligated by the end of 2024,” Sperling said.

But Republicans and fiscal conservatives have questioned whether the spending is necessary, noting that most states rebounded quickly from an initial tax plunge during the pandemic to post large budget surpluses.

“Although the Left claimed their \$2 trillion bill was designed to fight COVID, they wasted hundreds of billions of Americans' hard-earned tax dollars on ridiculous things,” Republican U.S. Rep. Jason Smith, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said in a statement to the AP.

Among other things, the money helped finance an upscale hotel in Florida, a minor league baseball stadium in New York and prisons in Alabama — drawing outrage from some members of Congress.

Some governments waited to do anything with the money until the Treasury Department finalized its rules in April 2022. Details are lacking on how some governments are using their funds because the Treasury relaxed reporting requirements for any money categorized by state or local officials as a replacement for lost revenues.

According to the AP's analysis, more than 6,000 local governments categorized their entire federal allotment as “revenue replacement” — often taking advantage of a Treasury rule that allows up to \$10 million of assumed revenue loss without having to prove it.

Though they can provide more details if they choose, governments categorizing all their federal aid as replacement revenue only have to report it as one project, the Treasury told the AP.

◀RALLY from page 3

said he enjoyed hearing James' speech.

“Even though it was really windy and his papers flew off, he kept on going and had a really good speed,” Meehling said.

Tourville said he hopes students take advantage of Welcome Week.

“I hope they make new friends and that they feel like they belong here,” Tourville said.

◀COLUMN from page 8

With all the changes coming into my life and the increase in responsibility in my new job, it is something I've had to learn to adjust to.

Increasing the positive content on my Instagram, taking time for self-care and talking about my mental health has been a big help for me.

Most of all, I have to thank my Mom, my cousin Emily, my friends (specifically Ali, Julia, Jenna and Emily) and my Reporter family for supporting me through it all.

I truly cannot thank them enough for the amount of times I've cried to them or ranted to them about my

fears.

The crazy chaos that is change is something I'm still learning from and trying to heal from by taking it one day at a time.

It's taught me I'm a lot stronger than I thought I was, seeking help for mental health is nothing to be ashamed of and the support of others is what keeps the world spinning.

Tough times won't last forever; tough people do.

Growth doesn't happen until you get out of your comfort zone which is why I'm anxious, but doing it anyways.

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ALL ARE WELCOME

SPORTS

Kicking off the season with top rank

By LUKE JACKSON
Staff Writer

Minnesota State football snuck into the top ten teams across division II play after the American Football Coaches Association finished their yearly preseason poll.

The Mavs finished their regular season 10-3 and advanced to the second round of the playoffs where they were defeated by the Colorado School of Mines in a nail-biting 45-48 loss.

The School of Mines are now ranked second overall while the Mavs hold the ninth spot.

The only other team ranked in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference is Bemidji State who holds the 11th position.

The Mavs also are ranked seventh in the D2football.com Preseason Poll.

On both sides of the ball, there are some returning players to look out for.

Junior quarterback Hayden Ekern was named MSU's Offensive Player to Watch while senior defensive back Trey Vaval was named MSU's Defensive Player to Watch.

Last season's efforts helped name Ekern to D2CCA All-American Second Team honors.

He threw for 1,837 yards with 17 touchdowns. He also rushed for 333 yards while having eight touchdowns on the ground.

In the loss versus the School of Mines, Ekern put together 377 yards with four touchdowns.

This was done against one of the best ranked defensive teams in the nation.

On special teams and defense, Vaval put together his own resume.



File Photo

A top rank in the American Football Coaches Association preseason poll puts some lofty expectations on the 2023 Mavs football team, but with lots of returning talent, they should prove their worth this season.

He was named to the All-NSIC First Team Special Teams for being a return specialist. He also earned the title of All-NSIC Second Second Team Defense.

Vaval set the single season school punt return record with 439 yards. He also had 38 tackles throughout the season with one sack and five pass deflections. He was also placed in the D2CCA All-American Second Team Honors, along with Ekern, for his efforts.

In addition to these two return-

ing, the team's Head Coach Todd Hoffner is also coming back for his 13th season.

Hoffner led the team to eight playoff appearances including two appearances in the NCAA Championship game in 2014 and 2019. Hoffner's overall record with the team is 122-30.

Currently, the Mavs are undergoing their last week of practice before they hit the road to Sioux Falls for their first game of the year. Sioux Falls will host the Mavs for their seventh time. Mankato cur-

rently dominates the record book when traveling to Sioux Falls as they hold an undefeated record of 6-0 over them. Along with that streak, Mankato also bested the Wildcats in their previous outing at home.

In their last game they won their high-scoring game 38-24. The Mavs scored 21 of their points in the first quarter.

The kickoff to the season will take place Thursday, August 31 at 6 p.m. located at Bo Young Field.

Basketball releases 2023-24 schedules

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

Welcome back! Although it is August, it's never too early to begin looking ahead to Mavs Basketball.

Earlier this month, the official season schedules were released for the Mavs men's and women's basketball teams.

Beginning with the men, the season is headlined by 14 home games in the Taylor Center. They will begin their season at the Central Region Challenge, as they have in previous years.

The Challenge consists of two games in Kansas City against Southern Arkansas and Arkansas-Missouri, each tipping off at 5 p.m. Nov. 10 and 11.

After returning home, the Mavs will head to St. Cloud to take on the Huskies in their first game in Minnesota Nov. 18. Luckily for the Mavs, immediately following that game, they have a five-game home stretch against Dakota State Nov. 21, Waldorf Nov. 24, Bethany Lutheran Nov. 25, Sioux Falls Dec. 1 and Southwest Minnesota State University Dec. 2.

In their first road trip of the year, the Mavs will play three consecutive road games against Augustana Dec. 8, Wayne State Dec. 9 and Winona State Dec. 14.

To close out the 2023 calendar year, the Mavs will play host to Concordia St. Paul Dec. 16 and Minnesota Duluth Dec. 19, at which point they will be 13 games into their season.

Coming back into 2024, the Mavs get to start out at home. Northern State comes to town Jan. 5 before the Mavs are back on the road again for another four games against Bemidji State Dec. 12, Minnesota Crookston Dec. 13, Minot State Dec. 19 and UMary Dec. 20.

The next five games have the Mavs hosting St. Cloud State and MSU Moorhead Jan. 26 and 27 before heading out to Minnesota Duluth Jan. 30 and SMSU and Sioux Falls Feb. 2 and 3.

Their last five regular season games have them playing Feb. 9 and 10 at home against Wayne State and Augustana, a brief trip to Northern State Feb. 17, and then at home again on Feb. 23 and 24 to close out the regular season.

The NSIC tournament first round is set to take place Feb. 28, with the final three rounds following March 2-5. The NCAA Regional Tournament proceeds from March 16-19, and the NCAA Elite Eight begins March 26-30.

SCHEDULE on page 15

Vets to help replace Vetter

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Staff Writer

The squad has high expectations for themselves and also has expectations from the outside as they have been picked to finish first in the NSIC Preseason Coaches' Poll.

The Mavs come into the new season off the back of a 14-2-6 record and advancing to the second round of the NCAA tournament in the 2022 season.

The Minnesota State Women's Soccer team was back on the field Saturday for an exhibition as they faced Northwest Missouri State. The Bearcats defeated the Mavericks 2-0 at The Pitch.

One of the major stories from last season's team was former Minnesota State midfielder Jenny Vetter.

Vetter started all 22 games for the Mavericks as she scored 12 goals and contributed with 4 assists. She ended her time at Minnesota State ranked third in career goals with 57 and points with 132.

Over the course of her Maver-

ick career, Vetter was named All-NSIC First Team three times and the College Sports Communicators Academic All-American Player of the Year last fall.

Furthermore, Vetter was named a Third-Team All-American by the United States Coaches Association, making her the first Maverick to gain status within the group.

During the summer, Vetter signed a professional contract with the Racing Power Football Club. The football club is a member of the Portugal National Women's Soccer Linga BPI. With a ton of production going with Vetter's departure, head coach Brian Bahl will look to his seniors to help maintain the team's high standard.

"We have a great senior class. Some of those are fifth-years, some of those are regular fourth-year seniors. We're going to lean on them a lot, they've been around the program obviously for a long time and they've all been in different roles. There's a lot of really cool stories in that group," Bahl said.

Some of those players have endured difficult experiences during their time at MSU, such as over-



File Photo

Losing Vetter hurts, but this team is built on their depth and energy. The Mavs have a bright future even without their former star player.

coming injuries and the first few years of not playing.

"Now they find themselves in a little bit of a different position where it's their opportunity to step up and lead us and do some big things on the field. I'm really confident from what I've seen so far they're going to do a great job," Bahl said.

Senior Allie Williams is already embracing her role as a leader on this year's squad during the first

few practices.

"It's been so far so good, they just always come and bring the energy and I just love getting to teach them, help them, get used to how we play and just helping them, raise them up so that they can just carry on the legacy that we have and the traditions that we have here, so it's just really important to us," Williams said.

The Mavs will have to make **VETS on page 15**

Muhammad Ali's grandson is now an MMA fighter

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

Biaggio Ali Walsh used to think about fighting only when someone wanted to see if the grandson of "The Greatest" was any good himself.

Muhammad Ali is one of the biggest and best-known figures in boxing history. When kids in Las Vegas discovered he was also the grandfather of Biaggio and his brother, Nico, they'd challenge the siblings to put on the gloves.

"People would find out who me and Nico were related to and they'd say, 'Oh, can you fight?' Ali Walsh said. "And I'm like, 'I don't know.'"

The answer now is clearly yes.

These days, Ali Walsh can't wait to fight, and he'll do so again Wednesday at Madison Square Garden with his next bout on a Professional Fighters League card.

Five fights into his MMA career, it's the second time he'll be competing in an arena where his grandfather participated in some of its most memorable events. Ali lost to Joe Frazier there in the 1971 "Fight of the Century" but won his other seven bouts, including a rematch with Frazier, and was the guest referee in the first Wrestlemania.

Ali Walsh fought on his first PFL card at MSG, challenged as much by the historic setting as his opponent.

"I was super nervous but I went in there and just stayed calm, just got the job done and that's how I want to be in every fight," Ali Walsh said.

Ali Walsh (4-1) still fights as an amateur, trying to make up for a somewhat late start to a combat career.

Two weeks shy of 25, he cer-



MARY ALTAFFER • The Associated Press

Biaggio Ali Walsh hits a punching bag while training ahead of his return to the Professional Fighters League, Monday, July 24, 2023, in New York.

tainly lacks the foundation of his grandfather, who began boxing at 12 and was just 18 when he won a boxing gold medal at the 1960 Olympics in Rome.

But fighting at any age was never part of Ali Walsh's plan. He was a running back at powerful Bishop Gorman High School, where he scored 65 touchdowns and rushed for more than 4,500 yards on teams that went 45-0 and won three consecutive Nevada state championships from 2014-16. He then spent two seasons at California before transferring back to UNLV to play for his high school coach.

While training to stay in shape as his football career was ending and working as an intern, he developed an itch to join the guys he was helping as a strength and conditioning coach.

"I just saw them putting in all this hard work and I was like, 'I'm 21, 22 years old, I'm still young, I could do this,'" Ali Walsh said. "Like, I could just go for it. I don't

want to be 40 years old and think, 'Oh, would I have been a good fighter?' Like, I don't want to have those kind of thoughts and regret, so I just said you know what, I'm just going to go for it."

But having never even wrestled in high school, Ali Walsh had to learn every aspect of his new sport.

Ali's body was already too ravaged by Parkinson's disease to have ever shown him his skills — not that the "Ali Shuffle" would do much use in a cage against guys who could go for his legs — so their time together was spent more on dinners and movies. But Ali Walsh was able to pick up something by watching old footage.

"Stylistically, my grandfather had such a stinging jab," Ali Walsh said. "He really used his jab to set up a bunch of stuff and I think that one of the biggest things that I pick up from him is how he sets up his right hand using his jabs, or he sets up other combos using the jab."

◀VETS from page 14

sure they are ready for the start of the season as they have a tough schedule this time round and will get the chance to see what kind of team they are early in the season.

"We always want to schedule tough. This is probably the toughest non-conference slate we've ever had. Just kind of crazy that it lines up with maybe one of the youngest teams that we've ever

had," Bahl said.

Bahl wants his team to face some adversity and see how they respond.

An area where they potentially could have some of that adversity that he is looking for might be in the goal-scoring department.

"We don't have a lot of goalscoring returning from last year's team, so we need to find a way to do that," Bahl said.

"Our goals every year are hopefully we seal up a conference regular season championship, and keep building on the history of being in the NCAA tournament, and keep pushing for an opportunity to go after a national title," Bahl said.

The Mavericks have two more exhibitions before they kick off their season Aug. 31 against Oklahoma Baptist.

◀SCHEDULE from page 14

For the women, they begin their season with an exhibition game against Northwestern Oct. 28 at home, before participating in the Montana State Billings Tournament and the Regional Crossover Challenge.

The Montana State Billings Tournament has the Mavs playing one game each day from Nov. 3-5 against Florida Tech, Texas Woman's University and Texas A&M - Kingsville.

For the Regional Crossover Challenge, two games against Southern Nazarene and Fort Hays State will take place in St. Joseph, Missouri Nov. 10 and 11. Back in Minnesota, the Mavs will start off with four straight home games against Minnesota Duluth Nov. 21, UW-Parkside Nov. 25, Sioux

Falls Dec. 1, and SMSU Dec. 2.

Their first road stretch of games is a three-game road trip that takes them to Augustana Dec. 8, Wayne State Dec. 9 and Winona State Dec. 14.

The next two games will be at home against Concordia St. Paul Dec. 19, closing out 2023, before opening up 2024 against Northern State Jan. 5.

After the home game to open the year, the Mavs will hit the road for four straight away games against Bemidji State Jan. 12, Minnesota Crookston Jan. 13, Minot State Jan. 19, and UMary Jan. 20.

They will then return home briefly to play St. Cloud State on Jan. 26 and MSU Moorhead on Jan. 27, before getting back on the road to take on Minnesota Duluth Jan. 30, SMSU Feb. 2, and Sioux

Falls Feb. 3.

For their last five games, the Mavs will play two home games on Feb. 9 and 10 against Wayne State and Augustana with a Feb. 17 road game at Northern State wedged in the middle of another home weekend against Feb. 23 and 24 against Minnesota Crookston and Bemidji State.

The NSIC Tournament first round begins Feb. 28, with the final three rounds taking place on March 2-5.

The NCAA Central Region Tournament will begin on March 15 and end March 18, before the Elite Eight March 25-29.

A lot of games, a lot of chances for each Mavs team to cement themselves as true contenders in the NSIC and potentially even the NCAA.

Volleyball "sets" up for a new year



File Photo

The Mavs have grown a lot since the days of wearing masks during games, but only time will tell how their growth will translate.

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

Coming off of a down year where the Minnesota State Mavs volleyball team went 6-22, they enter their 2023 season ranked no. 10 of 15 teams in the NSIC Volleyball Preseason Coaches' Poll.

With nine home matches on their schedule this season, the Mavs are playing 17 games on the road this season, including two tournaments in different states.

Junior outside hitter Elizabeth Dille was named the Mavs' Player to Watch this season.

Dille played in 18 of the Mavs' 28 matches last season and appeared in 56 sets where she recorded 98 kills, 90 digs, 11 service aces and nine blocks.

Last season's leading scorer, senior Sophie Tietz will also be returning this season. The right-side hitter scored 290 of the team's points in 2023.

Also returning is Mavs' head coach Corey Phelps. In his two full seasons as head coach, Phelps has a 20-36 record.

Phelps previously spent 2019 as an assistant coach and served a year and a half as the interim head coach before his promotion in June of 2021.

Phelps also brought in five new players during the early signing period in December.

Skylar Walters, Avery Rosenberg, Caitlin McCormack, Kendall White, and Elise Jensen will bring depth to the Mavs this season as the newest members of the team.

Their first eight games will be in the Otter Volleyball Invitational and Tiger Classic tournaments. The Otter Volleyball Invitational will be held in Seaside, California from Aug. 31-Sept. 2, where the Mavs will play four total games against Northwest Nazarene, Westmont College, CSU Monte-

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“The Last Dance” begins...

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

The Minnesota Vikings held their final practice Aug. 8 before their first preseason game. Family Night at TCO Stadium. Being the highly knowledgeable fan and analyst that I am, I had to show up for my team.

The Vikings are entering a year similar to the 1997-98 Chicago Bulls with a lot of the future being up in the air, starting at the top. The Pizza Ranch and Hy-Vee dictator Kirk Cousins is in a contract year, and his future is even more in question after Vikings owner Mark Wilf said he'll “leave that up to Kwesi” when asked about Cousins’ future with the team.

Despite the uncertainty, Cousins went out and looked amazing as always, finding Justin Jefferson wide open... like he always is, as well as rookie WR Jordan Addison, who has had his share of controversy, but has worked his way up the wide receiver depth chart.

“He doesn’t make the same mistake twice. He’s a real pro. Not all rookies have that steady demeanor about themselves. He wants to be great, and he’s showing it more and more, the more reps he gets, that he can be a really good player,” said Vikings offensive coordinator Wes Phillips. Comments like those inject hope into my veins, and hopefully Addison can hit the ground

running in his rookie year. Another rookie gaining a lot of attention is LB Ivan Pace Jr., an undrafted linebacker from Cincinnati. If you don’t know who Pace is, I don’t blame you. But let me fill you in. He put together the greatest defensive season ever by a Bearcat in 2022, totalling 137 tackles, 21.5 tackles for loss, ten sacks and three forced fumbles on his way to becoming the first Bearcat to earn unanimous All-America honors.

That sounds pretty great right? You may be asking yourself why he didn’t get drafted. Well, he’s five foot ten inches. That’s it. This has caused him to be labeled as “undersized,” but if that’s the case, then I have no idea what that makes me— I’m five feet tall.

However, someone that is anything but undersized is recent acquisition N’Keal Harry, who is the biggest wide receiver I think I have ever seen. Harry has been making a little bit of noise in training camp and has a shot at making the roster and reviving his career, four years after being drafted in the first round.

As I am writing this, the Vikings are playing in their first preseason game against the Seahawks, and RB Ty Chandler is cementing his legacy as the Adrian Peterson of the preseason. But it brings up another question. What will the Vikings running back room look like? Mattison is the assumed start-



HAYDEN LEE • The Reporter

This season is going to go one of two ways. We are either going to be 13-4 and get bounced in the first round of the playoffs, or we will be drafting Caleb Williams or Drake Maye at no. 1 in the draft. For the sake of Kirk and myself, I hope it’s the former.

er, but behind him are three solid options that can contribute. Chandler, seventh round pick DeWayne McBride and Kene Nwangwu will all likely make the roster, but how much will they be featured? Just more questions.

Sticking with the theme of

questions, the always-questionable defense. Behind new defensive coordinator Brian Flores, who is an incredibly big addition, the Vikings have six positions that are expected to have new starters. After letting go of Eric Kendricks, Brian Asamoah II will step in. Byron Mur-

phy and Mekhi Blackmon/Joejuan Williams are the new cornerback duo beside Akayleb Evans in the secondary. Marcus Davenport was poached from the Saints to replace Za’Darius Smith, and Dean Lowry and Khyiris Tonga will be clogging

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Michigan's Jim Harbaugh to serve 3-game suspension

By RALPH D RUSSO
The Associated Press

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh will serve a three-game suspension to start this season as part of self-imposed penalties for NCAA recruiting infractions. The suspension announced Monday will take Harbaugh off the sideline for the second-ranked Wolverines' home games against East Carolina, UNLV and Bowling Green. He will be permitted to coach the team during the week, as per NCAA rules.

"While the ongoing NCAA matter continues through the NCAA process, today's announcement is our way of addressing mistakes that our department has agreed to in an attempt to further that process," Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel said. "We will continue to support coach Harbaugh, his staff, and our outstanding student-athletes. Per the NCAA's guidelines, we cannot comment further until the matter is resolved." Michigan said interim coaching appointments would be announced at a later date.

"I will continue to do what I always do and what I always tell our players and my kids at home, 'Don't get bitter, get better,'" Harbaugh said in a statement.

The Wolverines are coming off its second straight Big Ten championship and College Football Playoff appearance under Harbaugh, who is 74-25 in eight seasons at his alma mater.

Michigan had proposed a four-game suspension as part of a negotiated resolution to the case with NCAA enforcement staff, but the association's committee on infractions reportedly declined to accept that proposal.

Without confirming the status of the negotiated resolution, which was submitted by Michigan to the NCAA last month, the NCAA put out a terse statement in response to reports that the settlement was in danger of not being accepted.

"The Michigan infractions case is related to impermissible on and off-campus recruiting during the COVID-19 dead period and impermissible coaching activities — not a cheeseburger," Derrick



RICK SCUTERI • The Associated Press
Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh gestures during the first half of the Fiesta Bowl NCAA college football semifinal playoff game against TCU.

Crawford, NCAA vice president of hearing operations, said in a statement. "It is not uncommon for the COI to seek clarification on key facts prior to accepting. The COI may also reject an NR if it determines that the agreement is not in the best interests of the Association or the penalties are not reasonable."

The cheeseburger mention is in reference to speculation by Michigan fans that gained traction online that the alleged infractions were related to Michigan coaches paying for a recruit's lunch during a dead-period visit.

Michigan self-imposing a penalty does not end the case. It is unclear whether Michigan has even received an official notice of allegations from the NCAA. Without a negotiated resolution, the case would need to go before the committee on infractions before a rul-

ing is handed down.

That whole process could take months to complete and would likely stretch into 2024. Schools usually self-impose penalties as a way to get out in front of the NCAA, show cooperation, and mitigate some of the damages of an eventual punishment.

The investigation involved impermissible texts and calls — including some by Harbaugh — to high school prospects during part of a pandemic-related dead period for contact with potential recruits. The NCAA also was looking at whether a member of Michigan's off-field football staff violated rules by doing on-the-field coaching during practice. The negotiated resolution Michigan submitted to the NCAA also included one-game suspensions for offensive coordinator and line coach.

There are two teams in particular where the stats are severely in one team's favor, historically. They currently are on a 20-match win streak against the University of Mary, dating back to 2006. This season, they will face UMary twice, Sept. 29 and Nov. 4. On the other end of the spectrum, Concordia St. Paul has had MSU's number recently.

In their past 16 matchups, go-

ing back to 2014, CSP has stacked up those 16 wins to make their record against the Mavs 34-4 all-time.

The season creeps closer every day, and with some players and games to watch out for, this Mavs team has nowhere to go but up. Their season will begin Thursday, Aug. 31, at the Otter Volleyball Invitational at 6 p.m.

end in the NFL not named Travis Kelce, and I expect big things from him as Kirk's safety blanket. I also have expectations for Josh Oliver as a run blocker that can open up the offense, and Johnny Mundt of all people, who has been solid in camp and will prove to be reliable when he plays. There is potential for this Vikings offense to be the best in the league in Cousins' sec-

ond year under our version of Sean McVay, Kevin O'Connell.

Now I may have lied when I said that the Vikings are similar to the 97-98 Bulls, but then again, maybe I didn't. After a 13-win season in 2022, the 2023 Vikings have the potential to make some noise in a relatively weak NFC. Either way, it will be a fun season, and I am so ready for it to begin. Skol.

Basketball World Cup 2023: How to watch, who's playing, who's favored



JOHN LOCHER • The Associated Press

Anthony Edwards of the Minnesota Timberwolves drives up the court during training camp for the United States men's basketball team.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
The Associated Press

The Basketball World Cup — FIBA's biggest tournament — starts Friday, spread out across three countries for the first two rounds before all the biggest games get played in Manila to decide which nation will go home with gold medals and the Naismith Trophy on Sept. 10.

Spain is the defending champion, having won in China four years ago. The U.S. was only seventh in that tournament, its worst finish ever in a major international event. But the Americans have high hopes, and enter as the tournament favorites.

The 32 teams were split into eight different groups of four. The top two teams from each group will make the second round. The top eight teams after the second round advance to the quarterfinals.

Here's a list of all the opening games for all 32 teams:

- FRIDAY, AUG. 25
- Group A (at Manila): Angola vs. Italy, Dominican Republic vs. Philippines
 - Group D (at Manila): Mexico vs. Montenegro, Egypt vs. Lithuania
 - Group E (at Okinawa): Finland vs. Australia, Germany vs. Japan
 - Group H (at Jakarta): Latvia vs. Lebanon, Canada vs. France
- SATURDAY, AUG. 26
- Group B (at Manila): South Sudan vs. Puerto Rico, Serbia vs. China
 - Group C (at Manila): Jordan vs. Greece, U.S. vs. New Zealand
 - Group F (at Okinawa): Cape Verde vs. Georgia, Slovenia vs. Venezuela
 - Group G (at Jakarta): Iran vs. Brazil, Spain vs. Ivory Coast

HOW TO WATCH

◀VOLLEYBALL from page 15

rey Bay and Dominican. A week later, the Mavs will head over to Kansas for the Tiger Classic, again playing four games, this time against Cameron University, Southern Nazarene, New Mexico Highlands and Fort Hays State.

When it comes to NSIC opponents, the Mavs are a streaky team.

◀VIKINGS from page 16

up the running lanes on the interior defensive line.

On the offensive side, Jefferson will make the Vikings a powerhouse by himself, but it's the pieces around him that excite me the most this year, specifically the tight ends. T.J. Hockenson has the potential this year to become the best tight



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Colts give Jonathan Taylor permission to seek trade



MICHAEL CONROY • The Associated Press

Indianapolis Colts players not participating in practice, left to right, safety Julian Blackmon, running back Jonathan Taylor and safety Daniel Scott.

By MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

The Indianapolis Colts have given disgruntled running back Jonathan Taylor permission to find a trade partner, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Monday.

The person requested anonymity because it has not been released publicly.

Just two days earlier Shane Steichen told reporters Taylor would rejoin the team Sunday following an excused absence to tend to a personal matter. Then on Sunday, Steichen said Taylor would travel with the Colts to Philadelphia, where the teams will hold a joint practice Tuesday before playing their preseason finales Thursday.

Taylor has not practiced since the end of last season because of offseason ankle surgery.

The 2021 NFL rushing champion went on the physically unable to perform list when the Colts reported to training camp July 25 and is still on it as he continues to rehab. Steichen did not say whether Taylor might practice in Philadelphia.

"I do not know," he said. "Once he is cleared to play, like I said, he'll be back."

Taylor's injury is just one complication in an ugly contract dispute that has played out on X, formerly known as Twitter, in the media and even included a one-hour meeting between Taylor and Jim Irsay on the team owner's motorhome, which was parked in full view of a capacity crowd at the team's training camp complex. The 2021 NFL rushing champ also wants an extension as he enters the final year of his rookie contract. Taylor is slated to earn \$4.3 million this season and has been one of the more vocal running backs in recent months who has complained about the low value placed on the position by teams.

Many running backs don't get second contracts and teams are generally unwilling to pay premium money for players whose careers tend to be shorter and younger, quicker, cheaper options are almost always available. As a result, only kickers and punters have lower franchise tags than the \$10.1 million for rushers.

Indy has not yet started negotiating a new deal for three reasons — it wants to make sure Taylor is healthy, it wants to see how Taylor fits in Steichen's new offense and it could use the franchise tag to keep Taylor in the locker room for two more seasons.

Following the motorhome meeting, Irsay said he was hopeful Taylor would have a good season. Later that same night, word leaked Taylor had requested a trade. Now, Irsay may be trying to patch things up.

"I know these things are always difficult. I respect any time people are trying to fight for their position and their families and all those things," Irsay said during the broadcast of Saturday's 24-17 victory over the Chicago Bears. "We're really looking forward to him playing his way into being the Jonathan Taylor he was."

Irsay added: "I know (general manager) Chris Ballard is going to work hard and get the waters as calm as they can and go forward."

What it would take to acquire the 24-year-old who was a high school star in New Jersey before topping the 2,000-yard mark twice with the Wisconsin Badgers is unclear.

Another team would have to give up two first-round draft picks to get Taylor if he were under the franchise designation. While the primary concern over Taylor coming out of college was his heavy workload, 926 carries in three seasons with the Badgers, it didn't slow his NFL presence.

As a rookie, Taylor rushed for 1,169 yards and averaged 5.0 yards per carry after replacing the injured Marlon Mack as Indy's starter. In 2021, he led the league with 1,811 yards, 18 TD runs and 2,171 yards from scrimmage while sharing the league lead in total touchdowns (20).

The bad ankle cost him six games last season and he wound up rushing for 861 yards, 4.5 yards per carry and four TDs — all career lows — as Indy sputtered to a 4-12-1 mark.

Indy had been counting on Taylor to rebound this season as rookie quarterback Anthony Richardson, the No. 4 overall pick in April's draft, takes over as the starter. It appears they still want him in that role.

Women's World Cup teams head home

By ANNE M PETERSON
The Associated Press

Teams headed home from the Women's World Cup with uncertain futures but hopes that the monthlong tournament would spur new interest and further investment in the game. For some teams, like Nigeria, the Philippines and Jamaica, the struggle for funding, support and recognition will continue.

More established teams like Germany, Brazil, Canada and the United States now begin the post-tournament soul-searching about what went wrong. Spain, which defeated England 1-0 in the final on Sunday, can revel as first-time champions.

"We need to be ready, because after this FIFA Women's World Cup women's football is going to explode in every single one of your countries," FIFA chief women's football officer Sarai Bareman said at a women's soccer conference held in the days before the final. "We need to be ready for it. There will be millions and millions of women and girls around the world who will sign up to play football for the first time ever after this World Cup."

"Everyone needs to stand ready, with investment, with infrastructure, with coaches, with referees, with tournaments, member associations, federations, confederations. We need to stand ready to receive that interest and retain it in our game in a sustainable way."

The next major tournament for women's soccer is next year's Olympics in France. The French were eliminated from the World Cup in a penalty shootout after a scoreless draw with co-host Australia in the quarterfinals.

Before France even got to the



JAMES ELSBY • The Associated Press

Morocco's Nouhaila Benzina, left, is helped to her feet by teammate Sarah Kassi following the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match.

World Cup the team had some upheaval. Wendie Renard threatened not to play for the team, and the French federation responded by firing coach Corinne Diacre in March and hiring Herve Renard, who coached Saudi Arabia's men at the World Cup in Qatar.

Herve Renard, whose contract runs through the Paris Olympics, was already looking forward to next year. "We have no regrets," he said. "Next year we'll be back, we'll be back at home and we are going to try and glean something from this."

The United States is in the market for a new coach after the two-time defending World Cup champions crashed out of the tournament at the earliest point ever. Sweden defeated the United States in a penalty shootout in the round of 16.

U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski resigned after the tournament. The team needs to work fast to name a replacement, because the Americans are among four teams

who have already qualified for the Olympics — along with France, Brazil and Colombia.

The Brazilians didn't emerge from the group stage for the first time since 1995. Afterward, Marta said a tearful goodbye after her sixth World Cup.

"Women's football doesn't end here. Women's football in Brazil doesn't end here," Marta said. "We need to understand this."

Nigeria has asked global players' union FIFPRO to intervene and make sure the team received the World Cup bonuses for every player participating in the tournament. Nigeria's players were each set to earn \$60,000 for advancing to the knockout round. The Super Falcons fell to England on penalties in the round of 16.

FIFPRO confirmed it was assisting the team in not only receiving the bonuses, but also other payments dating back to 2021.

FIFA dedicated individual payments from the prize pool for each player at the World Cup.

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Welcome week is out of this world!



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Something space-tastic about this year's planning was the choice to split the evening into two sections. This allowed for shorter entry wait times, fewer rounds where several students achieved a bingo on the same call and a higher chance of winning prizes!

By LILLY SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

"My sophomore year I went with a group of close friends and very earnestly, at the wrong time, called bingo for myself. I stood up and I shouted bingo."

Although getting a bingo at the wrong time sounds like a nightmare come to life, for Henry Bowring-McDonough, the Maverick Traditions board member for the Student Events Team, doing so became a long-lasting memory.

"It was one of those specialty rounds where you have to draw something with your bingo [card] instead of just a straight line. That totally went over my head. For the rest of the year, my nickname

was 'bingo' amongst that group of friends," said Bowring-McDonough.

The event that gave Bowring-McDonough his nickname was Minnesota State most popular welcome week activity: Galactic Bingo. This school year's game was Saturday in the Myers Fieldhouse.

Something space-tastic about this year's planning was the choice to split the evening into two sections. This allowed for shorter entry wait times, fewer rounds where several students achieved a bingo on the same call and a higher chance of winning prizes!

What makes this game so out of this world is a series of epic prizes and a transformed fieldhouse. "It

is a big room that's very dark, and it has a lot of laser lights. When you think of growing up going to a Chuck E. Cheese or something, and there's always that area that's kind of dark and a little more spacey – it's like that, but a big bingo game," Bowring-McDonough explained.

Of course, with the fieldhouse so packed full of players, the game can get pretty intense. MSU Senior Odin Moe said, "It's like playing the lottery. I think it's a good first-time [event]. It's a really good place to get involved with the environment, especially with your first week. A lot of these kids just cried because their parents left, and now they're having fun? Hell yeah."

The Student Events Team and Greek Life work together to host the event in order to collect some great prizes.

"A fan favorite that we've kept from years past is a \$500 Target gift card that we mark as a dorm makeover," Bowring-McDonough said. "You can go to Target and pick up a whole ton of lights, plants, furniture, maybe a new fridge, cleaning supplies."

However, other prizes catered more to familiarizing students with Mankato. "My personal favorite that isn't the grand prize would have to be this local restaurant basket that we're putting together. We're getting four \$25 gift cards

WELCOME on page 20

Dear Freshmen, it'll be okay...

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

A fresh batch of baby Mavericks have hatched on Minnesota State's campus, and for those of you who fit the criteria, you might be feeling a surplus of different emotions. For college freshmen, that first week of independence can be exhilarating, yet intimidating at the same time. As a senior who has a few years of navigating the ins and outs of MSU under my belt, I find it to be an obligation as a writer, and an excellent advice-giver, to offer a list of tips for our new students.

1. Build relationships

Each unfamiliar face you see in each dorm complex is hiding the fact that they are freaking out inside, just like you. It is so important to shake off any preconceived judgements you have toward anyone, regardless of their background, looks, majors, etc. The first group of people you befriend are likely not going to be the same group you will graduate with. I cannot stress enough how important it is to get to know everyone, even if they aren't the typical group you would choose in high school.

2. Strengthen your independence

As much as the thrill of meeting new people might excite you, this transitional period in your life is meant to help you grow as an individual. Doing simple tasks on your own is something you may not have a lot of experience with, so take baby steps. Going places such as the library, the Centennial Student Union, the dining hall, and others by yourself will help you gain comfort in being alone. Everyone experiences some sort of loneliness their first year of college, so it is best to learn to thrive while lacking in company.

3. Show up

Whether it may be a class, a concert, or a campus event, I encourage every single freshman to attend everything you can. It can be difficult without a parent tracking your attendance, but showing up is so important. Your 8 a.m. class may seem like a waste of time, but it is more than just a lecture. Making connections through class among general events is setting you up for success. This helps you become familiar with your surroundings and faces.

4. Stay healthy

Your mother's home cooked meals are no longer placed in front of you at dinnertime every day; if you throw silly beverages into the mix and you may face the dreadful freshman fifteen. There is a free gym on campus for you to utilize, and if that isn't your forte, there are also workout classes you can attend, a swimming pool, and a rock climb-

FRESHMEN on page 20

Club Maverick gets Mavs pumped for new year

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

The line extended as far as The Reporters' office before Club Maverick opened its doors to student clubbers last Thursday evening to kick off Minnesota State University Mankato's Welcome Week.

Hundreds of students turned out to the CSU Ballroom to party with DJ Ones, who was aided by the vocal stylings of MC Fanakanation.

DJ Ebersold, a freshman studying audio production and songwriting, was first in line at the event. "I figured it was a good way to meet new people," said DJ Ebersold. "I

definitely think it would be good to get used to the environment and go out to different places like this. And probably meet some people, hopefully in my major."

Welcome Week is designed to help make returning students more comfortable coming back to campus after a summer off and to help transition new students into college life.

Janat Kazibwe, a member of the Student Events Team who helped with organizing the event, said "Club Maverick is to help freshmen ease into college, it's like a welcome party because today was move-in day. So it's something to help them

CLUB on page 20



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

DJ Ones gets the crowd of MSU students hyped up for the new academic year.



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

Freshmen at MSU moved into the McCelroy, Crawford, Preska, and Julia Sears Residence Communities Thursday.

◀**FRESHMAN** from page 19
ing wall. Simply walking around campus when you can is beneficial for your body. The dining hall has plenty of suitable options for you to indulge in. Ask questions Do not be afraid of your peers—

most of them are more than happy to help a lost freshman. CAs, professors, upperclassmen, and on-campus staff are great people to reach out to if you need help with anything. There is also an IT solutions center to take care of your technological struggles. You

are always more than welcome to stop by The Reporter office to see the beautiful faces behind the words you are reading. Good luck to all incoming freshmen, as well as our beloved returning students at MSU. Roll Mavs.

◀**CLUB** from page 19
ease into college life and show them they are welcome to the university.” “Coming to college you are given so much freedom, a lot of responsibility. You are in charge of your life, you are in charge of making sure you do your assignments,” said Kazibwe. Students waved glowing, multi-colored foam sticks to the song selections of DJ Ones throughout the night. The foam sticks were given out to the first 500 students in line who utilized the university texting system. Party lighting, disco balls and smoke transformed the CSU Ballroom

into an electronic dance club for the evening. Friends Kadence Kochie and Lily Studenski came for the community aspect and to help relax before the start of school. “I feel like everybody’s just vibing together, everybody’s having a good time. Nobody is super stressed yet,” said Kadence Kochie. “It gets everyone together and makes it a better environment when you’re interacting with everybody and not by yourself. It’s more of a community,” said Lily Studenski. In addition to the foam sticks, plenty of freebies were given out or otherwise available to students.

Free mocktails, such as Shirley Temples, were served to all students by Student Events Teams staff. There were also a variety of door prizes given to students willing to give a prize wheel a whirl. DJ Ones also opened the event with a free t-shirt giveaway. To enhance the club vibe, a VIP area was set up for students who created the best TikToks and tagged the Student Events Team. The VIP section featured fresh fruit, cheese, and mock champagne in a roped-off area near the stage. Club Maverick was organized by the Student Events Team and sponsored by Fun.com

◀**WELCOME** from page 19
from four local Mankato restaurants, and tossing them together,” Bowring-McDonough explained. With the combined efforts of both groups, the event was a success. Bowring-McDonough shared, “Our teams are intentional people who volunteered to be part of these groups, or otherwise are on the board of these groups. These are people who are moti-

vated to help out with events like these.” Moe shared their enthusiasm for other events Student Events Team and other Recognized Student Organizations events on campus, “The ice skating one that was earlier today was super fun. They have rock climbing until really late tonight. I really recommend going. There’s a lot of welcoming environments there.” Of course, the fun at MSU

doesn’t end with Welcome Week. In order to rock climb, students can access the ‘open climb hours’ and the university’s website, as well as browse the Student Events Team event calendar for upcoming activities to attend. A few words of advice Moe provided on bingo apply to the upcoming campus events as well. “Don’t be afraid to meet people there; you can definitely meet some really nice people.”

Renee Rapp’s “Snow Angel” springs pop forth



Courtesy Atlantic Records

Renee Rapp is an American actress and singer, who rose to fame from her role as Regina George in the Broadway musical Mean Girls.

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

Much like the first snowfall of the year, the world blanketed in white marks both the end of the year and a canvas for what spring will offer in a few months.

Renee Rapp’s debut LP “Snow Angel” does just that.

While Rapp’s music career is fairly new, she’s no stranger to the spotlight.

Starring as Regina George in “Mean Girls” on Broadway in 2019 and Leighton Murray in “The Sex Lives of College Girls” since 2021, Rapp is used to feeling strong emotions.

Her 2022 EP “Everything to Everyone” featured chart toppers such as “Too Well,” “In the Kitchen” and “Colorado.” Rapp’s debut captured passionate love and growing up while trying to find the balance of it all. In her first

full length album that dropped Friday, Rapp brings us back on an emotional roller coaster of heart-break, pulling yourself through the pain and eventually healing from it.

“Talk Too Much” envelops us into Rapp’s world with a punch of angst-filled punk. With lyrics reminiscent of Olivia Rodrigo and a choral beat similar to the 1967 hit “Sunshine of Your Love,” it’s the perfect rock anthem.

The song’s bridge is a phone conversation we’ve likely had or heard: anxiously asking for reassurance in a new relationship while unintentionally talking yourself out of happiness.

Another catchy anthem is “Poison Poison,” a song packed full of passive-aggressive digs at an ex-friend. The handclap tune is playground drama-esque with mature insults and describing

RAPP on page 23▶

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A raid on a Kansas paper is confirmed legal

By JOHN HANNA
The Associated Press

MARION, Kan. (AP) — The initial online search of a state website that led a central Kansas police chief to raid a local weekly newspaper was legal, a spokesperson for the agency that maintains the site said Monday, as the newspaper remains under investigation.

Earlier this month, after a local restaurant owner accused the Marion County Record of illegally accessing information about her, the Marion police chief obtained warrants to search the newspaper's offices and the home of its publisher, as well as the home of a City Council member who had some of the same information as the newspaper.

The police chief led the Aug. 11 raids and said in the affidavits used to obtain the warrants that he had probable cause to believe that the newspaper and the City Council member had violated state laws against identity theft or computer crimes.

Both City Council member Ruth Herbel and the newspaper have said they received a copy of a document about the status of the restaurant owner's license without soliciting it. The document disclosed the restaurant's license number and her date of birth, information required to check the status of



JOHN HANNA • The Associated Press

Television reporters and videographers from stations across the region prepare to do reports on the aftermath of local police raids on the Marion County Record, Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023, in Marion, Kansas.

a person's license online and gain access to a more complete driving record. The police chief maintains they broke state laws to do that, while the newspaper and Herbel's attorneys say they didn't.

The raid on the Record put it and its hometown of about 1,900

residents in the center of a debate about press freedoms protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Kansas' Bill of Rights. It also exposed divisions in the town over local politics and the newspaper's coverage of the community and put an intense spot-

light on Police Chief Gideon Cody. "As far as Chief Cody goes, he can take his high horse he brought into this community and giddy-up on out of town," said Darvin Markley, a Marion resident, during a Monday afternoon City Council meeting. "The man needs to go. He

needs to be fired."

While Herbel said she agrees with Markley, other City Council members declined to comment. Mike Powers, a retired district court judge who is the only candidate for mayor this fall, said it's premature to make any judgments.

Herbel, the city's vice mayor, presided over the City Council's meeting Monday, its first since the raids. It lasted less than an hour, and Herbel announced that council members would not discuss the raids — something its agenda already had said in an all-caps statement in red followed by 47 exclamation points. She said the council will address the raids in a future meeting.

Cody did not attend the meeting and did not respond to email and cellphone messages seeking a response to Markley's comments.

The meeting came after Kansas Department of Revenue spokesperson Zack Denney said it's legal to access the driver's license database online to check the status of a person's license using information obtained independently. The department's Division of Vehicles issues licenses.

"The website is public facing, and anyone can use it," he said.

The Department of Revenue website allows a searcher to see whether a person has a valid driver's license and a list of documents related to their driving record.

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Young British sensation makes US opera debut



CURTIS BROWN • The Associated Press

This image released by the Santa Fe Opera shows British tenor Freddie de Tommaso as Mario Cavaradossi, right, and soprano Leah Hawkins in the title role in Puccini's "Tosca" at the Santa Fe Opera on Aug. 12, 2023.

By MIKE SILVERMAN
The Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — “British Tenor Saves Night at Opera,” proclaimed the Daily Mail.

The opera was Puccini's “Tosca,” and the tenor was then-28-year-old Freddie de Tommaso, jumping in at London's Royal Opera House when the scheduled singer withdrew after Act 1 because of illness.

That was nearly two years ago. Now de Tommaso has just made his U.S. debut at the Santa Fe Opera in the same role, appearing to enthusiastic applause on Aug. 12, five days after a bout of laryngitis forced him to cancel his first performance. His final performance is Saturday.

And he'll return in the 2024-25 season for another debut, this time at the Metropolitan Opera, where he'll again be Tosca's lover, Mario Cavaradossi.

In an interview at the opera house here, de Tommaso reflected on his career so far and the “star is born” moment in London that first brought him headlines.

“So many people thought I was like an understudy or somebody they found walking down the street whistling ‘Tosca,’ and that wasn't the case,” he recalled. In fact, he had been part of the second cast and was already scheduled to perform the role three nights later.

“But it was incredibly exciting,” he said, his animated tone reflecting his exuberant personality. “From the moment I put my costume on until I took my bow two hours later, it felt like about 90 seconds.”

De Tommaso's exposure to opera began while he was growing up in Tunbridge Wells, where he sang in his school choir. His mother took him to performances and his Italian-born father, who ran a restaurant, serenaded diners with Luciano Pavarotti recordings.

Once he decided to study singing seriously, he applied to the Royal Academy of Music. Mark Wildman, who became his teacher, remembers hearing him audition.

“My first impression of his voice was that it was a robust but rough-hewn diamond of a baritone voice with a surprisingly easy top for one so young,” Wildman said. “He looked like a singer: big broad shoulders, barrel-chested, together with a very strong physique and a voice that matched.”

That easy top got easier and higher as de Tommaso's studies progressed, and Wildman eventually suggested his pupil might actually be a tenor.

“I well remember his face lighting up as if he'd just received his most desired present on Christmas Day! And there was no holding him back,” Wildman said.

De Tommaso immersed himself in recordings of great tenors and borrowed what he could: Franco Corelli (“so virile”); Mario del Monaco (“The dramatic aspect”); Carlo Bergonzi (“I don't think you'll hear any more elegant singing”); Giacomo Lauri-Volpi (“His high C was literally huge.”)

“So I kind of made a trifle of singers,” de Tommaso said, a joking reference to the traditional English dessert in which a chef embellishes sponge cake with whatever ingredients he likes, from fruit to jelly to custard to cream.

De Tommaso's breakthrough came at age 23 when — on a lark, to hear him tell it — he entered the 2018 Tenor Viñas International Singing Competition in Barcelona. He ended up winning three awards — the first prize, the Verdi Prize and the Domingo Prize.

The response was immediate. “It was mental, actually,” de Tommaso said. “I remember afterwards being in the hotel in Spain and getting all these emails and Facebook messages from agents.

Who are these people, I thought naively.”

Among those listening in Barcelona was Peter Katona, casting director for the Royal Opera.

“I was quite startled when I heard him,” Katona said. “It was immediately clear that he was above everybody else in terms of vocal quality. Often with young singers, there's something that is not quite there. With him, you could just lean back and enjoy his singing.”

Now at 30, he's in demand at all the major European houses.

“It's almost a little frightening that everything has been going so well for him,” Katona said. “With such a special talent one is always wary that he can pick the wrong role, overstretch. So far he hasn't put a foot wrong.”

For the coming season he has two new roles: Pollione in Bellini's “Norma” at Milan's La Scala and Gabriele Adorno in Verdi's “Simon Boccanegra” in Vienna.

And after his Met debut, he'll be a frequent return visitor to the New York house. Peter Gelb, the company's general manager, called him “part of a new wave of powerhouse tenors ... that we hope will become Met mainstays of the future.”

At times de Tommaso finds it painful to turn down offers of new roles because they aren't suited to his voice in its current stage. “I feel like a horse that's ready to run, and when you're called back, it can be a bit frustrating,” he said.

“One of the most important words I've had to learn to say is “No,” de Tommaso said, as he did when a German theater asked him to sing Radames in Verdi's “Aida.” He told them simply: “It's too early.”

Too early as well is the pinnacle of the Verdi tenor repertory, the title role in “Otello.” It's his dream to tackle it in “maybe five to 10 years.”

Disney passes are latest front in war with DeSantis appointees



JOHN RAOUX • The Associated Press

The Cinderella Castle is seen at the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World, July 14, 2023, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
The Associated Press

Already involved in two lawsuits with Disney, Gov. Ron DeSantis' appointees to a board that oversees Disney World's governing district on Monday launched a battle against the company on a new front — free passes and discounts for district employees.

Board members of the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District submitted a complaint to the state Inspector General, claiming that the millions of dollars in season passes, as well as discounts on hotels, merchandise, food and beverages, that their Disney-supporting predecessors provided governing district employees amount to unethical benefits and perks.

Last year alone, before the DeSantis appointees took over the governing board and it was still controlled by Disney backers, around \$2.5 million in discounts and passes were given to district employees and their families, the board said in a news release.

The arrangement was self-serving to the company because it funneled money back to Disney, with the district footing the bill, the release said.

Disney didn't respond to an email seeking comment. A spokesman for the board didn't respond to a request for the letter sent to the Inspector General, which investigates fraud, mismanagement, waste and abuse.

The arrangement appears to be more like an employee benefit rather than a taxpayer scam,

similar to the way professors at a university may get free passes to athletic events or free tuition for family members, said Richard Foglesong, a Rollins College professor emeritus who wrote a definitive account of Disney World's governance in his book “Married to the Mouse: Walt Disney World and Orlando.”

The complaint from the DeSantis appointees comes as the district administrator they appointed last May faces an ethics dilemma of his own. Glen Gilzean, who earns \$400,000 annually in his new job, also is chair of the Florida Commission on Ethics. He can't simultaneously be a commission board member and work for the district because the commission prohibits public employees from serving on its board, a commission attorney said last week in a legal opinion.

A fight between DeSantis and Disney began last year after the company, facing significant pressure internally and externally, publicly opposed a state law banning classroom lessons on sexual orientation and gender identity in early grades.

As punishment, DeSantis took over the district through legislation passed by the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature and appointed a new board of supervisors to oversee municipal services for the sprawling theme parks and hotels. But the new supervisors' authority over design and construction has been limited by the company's agreements with Disney-supporting predecessors.

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'Blue Beetle' unseats 'Barbie' atop box office, ending four-week reign



WARNER BROS. PICTURES • The Associated Press

This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Ryan Gosling, left, and Margot Robbie in a scene from "Barbie."

By JACK COYLE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The DC superhero film "Blue Beetle" led weekend ticket sales with a modest \$25.4 million opening, according to studio estimates Sunday, dethroning "Barbie" from the top spot after a record-setting run that left movie theaters colored pink for a month.

The "Barbie" phenomenon is far from over. Greta Gerwig's film, which earlier this week became the highest grossing Warner Bros. release ever domestically, nearly managed to stay No. 1 again with \$21.5 million in its fifth weekend. It's up to \$567.3 million in North America and an eye-popping \$1.28 billion globally.

The other half of "Barbenheimer" also continues to perform remarkably well for a movie so far into its run.

Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" took in \$10.6 million in its fifth week. With a \$285.2 million domestic total, "Oppenheimer" now owns the distinction of being the biggest box-office hit never to

land No. 1 at the weekend box office.

The previous record-holder for that unlikely stat is 2016's "Sing," which grossed \$270.3 million in the shadow of "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" and "Hidden Figures."

Universal Pictures' "Oppenheimer" has done even better overseas. Its global gross stands at an estimated \$717.8 million through Sunday.

"Blue Beetle," starring Xolo Maridueña, came in on the lower side of expectations and notched one of the lower debuts for a DC Comics movie.

Though earlier planned as a streaming-only release, Warner Bros. elected to put "Blue Beetle," the first DC movie to star a Latino superhero, into theaters in the late summer, a typically quiet period at the box office.

The production price tag of about \$105 million was lower for "Blue Beetle" than the average superhero film.

It's one of the last releases produced under an earlier regime at DC Studios, which James Gunn and Peter Safran took the reins of last year.

The film, directed by Ángel Manuel Soto and written by Gareth Dunnet-Alcocer, drew solid reviews — certainly better than the three previous DC releases this year ("The Flash," "Black Adam" and "Shazam! Fury of the Gods"). "Blue Beetle" (76% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) is the rare comic-book film to put a Hispanic cast front and center.

But it also faced some tough luck, and not just in the unexpected staying power of "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer."

Southern California was bracing Sunday for Hurricane Hilary — potentially dampening ticket sales in the region. (Los Angeles was still its top market.)

And like recent releases, "Blue Beetle," which added \$18 million internationally, didn't have its cast available to promote the movie due to the ongoing actors strike.

Universal's raunchy R-rated canine comedy "Strays" showed even less bite.

The film, with a voice cast including Will Ferrell and Jamie Foxx, landed in fifth place with \$8.4 million.

Trial scheduled in 2024 for movie amidst fatal shooting



JAE C. HONG • The Associated Press

This aerial photo shows the Bonanza Creek Ranch in Santa Fe, N.M., on Oct. 23, 2021, used for the film "Rust."

The Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — A New Mexico judge has set a 2024 starting date for the trial of movie armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer by actor Alec Baldwin during a rehearsal on the set of a Western film.

State district court Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer on Monday scheduled the trial to run from Feb. 21 through March 6 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The first day begins with jury selection.

Gutierrez-Reed has pleaded not guilty to charges of involuntary manslaughter and evidence tampering in the fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during a rehearsal on the set of "Rust" on Oct. 21, 2021.

An attorney for Gutierrez-Reed has described the fatal shooting as a tragic accident and

says the film's armorer committed no crime. Gutierrez-Reed is currently the sole criminal defendant.

Prosecutors are weighing whether to refile a charge against Baldwin after receiving a new analysis of the gun fired at Hutchins. Special prosecutors dismissed an involuntary manslaughter charge against Baldwin in April, saying they were informed the gun might have been modified before the shooting and malfunctioned.

Baldwin has said he pulled back the hammer — but not the trigger — and the gun fired, fatally wounding Hutchins and injuring director Joel Souza.

The filming of "Rust" resumed this year in Montana, under an agreement with the cinematographer's widow, Matthew Hutchins.

◀RAPP from page 20

how they were so toxic, they could ruin a deadly drink. Taking a 180 from the first song, "I Hate Boston" is a piano ballad on how an ex ruined a city full of memories.

While a catchy crooning song, it's one of several other ballads capturing some of the greatest pains known to humans.

"The Wedding Song" has touches of mellow 2000s pop on how someone will never hear how much they were loved after leaving Rapp's life. "Snow Angel" is interspersed with guitar solos and feels the most personal as Rapp passionately belts out her sadness and not feeling worthy of connecting with others.

The best lyrical song on the album is "Tummy Hurts." The simplicity of the childish title can throw off listeners, but the complex emotions of love take over through laid back tones. Rapp curses an ex for generations to come by saying "someone's gonna hurt their little girl like their daddy hurt me." The laid back tones contrast the melancholy, making for a splendid song.

The second half of Rapp's album goes for gentler melodies similar to Jeremy Zucker and Frank Ocean. They eloquently describe the changes that come from growing up and figuring out not everyone has it figured out.

"Pretty Girls" is a letter to Rapp since coming out as bisexual last

year and adjusting to being hit on. "I Wish" is a tearful song about realizing your parents will eventually die one day and trying to come to terms with it. "Willow" takes a new twist on R&B by having a conversation with your younger self and giving your inner child advice.

Rapp's album makes for a gentle yet powerful debut. To take the difficult moments of growth and adapt them into poetic lyrics to touch thousands is no easy feat, yet she does it gracefully.

"Snow Angel" reinvents pop to be simultaneously warming and celebratory, just how the first snowfall should feel.



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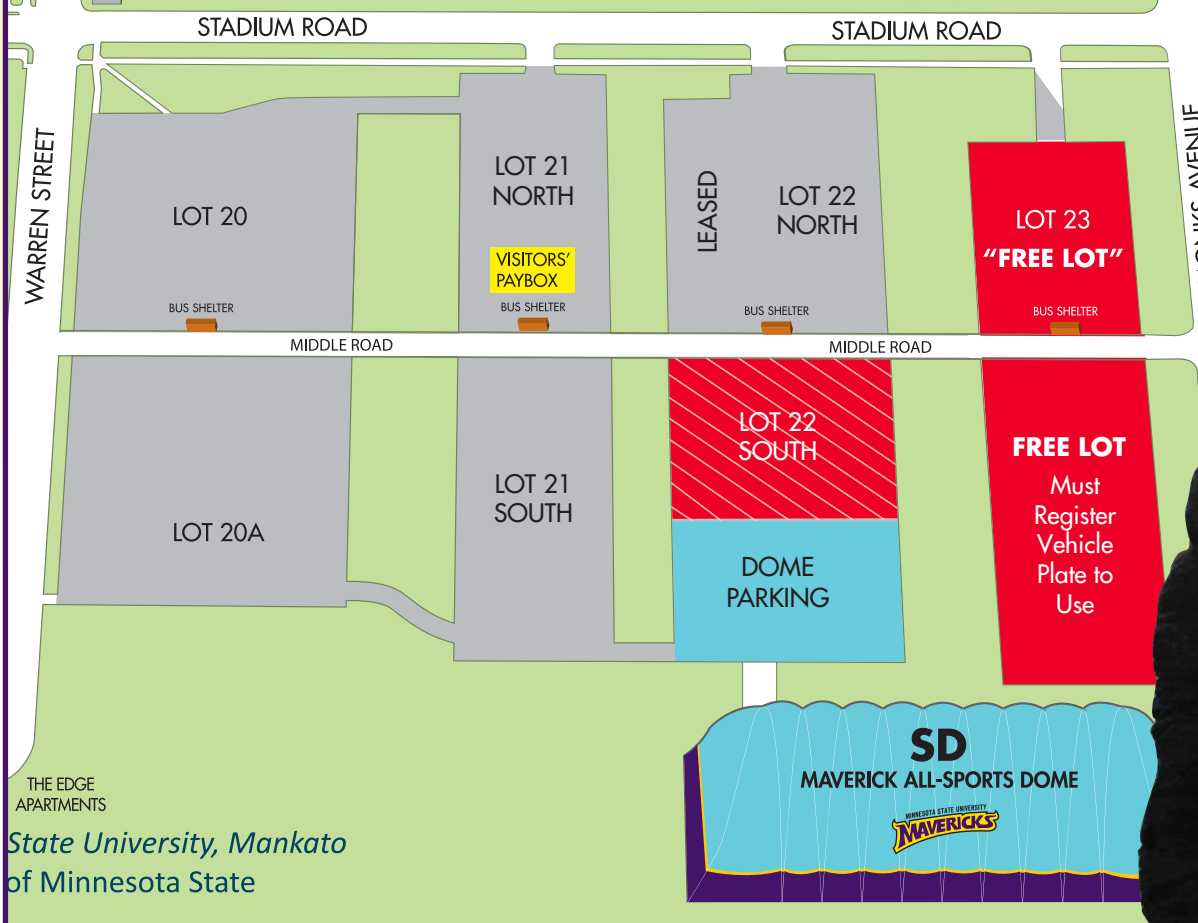
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