

Student Government holds first meeting

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

The 91st Student Government met for the first time this academic year Wednesday where new and returning senators gained insight as to how the senate works and heard from university officials on a variety of issues on campus.

The meeting started with swearing in of two senators who were not initiated toward the end of spring semester.

Speaker Douglas Roberts gave a “Senate 101” presentation where they informed senators about different procedural rules and what’s expected of members including engaging in projects, reaching 45 office hours and participating on two different committees.

An open forum, which allows anyone in the gallery to speak, was then held.

Chairman of the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee David Cowan gave an update on parking permits. Over 5,000 were sold in the last five days, not counting 800 students who registered for the free lot.

Cowan also mentioned the new bookstore, now called the Maverick Shop after it used to be named the Barnes and Nobles Bookstore for the last 24 years. Cowan said transitioning to the new manager has come with a few bumps in the road.

“We’ve resolved the prob-



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Vice President David Mesta (left) and Speaker Douglas Roberts addressed the new Student Government Senate. Both new and returning senators spoke on plans for the new academic year and went over procedures such as how the meetings are run and proper ways to motion.

lems day by day, but students aren’t getting books which are critical for goals,” Cowan said.

Director of University Security Sandi Schnorenberg talked about services University Security offers to students. She also addressed Minnesota’s legalization of marijuana and that it’s illegal to smoke on campus.

Vice President David Mesta gave a report addressing news on campus.

He mentioned an increase in student enrollment and the addition of the reflection lounge over the summer.

Additionally, he said there will be no senator pay this academic year due to the budget

decrease.

Senator Roshit Niraula discussed the wayfinding project which was started last year. Through the collaboration of student government and computer science students, the project helps students navigate Traflet Science Center.

The target population of the

project, whether it will be used for administration or students, is still to be determined.

Elections for three Residential Life senators open next week along with a graduate studies senator position.

A position for an off-campus senator is also up for election on Sept. 6.

MSU book store under new management

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

For the first time in 24 years, the campus bookstore has a new name.

Ownership has changed hands and now the store formerly known as the Barnes and Noble University Bookstore is the Maverick Shop, owned by Follet Higher Education out of Chicago.

Maverick Shop will have extended hours during the first week of classes to help students prepare for the semester.

Detailed information on working hours is available on the website via bkstr.com/mnsu-store.

So far, students find shopping at Maverick Shop convenient.

“I liked it. It is very organized here. And it is also easy to find the things I need because everyone here is helpful,” said fresh-

man Riley Gieser.

“I ordered my textbooks online, which was pretty easy to find just by putting in your classes and then connecting with your financial aid.”

“I think it is more convenient now. It took me a minute to get used to, but overall, it is, I think, much easier,” said sophomore Jamie Drey.

In the shop, students can find materials for classes in digital and hardcover formats.

“I prefer online textbooks, but if it’s a class that is higher level, for example, the four hundred, I prefer the hardcover just because it is easier to read and study from,” said senior Sierra Roiger.

Staff members at Maverick Shop said they enjoy helping students find class materials.

Staff keeps the store organized to make sure students can find the books and other materials without any issues.



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

Students packed the bookstore to pick up materials for the new school year at the Maverick Shop, formerly the Barnes and Nobles bookstore.

Student workers help others navigate through the store and place orders.

For them, working hours are short to provide time for studies

and extracurricular activities.

“I organize the books or put them away. Or if someone has an order, I pick it up for them and help them get it,” said Sum-

mer Melton, student worker at Maverick Shop.

“I really like to help people, and I think it is a really good place to work, especially if you are a student, because they give me short hours to make sure I have time to do my homework.”

Maverick Shop promotes the spirit of the university and offers a wide variety of MSU-branded clothing and accessories available in the shop and online.

“I like that it is called the Maverick Shop. I think it is unique for sure,” said Roiger.

Additionally, students can purchase necessities for the dorms.

Students can find a wide selection of kitchenware, electronics and home decor.

For more information about the products and working hours, and to purchase products, see the website bkstr.com/mnsustore on your browser.

Oil activities encroach on sacred Ugandan natural sites



HAJARAH NALWADDA • The Associated Press

John Gafabusa, custodian of the Mutyona natural sacred site near Buliisa, Uganda, points at a water covered sacred site on Lake Albert at the Karakaba landing site, Aug. 3, 2023.

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA
The Associated Press

Alex Wakitinti is worried about the sacred natural sites he tends in the large swath of bushy grassland near Lake Albert. It's the same slice of his homeland that oil companies are developing in order for Uganda to become an oil producer by 2026.

But French oil company TotalEnergies and others working toward that goal are recklessly ignoring the significance of Wakitinti's spiritual work, he said, as well as that of the other custodians minding hallowed natural sites in the remote district of Buliisa near the Congo border.

"According to the program of Total, custodians are not there," said Wakitinti, chief custodian of sacred sites in Buliisa. "We are not in their program."

That is a mistake, he said, making note of the bad luck that can come from disturbing these special places without performing the necessary rituals or making sacrifices to spirit mediums — like the tree Wakitinti recently knelt under to pray and present a bird's nest.

Sacred natural sites here range from single trees in the bush to the rift in the land where the Nile River merges with Lake Albert, creating a spectacular landscape that intensifies the Bagungu's respect for nature. They believe these sites are repositories of occult mediums with the power to solve problems that range from a thief in the community to a sickness in the family.

As TotalEnergies invests billions into oilfield development and acquires more and more land, Wakitinti and other

Bagungu people who practice traditional beliefs worry the spiritual power of at least 32 sacred natural sites in Buliisa keeps deteriorating. There are already signs, like the region's prolonged dry spell some say is proof the sanctity of some sites has already been breached.

"You can see we have no rain. ... We are crying," said farmer William Byabagambi, who noted that communal offerings to spirits will be fewer as community members move out to make way for oil infrastructure.

Uganda is estimated to have recoverable oil reserves of at least 1.4 billion barrels, and officials see future oil earnings lifting millions out of poverty. Investors from Australia, Ireland, China and, most recently, France have been involved over the years.

TotalEnergies — the top shareholder in Uganda's oil project — faces a legal challenge and pressure to pull out because of concerns over a heated pipeline that campaigners say undermines the Paris climate accord.

A TotalEnergies spokesperson in Uganda did not immediately respond to detailed requests for comment on the concerns of the Bagungu.

In 2006, a commercially viable amount of oil was discovered in Buliisa, which is home to less than 100,000 Bagungu, a community of farmers and others who depend on the Albertine area for everything from food to religious practice. Their traditional beliefs are seen as peculiar in this Christian-majority country of 45 million people, contributing to the sense of injustice that's now driving a campaign to protect their sacred natural sites from oil activities.

"The sites are threatened," said Robert T. Katemburura, an activist with the Uganda-based African Institute for Culture and Ecology.

Most families in Buliisa maintain small shrines to ancestral spirits close to home but sometimes take trips to sacred natural sites, seeking revelations and blessings in response to their more serious matters.

While the sites remain largely intact, the sanctity of two has been violated by a nearby pipeline and a processing facility. Excessive noise from oil-related work is believed to anger spirits, he said.

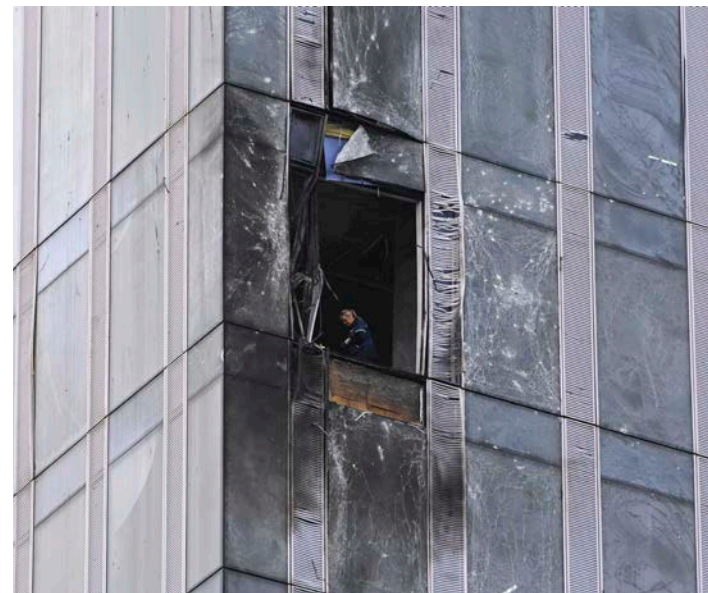
"We fault the oil companies because they have taken their roads and infrastructure through the sacred natural sites," he said.

In 2020, Irish firm Tullow Oil completed the \$575 million sale of its Ugandan assets to TotalEnergies, raising hopes of oil production after delays due to corruption scandals and tax disputes. But the French company faces challenges as some campaigners go to court and others urge banks to withdraw support.

European lawmakers last year passed a resolution that urged TotalEnergies to suspend its activities in the region. This year the company faced a second lawsuit in Paris over its East Africa project. Filed in June by French and Ugandan civic groups, the lawsuit accuses the company of failing to comply with France's "duty of vigilance" law and seeks compensation for six years of alleged land and food rights violations.

TotalEnergies has long denied the charges, saying it's deploying state-of-the-art design.

Russia and Ukraine trade drone attacks



The Associated Press

An investigator examines a damaged skyscraper in Moscow City business district after a reported drone attack in Moscow, Russia.

By SUSIE BLANN
The Associated Press

Russia and Ukraine traded drone attacks early Wednesday, officials said, with Kyiv apparently targeting Moscow again and the Kremlin's forces launching another bombardment of Ukrainian grain storage depots in what have recently become signature tactics in the almost 18-month war.

Later Wednesday, the Ukrainian intelligence agency claimed it had destroyed a key Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile defense system in occupied Crimea.

If confirmed, it would be another embarrassing blow for Moscow, as Ukraine increas-

ingly targets Russia's assets far behind the front line in southern and eastern Ukraine.

The agency, known by its acronym GUR, claimed on its official Telegram channel that Russia has a "limited number" of the sophisticated systems and that the loss "is a painful blow."

Moscow officials made no immediate comment.

The long-range S-400 missiles are capable of striking enemy aircraft and are regarded as one of the best such systems available. They have a range of 400 kilometers (250 miles) and can simultaneously engage multiple targets.

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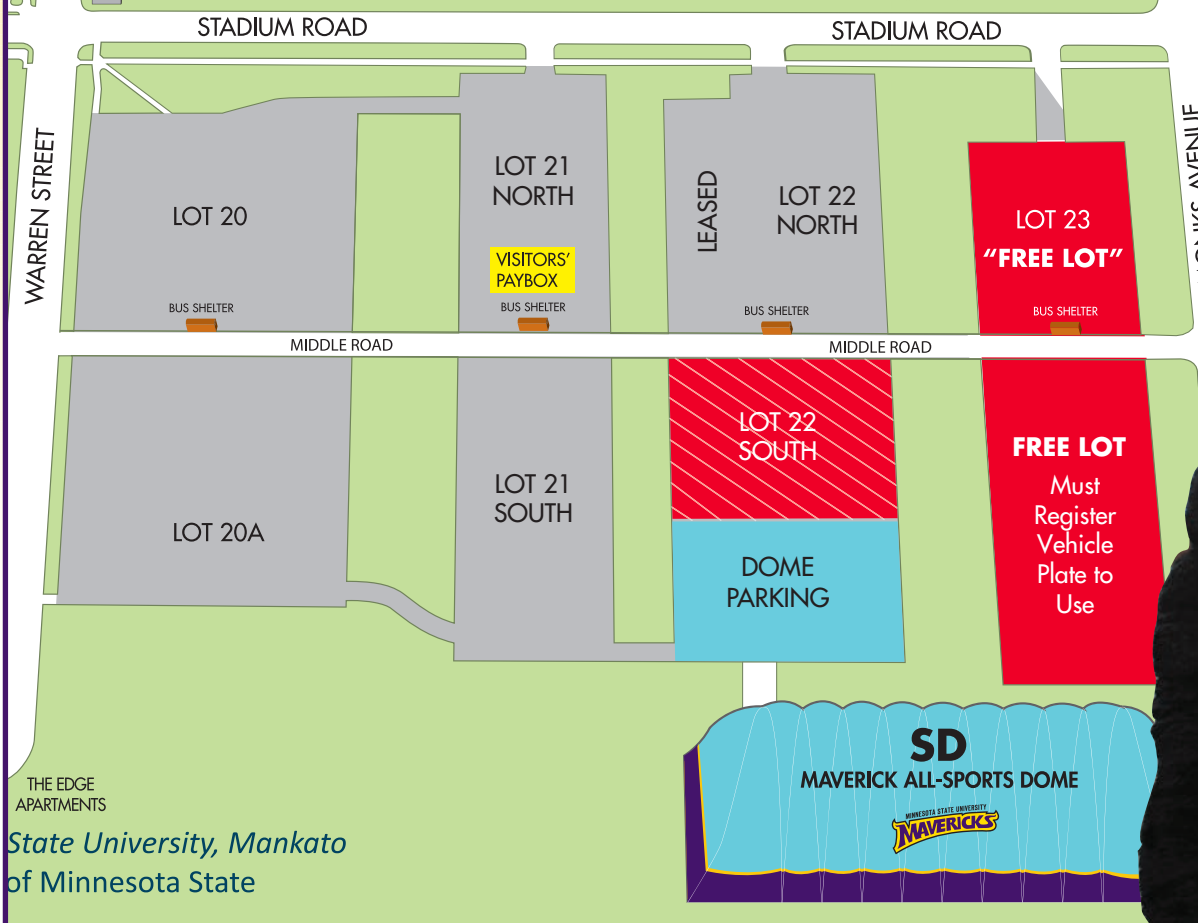
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South Carolina's all-male highest court reverses course on abortion



BEN CRUMP • The Associated Press

Protesters against a stricter ban on abortion in South Carolina stand in the Statehouse lobby on Tuesday, May, 23, 2023, in Columbia, South Carolina which also reversed action on abortion the same day.

By JAMES POLLARD
The Associated Press

South Carolina's newly all-male Supreme Court reversed course on abortion Wednesday, upholding a law banning most such procedures except in the earliest weeks of pregnancy.

The continued erosion of legal abortion access across the U.S. South comes after Republican state lawmakers replaced the lone woman on the court, Justice Kaye Hearn, who reached the state's mandatory retirement age.

The 4-1 ruling departs from the court's own decision months earlier striking down a similar ban that the Republican-led Legislature passed in 2021. The latest ban takes effect immediately.

Writing for the new majority, Justice John Kittredge acknowledged that the 2023 law also infringes on "a woman's right of privacy and bodily autonomy," but said the state Legislature reasonably determined this time around that those interests don't outweigh "the interest of the unborn child to live."

"As a Court, unless we can say that the balance struck by the Legislature was unreasonable as a matter of law, we must uphold the Act," Kittredge wrote.

Kittredge wrote that "we leave for another day" a determination on what the law's language means for when exactly during a pregnancy the ban should begin, likely forecasting another long court fight on that question.

Chief Justice Donald Beatty provided the lone dissent, arguing that the 2023 law is nearly identical, with definitions for terms including "fetal heartbeat" and "conception" that

provide no clarity on when the ban begins, exposing doctors to criminal charges if law enforcement disagrees with their expertise.

The Planned Parenthood South Atlantic clinic in Columbia had served only a "handful" of the roughly 30 patients scheduled for abortions Wednesday when the ruling came down, according to Dr. Katherine Farris, the group's chief medical officer. The center — one of three clinics in the state — has paused abortions while officials work to understand the ruling's implications.

Beatty warned that the majority's failure to address such a key question could lead to political retribution. He added that judicial independence and integrity were weakened by the court's decision to backpedal on its prior ruling.

Hearn wrote the majority's lead opinion in January striking down the ban as a violation of the state constitution's right to privacy. She then reached the court's mandatory retirement age, enabling the GOP-led Legislature to put Gary Hill on what is now the nation's only state Supreme Court with an entirely male bench.

Republican lawmakers then crafted a new law to address Justice John Few's concern, expressed in the January ruling, that the Legislature had failed to take into account whether the restrictions were reasonable enough to infringe upon a woman's privacy rights.

Abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, sued again. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic's lawyer said during oral arguments this summer that both laws limited abortions at the same point in pregnancy and were equally unconstitutional.

The 2023 law restricts most abortions once cardiac activity can be detected, declaring that this happens about six weeks after a pregnant woman's last menstrual period. Lawmakers defined this as "the steady and repetitive rhythmic contraction of the fetal heart, within the gestational sac."

But Beatty wrote that at six weeks, the fetus doesn't exist yet — it's still an embryo — and the heart doesn't develop until later in a pregnancy. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists says it's inaccurate to call such "cardiac activity" a heartbeat.

"The terminology is medically and scientifically inaccurate. As such, it is the quintessential example of political gaslighting; attempting to manipulate public opinion and control the reproductive health decisions of women by distorting reality," Beatty wrote.

The newly sworn Hill joined Wednesday's majority along with Few, who had previously voted to overturn the 2021 law. In a separate concurring opinion, Few wrote that the state constitution's right to privacy does not provide blanket protections against "reasonable" invasions.

The majority opinion found a key difference in the lawmakers' deletion of a reference to a pregnant woman having the right to make an "informed choice." The 2023 law expanded "the notion of choice to the period of time before fertilization, certainly before a couple passively learns of a pregnancy," Few wrote.

That change lengthens the window for couples to avoid unwanted pregnancies by promoting "active family planning."

Deep-sea 'hot tubs' help octopus moms hatch eggs faster



MBARI via The Associated Press

This 2019 image from video provided by MBARI shows a male pearl octopus (*Muusoctopus robustus*) at the "octopus garden," near the Davidson Seamount off the California coast.

By CHRISTINA LARSON
The Associated Press

lished Wednesday in *Science Advances*.

Most octopuses lead solitary lives. So scientists were startled to find thousands of octopus huddled together, protecting their eggs at the bottom of the ocean off the central California coast.

Now researchers may have solved the mystery of why these pearl octopus congregate: Heat seeping up from the base of an extinct underwater volcano helps their eggs hatch faster.

"There are clear advantages of basically sitting in this natural hot tub," said Janet Voight, an octopus biologist at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago and co-author of the study, which was pub-

The researchers calculated that the heated nest location more than halved the time it took for eggs laid there to hatch — reducing the risk of being munched by snails, shrimp and other predators.

The nesting site, which the scientists dubbed an "octopus garden," was first discovered in 2018 by researchers from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and other institutions. The team used an underwater remote vehicle to film the throng of nearly 6,000 octopus nesting 2 miles deep.

The octopus — about the size of a grapefruit — perched over their eggs laid on rocks heated by water seeping up from the sea floor.

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Republicans embrace campaign discussion without Trump



BEN GRAY • The Associated Press

Presidential candidate Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., speaks at The Gathering in Atlanta on Friday, Aug. 18, 2023.

By BILL BARROW
The Associated Press

Donald Trump's decision to skip the first Republican debate may hurt television ratings and put more pressure on the eight contenders who will be on stage. But plenty of rank-and-file conservatives said they were eager to see their options without the former president dominating the conversation.

"People are just so focused on the circus," said Melissa Watford, a 53-year-old Republican from suburban Atlanta. "He's just a distraction. Distraction, distraction, distraction."

Watford's husband, Jack, said he would still consider supporting Trump if he wins the nomination, but he described the former president as "clickbait" and expressed relief that he is yielding the stage Wednesday in Milwaukee.

"When he's out of the picture," the 61-year-old said, "you can actually hear other candidates, actually listen to them."

The Watfords represent a notable share of Republican primary voters who, regardless of their feelings about Trump, want the party to wrestle with its identity and choices rather than hand the former president a third consecutive nomination without a fight. The group is difficult to quantify precisely, though GOP pollsters and

Trump's competitors believe it's large enough to overcome Trump's base.

It extends beyond the small-but-vocal "Never Trump" faction. Instead, there is an expansive middle of the party open to new options — but that has supported Trump in the past, is at least somewhat sympathetic to his legal peril and would almost certainly vote for him again in a general election if he becomes the nominee.

"I'm deeply bothered by the bigger picture, by what Joe Biden and his administration are doing to the country," said Terry Lathan, a former Alabama Republican Party chairwoman who once backed Trump but now supports Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis for president. "The policy and the Republican platform have to be the top of the food chain here."

Lathan acknowledged, however, that "there is no bigger personality than President Trump ... There's a crush of people ready to do it all over again."

What a post-Trump party might look like was on display last weekend at conservative radio host Erick Erickson's annual political convocation, "The Gathering," staged in the GOP-leaning Buckhead neighborhood of Atlanta, a Democratic stronghold. Hundreds of activists, operatives and rank-and-file conservatives attended and tested their theories.

Russia's failed lunar mission

The Associated Press

An ambitious but failed attempt by Russia to return to the moon after nearly half a century has exposed the massive challenges faced by Moscow's once-proud space program.

The destruction of the robotic Luna-25 probe, which crashed onto the surface of the moon over the weekend, reflects the endemic problems that have dogged the Russian space industry since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. Those include the loss of key technologies in the post-Soviet industrial meltdown, the bruising impact of recent Western sanctions, a huge brain drain and widespread corruption.

Yuri Borisov, the head of the state-controlled space corporation Roscosmos, attributed the failure to the lack of expertise due to the long break in lunar research that followed the last Soviet mission to the moon in 1976.

"The priceless experience that our predecessors earned in the 1960-70s was effectively lost," Borisov said. "The link between generations has been cut."

While the USSR lost the race to the United States to land humans on the moon, the Soviet lunar program had more than a dozen successful pioneering robotic missions, some of which featured lunar rovers and brought soil samples back to Earth. The proud Soviet space history includes launching the first satellite in space in 1957 and the first human in space in 1961.

Mikhail Marov, a 90-year-



ROSCOSMOS STATE SPACE CORPORATION

The Soyuz-2.1b rocket with the moon lander Luna-25 automatic station takes off from a launch pad at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia

old scientist who played a prominent role in planning the earlier lunar missions and worked on the Luna-25 project, was hospitalized after its failure.

"It was very hard. It's the work of all my life," Marov said in remarks carried by Russian media. "For me, it was the last chance to see the revival of our lunar program."

Borisov said the spacecraft's thruster fired for 127 seconds instead of the planned 84 seconds, causing it to crash, and a government commission will investigate the glitch.

Natan Eismont, a leading researcher with the Moscow-based Institute for Space Research, told the state RIA Novosti agency said that signs of equipment problems had appeared even before the crash, but space officials still gave the go for landing.

Vitaly Egorov, a popular

Russian space blogger, noted that Roscosmos may have neglected the warnings in a rush to be the first to land on the lunar south pole ahead of an Indian spacecraft that has been orbiting the moon ahead of a planned landing.

"It looks like things weren't going according to plan, but they decided not to change the schedule to prevent the Indians from coming first," he said.

The lunar south pole is of particular interest to scientists, who believe the permanently shadowed polar craters may contain frozen water in the rocks that future explorers could transform into air and rocket fuel.

A major factor exacerbating Russia's space woes that could have played a role in the Luna-25 failure has been the Western sanctions on Moscow over its war in Ukraine.

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Texas' floating barrier to stop migrants draws concerns



ERIC GAY • The Associated Press

A migrant from Columbia walks along a floating buoy barrier as he looks to cross the Rio Grande from Mexico into the U.S., Monday, Aug. 21, 2023, in Eagle Pass, Texas which is drawing in more concern.

By PAUL J. WEBER
The Associated Press

Mexico's government has repeatedly raised concerns with the U.S. about large buoys Texas put on the Rio Grande to deter migrants and agreements between the two countries could suffer if the floating barrier remains in place, a State Department official said in court Tuesday.

The testimony sought to reinforce what the Biden administration argues are the diplomatic stakes over wrecking-ball-sized buoys that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott authorized this summer as part of the Republican's increasingly hardline measures in the name of curbing the flow of migrants crossing the border.

U.S. District Judge David Ezra did not immediately rule at the conclusion of the hearing Tuesday in Austin.

At one point, Ezra said the issue centered on whether Abbott has the power to unilaterally try stopping what the governor has described as an "invasion" on America's southern border.

"Mexico has sensitivities about sovereignty and doesn't want to be seen as a lesser partner to the United States," said Hillary Quam, the State Department's coordinator for border affairs between U.S. and Mexico.

The hearing is one of two key court cases in Texas this week surrounding immigration.

On Thursday, the Biden administration will again be in court, this time on the defense as it tries to keep in place a program designed to allow people to come to the U.S. from four countries.

Texas is one of 21 states that

have sued over that program, and a victory would undercut a broader policy seeking to encourage migrants to use the Biden administration's preferred pathways into the country.

A decision in that hearing, which will be held in Victoria, Texas, also was not expected to come immediately.

In Austin, Quam said Mexico has raised concerns "at the highest diplomatic levels" with the U.S. in the short time that the buoys — which stretch roughly the length of a handful of soccer fields on a portion of the river near the Texas city of Eagle Pass — have been on the water.

Quam said infrastructure projects between the countries and Mexico's commitments to delivering water to the U.S. could stall over the barrier.

The hearing was held days after Texas repositioned the barrier closer to U.S. soil.

During a trip Monday to Eagle Pass, Abbott said the barrier was moved "out of an abundance of caution" after what he described as allegations that they had drifted to Mexico's side of the river.

He added that he did not know whether the allegations were true.

Ezra questioned why Texas would have moved the barrier if it was already on the U.S. side and whether the currents of the river were causing the buoys to drift.

"If it were in a position Texas was comfortable with, they wouldn't have done that," Ezra said.

The state's only called witness was a representative from Cochrane Global, which manufactured the buoys, who testified that barrier was securely in

place.

Patrick Sweeten, a special counsel for the Texas attorney general's office, also drew attention to recent comments made by Secretary of State Anthony Blinken that ties between the U.S. and Mexico were strong.

Ezra, who was appointed by former President Ronald Reagan, made a point to emphasize at the end of the hearing that his ruling would stick to the dispute at hand and not veer into politics.

A ruling either way would likely be appealed to the conservative U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

In the meantime, Abbott's sprawling border mission known as Operation Lone Star continues to face numerous legal challenges, including a new one filed Monday by four migrant men arrested by Texas troopers after crossing the border.

The men, including a father and son, are among thousands of migrants who since 2021 have been arrested on trespassing charges in the state.

Most have either had their cases dismissed or entered guilty pleas in exchange for time served.

But the plaintiffs remained in a Texas jail for two to six weeks after they should have been released, according to the lawsuit filed by the Texas ACLU and the Texas Fair Defense Project.

Instead of a sheriff's office allowing the jails to release the men, the lawsuit alleges, they were transported to federal immigration facilities and then sent to Mexico.

Officials in Kinney and Val Verde County, which are named in the lawsuit, have not commented or responded to the claims.

MLK a star of Anniversary of 1963 March on Washington



AP File Photo

In this Aug. 28, 1963 file photo, The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. waves to the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial for his "I Have a Dream" speech.

By GARY FIELDS
The Associated Press

The last part of the speech took less time to deliver than it takes to boil an egg, but "I Have A Dream" is one of American history's most famous orations and most inspiring.

On Aug. 28, 1963, from the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, Martin Luther King Jr. began by speaking of poverty, segregation and discrimination and how the United States had reneged on its promise of equality for Black Americans. If anyone remembers that dystopian beginning, they don't talk about it.

What is etched into people's memory is the pastoral flourish that marked the last five min-

utes and presented a soaring vision of what the nation might be and the freedom that equality for all could bring.

As participants prepare to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, that five-minute piece of King's 16-minute address is the star of that day and today it is the measuring stick of the country's progress.

How did that memorable moment come to be? Were there other speakers?

King was one of several prominent figures speaking to the many tens of thousands gathered on the National Mall that summer day. Others included A. Phillip Randolph, the march director.


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India lands spacecraft near the moon's south pole

By ASHOK SHARMA and KRUTIKA PATHI
Staff Writer

India became the first country to land a spacecraft near the moon's south pole on Wednesday — a historic voyage to uncharted territory that scientists believe could hold vital reserves of frozen water, and a technological triumph for the world's most populous nation.

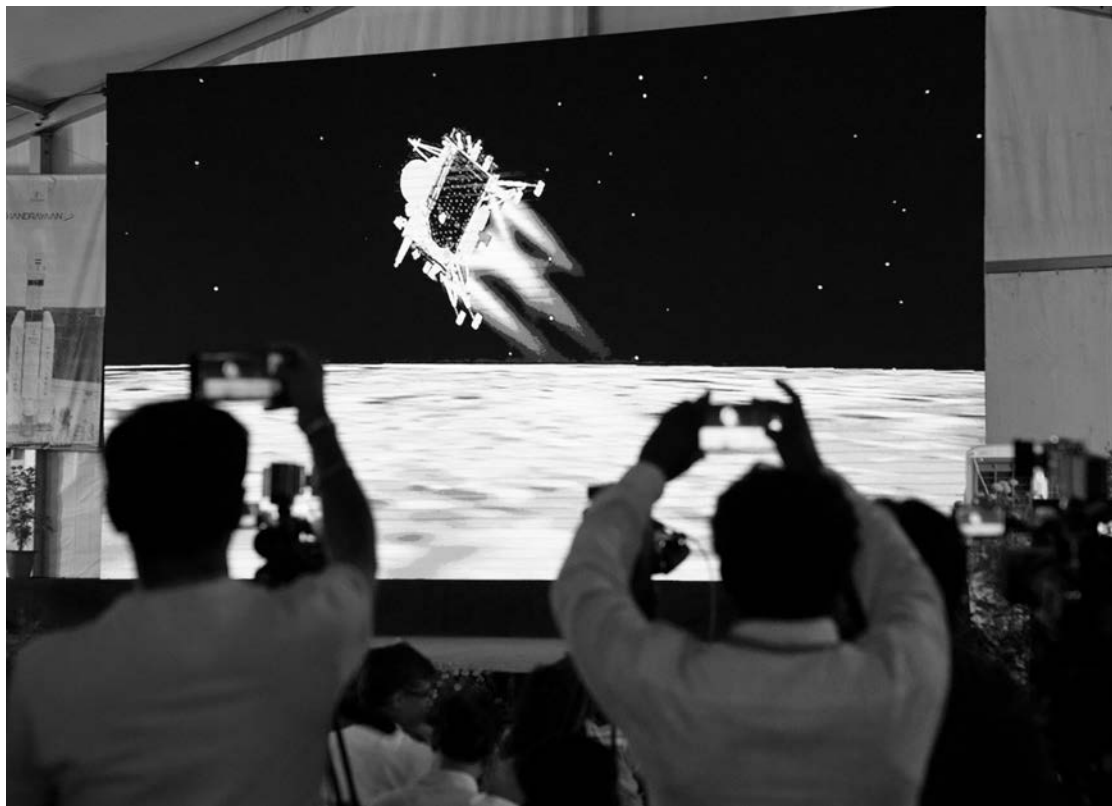
After a failed attempt to land on the moon in 2019, India now joins the United States, the Soviet Union and China as only the fourth country to achieve this milestone.

A lander with a rover inside touched down on the lunar surface at 6:04 p.m. local time, sparking celebrations across India, including in the southern Indian city of Bengaluru, where space scientists watching the landing erupted in cheers and applause.

The successful mission showcases India's rising standing as a technology and space powerhouse and dovetails with the image that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to project: an ascendant country asserting its place among the global elite.

"India is now on the moon. India has reached the south pole of the moon — no other country has achieved that. We are witnessing history," Modi said as he waved the Indian tri-colored flag while watching the landing from South Africa, where he is participating in the BRICS nations summit.

The lunar rover will slide down a flap from the lander



AIJAZ RAHI • The Associated Press

Journalists film the live telecast of spacecraft Chandrayaan-3 landing on the moon at ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network facility in Bengaluru, India.

within hours or a day and conduct experiments, including an analysis of the mineral composition of the lunar surface, said S. Somnath, chairman of the state-run Indian Space Research Organization.

The mission, which began more than a month ago at an estimated cost of \$75 million, is expected to last another two weeks.

Somnath said that India would next attempt a manned lunar mission.

Nuclear-armed India grew to become the world's fifth-largest economy last year, and the success of the lunar mission will likely help Modi's popularity ahead of a crucial general election next year.

India's success comes just days after Russia's Luna-25, which was aiming for the same lunar region, spun into an uncontrolled orbit and crashed.

It would have been the first successful Russian lunar landing after a gap of 47 years.

Russia's head of the state-controlled space corporation Roscosmos attributed the failure to the lack of expertise due to the long break in lunar research that followed the last Soviet mission to the moon in 1976.

Modi's efforts to revitalize India's global standing — and to finally shake off the legacy of British colonialization — has resonated with many Indians.

The moon landing was seen by many as further proof that their country is a rising, modern superpower.

Excited and anxious people across India crowded around televisions in offices, shops, restaurants and homes. Thousands prayed Tuesday for the success of the mission with oil lamps on the river banks, temples and religious places, including the holy city of Varanasi in northern India.

As the lander approached the lunar surface, dozens of people in a government-run planetarium started praying with folded hands.

They switched to cheering and clapping once the lander touched down.

A man waved a banner reading "The Moon in India's arms."

Shrini Singh, a New Delhi resident, said she got goosebumps. "It's a very happy moment ... you can see the energy. It's beyond words."

Mitakshi Sinha, a student, said the successful mission motivated her. "And now I also want to be part of ISRO," she said, referring to the country's space agency.

India will host next month's G-20 Summit, and Modi is expected to use the event to spotlight the country's growing geopolitical clout.

Even as it maintains historic ties with Russia, the U.S. and other Western nations continue to woo India, whom they see as a critical bulwark against China's growing influence.

Accolades poured in from around the world to acknowledge India's emergence as a modern space power.

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson congratulated India.

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Why school in August works best

We as students have officially started school in August, two weeks before Labor Day. Many other schools around the nation won't start until after the last summer holiday and while most enjoy having an additional few weeks to soak up the sun, we as students believe it's better to start school in August rather than September.

Some students could argue that having two weeks of summer left would be the perfect extension, but what would you realistically be doing in those extra two weeks? Winding down your jobs, internships or other activities? While this is idyllic, this is the time of year where students usually worry about school and coming back to Mankato. So why not come back earlier and just get to work? You have to do it at some point.

The weather also makes it the perfect time to ease back into the swing of things. We as students would probably prefer being at the pool rather than sitting in lectures.

However, it makes it easier to get adjusted to our new schedules. There are plenty of places around campus to get work done outside or to hang outside with friends when we're done with classes for the day.

Some people don't stay for the summer and school brings us all back together. School isn't as pleasant when you have to walk outside in the freezing cold, so take advantage of spending time with friends and studying outside while you can as realistically, there's only a few weeks left to enjoy it.

Another benefit of starting school in August is getting adjusted to new housing. Most apartments require you to sign a lease for new housing or apartments early in the summer.

Being back in the area and being in your new place is the only way you will be able to determine whether you want to come back or not. Figuring out how living with your roommates and getting settled and comfortable in a new living space makes it easier to enjoy the school year when you've spent more time in the house without utilizing it as a space to sleep between classes or pull all nighters. Those two weeks can prove to be huge in the decision making process and we as students should use those two weeks to the fullest.

While we could sit and complain about how we should be making the most of the nice weather and getting last minute tans, we as students should embrace the summery weather before it gets too cold. It's the best way to ease into the new school year without sacrificing too much of the enjoyment of the summer.

Perspectives

Why Not Today?: Fulcrum Jokes



JEREMY REDLIEN • The Reporter

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

When I first approached the Mankato Department of Public Safety with the idea of them creating a LGBTQ police liaison, the proposal was rebuffed quicker than Usain Bolt breaking his own speed records. The reason the Mankato DPS gave at the time is that they feel that it would be potentially unfair to other groups.

At the time I had been volunteering for the Mankato DPS as part of their Volunteers in Police Services and what really bothered me was not the rejection itself but how it felt like there was not to be any discussion of the matter at all due to it being an a priori policy not to have a liaison. It made me feel as if the city had taken its long-standing practice of ignoring the needs of the LGBTQ community and turned it into an official policy.

I want to address the

specific argument about an LGBTQ liaison being “unfair” as it is one that has come up a lot when LGBTQ Mankatoans have asked for anything to address the inequality that we face. For example, it was said over and over that we were asking for “special rights,” back when we pushed the Mankato City Council to pass a non-discrimination ordinance in 1987.

However, the argument assumes that systemic inequality is a simple or easy thing to fix. As it stands, LGBTQ people face problems from multiple fronts. As LGBTQ individuals, we constantly have to face the possibility of family rejection, employment discrimination, or the loss of housing if we come out to the wrong people at the wrong time.

Imagine if you will, a lever, in which one side not only has twice as much mass as the other, but in which the beam bearing the greater weight is three

times as long. That would mean that the actual force at work (according to the Law of the Lever) is six times greater for one side versus the other.

If we assume the initial masses were 10 kg and 20 kg, then adding 20 kg to the lesser side and 10 kg to the other (thus resulting in both sides having 30 kg) would still result in a situation where one side exhibits three times as much force as the other.

In fact, you could continue adding twice as much mass indefinitely to the lesser side and never equalize the forces being applied. As the lesser mass would always result in three times the force per kilogram being added to the already greater side, relative to the lesser side. That is, no matter what in this scenario, you'd always be adding 1.5 times more force to the already greater side.

The point being is that simple solutions do not

COLUMN on page 10►

Pulse

“What was your favorite memory this summer?”

Compiled by Amalia Sharaf



MANAV MENDONCA,
GRAD STUDENT

“Seeing my parents.”



JUNGWOO ROH,
GRAD STUDENT

“Hanging out with friends.”



THORNE HABERMAS,
FRESHMAN

“Trip on a renovated grain elevator.”



DJ EBERSOLD,
FRESHMAN

“Going to an abandoned church and staying there for two nights.”



GRANT NAGEL,
JUNIOR

“Going to Alaska with my family and celebrating my brother's engagement.”



OLIVIA SMITH,
SENIOR

“I went to Costa Rica.”

Colorado man competent for trial

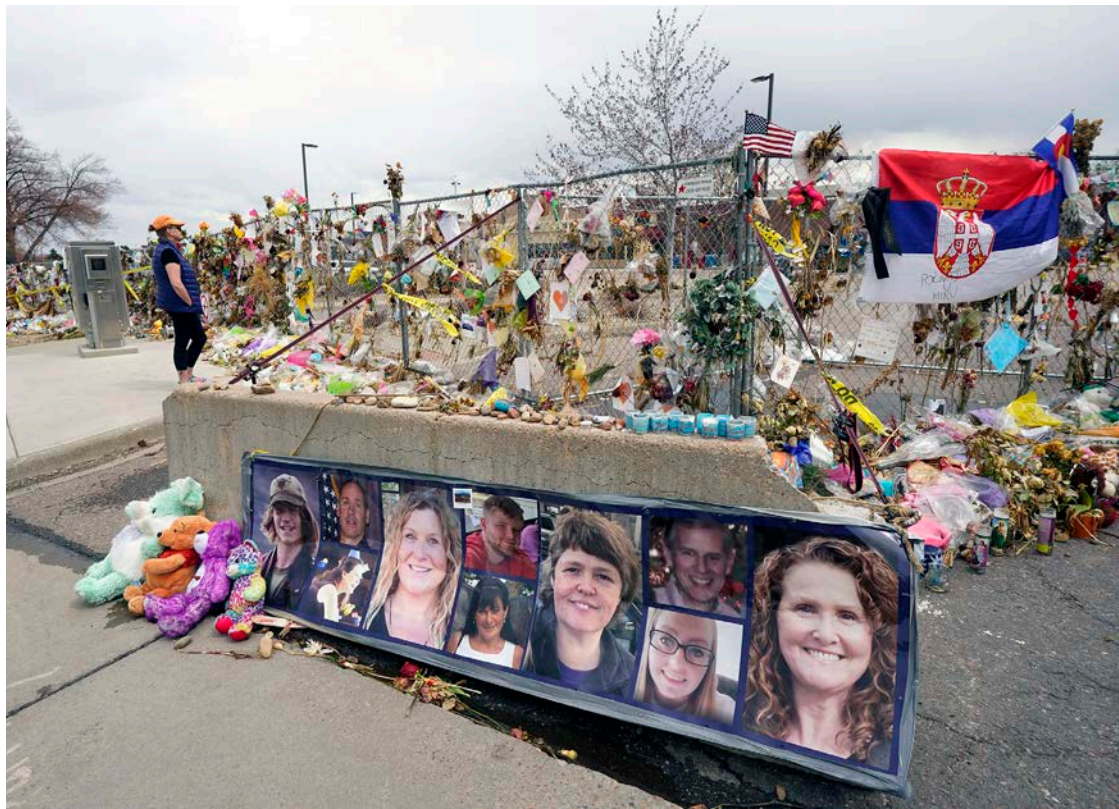
By COLLEEN SLEVIN
The Associated Press

A Colorado man charged with killing 10 people at a Boulder supermarket in 2021 is mentally competent to move toward trial, prosecutors announced Wednesday, raising the possibility that criminal proceedings stalled for over 1 1/2 years could resume soon.

In a court filing, they wrote that experts at the state mental hospital said in their latest report that they now think Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa is competent because he is consistently taking his medication, including a new, unidentified drug.

However, the filing says they believe his competency is "tenuous" and recommend Alissa, who has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, continue with ongoing psychiatric care and medications to remain competent.

Prosecutors therefore asked Judge Ingrid Bakke to keep Alissa at the Colorado Mental Health Institute in Pueblo rather than return him to the jail in Boulder, which cannot provide the same level of care. They say he can be transported to and from Boulder, 140 miles (225 kilometers) away, for court hearings.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI • The Associated Press
Pictures of the 10 victims of a mass shooting in a King Soopers grocery store are posted on a cement barrier outside the supermarket in Boulder, Colo., on April 23, 2021.

The latest mental health evaluation by the state's mental health experts noted Alissa's medication regime and a stable therapeutic environment have played "a significant role in him

maintaining competency," according to prosecutors.

Bakke still must accept the hospital's conclusion in order for criminal proceedings to resume.

Prosecutors also noted Alissa's lawyers have until Sept. 1 to request another evaluation of their client's competency.

A hearing to discuss the status of the case is scheduled for

Tuesday.

Alissa is charged with murder and multiple attempted murder counts for also endangering the lives of 26 other people. He has not been asked yet to enter a plea and his lawyers have not commented about the allegations.

Earlier this year, defense lawyers confirmed Alissa has schizophrenia, a mental disorder which causes people to have trouble understanding reality.

Being deemed mentally competent does not mean Alissa has been cured, just that experts think he is able to understand the proceedings and help lawyers working on his defense.

The March 22, 2021, attack at a King Soopers grocery store shocked a state that has seen its share of mass shootings, including the 1999 Columbine High School massacre and the 2012 Aurora movie theater shooting.

The mass shooting killed a police officer whose team rushed into the building, shoppers and several employees at the supermarket in Boulder, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) northwest of Denver.

The remodeled King Soopers reopened last year with about half of those who worked there previously choosing to return. Robert Olds was killed.

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Tropical Storm Franklin batters Dominican Republic



ODELYN JOSEPH • The Associated Press

A youth displaced by the gang violence living at a school sits under plastic as rain from Tropical Storm Franklin falls.

By MARTÍN ADAMES
ALCÁNTARA and DÁNICA COTO
The Associated Press

Tropical Storm Franklin unleashed heavy floods and landslides in the Dominican Republic on Wednesday after making landfall in the country's southern region, killing at least one person and leaving two others missing.

The storm began to slowly spin away late Wednesday afternoon from the island of Hispaniola that the Dominican Republic shares with Haiti after dumping heavy rain for several hours.

Forecasters warned the storm could drop up to 12 inches (30 centimeters) of rain in the Dominican Republic, with a maximum of 16 inches (41 centimeters) for the country's western and central regions. Meanwhile, up to 4 inches (10 centimeters) of rain are forecast for Haiti, with nearly 8 inches (20 centimeters) for the country's eastern regions.

"The population of the Dominican Republic must all be right now, without exception,

in their homes, the homes of friends and family, or in shelters," said Juan Manuel Méndez, emergency operations director.

The Civil Defense said a man identified as Carlos Marino Martínez died in the city of San Cristobal after being swept away by floodwaters. The agency initially said he was one of its volunteers, but later corrected the information saying it misidentified a uniform he was wearing. They did not provide further details. Two women in that city also were injured following a landslide, officials said.

More than 350 people were huddled in shelters in the Dominican Republic, where emergency operations officials said they were looking for a 54-year-old man with mental health problems who went missing after he jumped into a creek late Tuesday. Meanwhile, José Luis Cabrera with the Civil Defense agency told Noticias SIN that a teenage boy is missing after a river swept him away on Wednesday.

"Six of them jumped in, and one of them didn't make it back," he said.

Ralph Yarl starts his senior year

The Associated Press

Four months after he was shot in the head after ringing the doorbell at the wrong house to pick up his brothers, Ralph Yarl has begun his senior year in high school.

Next week, the man accused of shooting him will be in court.

Yarl's first day of school was Tuesday. "He was ready," his aunt, Faith Spoonmore, told the Kansas City Star. "Ralph was ready to just go back to just being a teenager."

Andrew Lester, 84, pleaded not guilty to first-degree assault and armed criminal action in the April 13 shooting. His preliminary hearing is Aug. 31.

Lester, who is white, told authorities that he shot Yarl through the door without warning because he was



BEN CRUMP • The Associated Press

Four months after he was shot in the head after showing up at the wrong house to pick up his brothers, Ralph Yarl has begun his senior year.

"scared to death" he was about to be robbed by the Black person standing there. Yarl was

struck in the head and the arm. The case shocked the country and renewed national debates.

◀COLUMN from page 8

solve systemic problems and giving a community a tool that others do not have does not automatically create inequality if the fulcrum point of justice has historically been repeatedly shifted against that group. This analogy not only applies to the LGBTQ community, but also applies to any group that is marginalized based on race, gender, ethnicity and/or disability. Furthermore people who face multiple marginalizations, will have to deal with multiple factors moving the fulcrum point against them.

It is fairly well known that

LGBTQ people, relative to cisgender heterosexual people, are both more likely to be victims of crimes while simultaneously less likely to report those crimes to the police. Police LGBTQ liaisons have been shown to be one means of addressing this issue.

Mankato is certainly no stranger to violence against LGBTQ people. I am aware of no less than three murders of gay men that have taken place here in Mankato and North Mankato. I also know individuals who have been assaulted and sexually assaulted, who never reported the crimes committed against them to the police. I even wit-

nessed one transgender individual who exhibited a greater fear toward police than their assailant.

In "Blood on Their Hands," from "Mankato Poems" by local LGBTQ activist Jim Chalgren, he wrote, "and it's still a joke at the highschool, a joke that a man is murdered, a joke because he's gay."

Refusing to treat violence and discrimination against the LGBTQ community or any other marginalized group as a serious matter not only makes a joke out of said violence and discrimination but it is also precisely how the fulcrum is moved against us.

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Spain's acting prime minister criticizes federation

By DAVID BRUNAT and JOSEPH WILSON
The Associated Press

Spain's acting prime minister said it was "unacceptable" that the Spanish soccer federation president kissed a player on the lips without her consent, as pressure builds on Luis Rubiales to resign for tarnishing the team's Women's World Cup championship.

Pedro Sánchez praised the team during an audience at the presidential palace on Tuesday and later joined the growing criticism of Rubiales.

"What we saw is unacceptable," Sánchez said. "And the apologies offered by Mr. Rubiales are not sufficient, I would call them inappropriate, so he must continue taking further steps to clarify what we all saw."

Late Tuesday, the Spanish soccer federation announced it will hold an emergency meeting of its general assembly on Friday.

It is unclear if Rubiales can maintain the backing of the leaders of Spain's regional soccer organizations.

The federation said it was opening an internal probe "regarding the incidents during the awards ceremony Women's World Cup."

Gender equality and women's



MANU FERNANDEZ • The Associated Press

Moments after Spain won the Women's World Cup, the man who leads the country's national soccer federation took some unwanted attention away from the celebrating players after inappropriate conduct occurred.

rights have been cornerstones of Sánchez's leftist government. But Spain's Women's World Cup success has been marred by the forced kiss Rubiales gave to player Jenni Hermoso during the medal ceremony following Spain's 1-0 victory on Sunday in

the final against England in Sydney, Australia.

After claiming that those who criticized his kiss were "idiots and stupid people," Rubiales was forced to apologize on Monday.

Rubiales accompanied the team and staff to the meeting with Sánchez, who greeted him with a handshake.

The forced kiss caused an immediate outcry both inside Spain and abroad. Deputy Prime Minister Yolanda Diaz said Rubiales

"has harassed and assaulted" a woman and called for his resignation.

The country's equality minister said it was an act of "sexual assault."

Under a new sexual violence law, the unsolicited kiss, during which Rubiales grabbed Hermoso's face before giving her a kiss on the mouth, could potentially be pursued as a crime.

Immediately after Spain's victory, Rubiales had also grabbed his crotch in a victory gesture. That occurred with 16-year-old Princess Infanta Sofía and Queen Letizia of Spain standing nearby.

The country's leading opposition party has joined in denouncing Rubiales' behavior, leaving him without any support from major public or political figures.

Asked if Rubiales should go, Sánchez said that it was not his call to make because the Spanish soccer federation is not controlled by the government.

But Sánchez did say Rubiales "has yet to be clear and compelling in his apologies."

Spain's players union, which Rubiales used to head, issued a statement on Tuesday calling for Spain's Higher Council for Sports, which oversees Spanish sports, to act against Rubiales if he does not step down.

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SPORTS

Men's and women's cross country poised to dominate

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State men's cross country team was selected to finish second in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Preseason Coaches' Poll, while the women's cross country team was projected to finish third in their own poll.

Beginning with the men, they received 123 points in the NSIC Coaches Poll behind only Augustana University. The Auggies have won 12 of the last 13 NSIC Championships and top the list once again.

Back to the Mavs, their season came to an end last year at the NCAA Central Region Championship where they finished twelfth of 35 teams. Tanner Maier was a standout from that team, and he was recognized with All-Region Honors at the end of their season.

This season, Maier returns for his senior year, along with junior Ray Ure, who finished with All-NSIC Second Team Honors. Head Coach Ben Held leads the pack again this season, in his sixth season with the Mavs.

Held, Maier and Ure are the trio of veterans at the top, but this roster contains just one senior, although having five juniors.

With four meets on the calendar for the fall, the Mavs will have to make their mark in only just over a month of time before the NSIC



File Photo

Both cross country teams were ranked inside of the top five in the NSIC Preseason Coaches' Poll.

Championships Oct. 21. They will begin with the Augie Twilight Sept. 1, Running of the Cows Sept. 16, Roy Griak Invitational Sept. 22 and Bob Waxlax Invite Oct. 6 before championships and regionals come around.

Heading into this season, the big story around the women's team has been their former senior cap-

tain, Amanda Montplaisir being named the NSIC NCAA Woman of the Year candidate.

The Woman of the Year recognizes student-athletes for excellence in academics, athletics, community service and leadership throughout their college careers.

However, Montplaisir has graduated and will no longer be a part

of the team, and a new group of seniors will have to rise up and take her place. MaKenna Thurston, Madelyn Skjeveland, Megan Narveson, Marissa Ellenbecker and Maggie Anderson are the five seniors on the team this year, a promising number.

Head Coach Jen Blue is back

POISED on page 17

How it Works: Soccer 101

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: How it Works is a new series starting this year, where our writers will be going over the basic rules and functions of the game. Soccer 101 is the first of many to come.

The Minnesota State Women's Soccer team is arguably one of the most exciting aspects of our school right now. The squad finished last season with a 14-2-6 record and made it to the second round of the NCAA tournament. Heading into the new season, expectations are high, they hope to build on their success.

The high expectations for the team is not just internal. The Mavericks were picked to finish first in the NSIC Preseason Coaches' Poll. They received eight first-place votes and 187 points. Augustana finished in second with four first-place votes and 177 points. Bemidji State rounded out the top three by finishing with two first-place votes and 170 points.

Now that you know a little bit about the team and their standards, here is a breakdown on how soccer works so that you can support your Mavs.

Each team has 11 players on the field, including one goalkeeper. In case you didn't know, Americans are pretty much the only place in the world where the sport is called soccer as opposed to "futbol."

With that in mind, the game is primarily played with your feet, but you can use any body part except your arms and hands. Goalkeepers are the only players on the field allowed to put hands on the ball when it is in the field of play.

Their job is to prevent the ball from going into their goal. However, they can only do so in their own penalty box. There are two penalty boxes on each end of the field near the goal.

The rest of the players have two "simple" jobs: score goals and prevent the opponents from scoring. Positions include defenders, midfielders and forwards. Defenders are usually the last line of defense protecting the goalkeeper. Midfielders are primarily in the middle of the field and do a bit of everything. Forwards are typically the closest to the opponents goal and are largely responsible for a team's attack.

A soccer match is 90 minutes long with two 45-minute halves. Unlike other sports, the clock doesn't stop, so the referee adds on time at the end of each half

SOCCER on page 17

Teeing off the reigning champs

By LUKE JACKSON
Staff Writer

Minnesota State's annual Maverick Invitational will tee off the 2023-24 season Monday at the Faribault Golf Club. Last year, this par-72 course favored Mankato heavily as seven of the top 10 individual finishers were Mavericks. The Mavs also dominated through both rounds of the tournament as they shot +11 with a team total of 587 strokes. Runner up University of Jamestown shot +29, summing up their total to 605 strokes.

The only other team in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference that participated was Minot State University. They finished in last place at the invitational and will return Monday.

"We will lean on a solid group of returning upperclassmen and some strong incoming freshmen," said Minnesota State Director of Golf and Head Coach, Alex Schmitz in a press release posted MSU Athletics website. "As a team we'll look to find success in scoring in all areas of the game. Our roster brings back plenty of distance off the tee and we need to capitalize on and around the greens."



File Photo

Minnesota State was one of two NSIC teams to participate at the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference tournament.

Six of the seven top finishers for MSU will be returning to the invitational this year. Along with that, a trio of them were named to NSIC All-Conference teams. Ben Laffen was named to First-Team All-NSIC while Jack Klimek and Marcus Belka were named to Second-Team All-NSIC.

Through 24 rounds last year, Laffen finished in the top-five twice, top-10 four times and the

top-20 eight times. He also finished 17th in the NSIC Championship.

Klimek led all Mavericks at the NSIC Championship with his second place finish as he shot an exceptional +3 through three rounds. Klimek was named to Academic All-District Team with a 3.56 GPA and NSIC All-Tournament Team for his efforts at the championship match.

Lastly, Belka highlighted his

season by finishing third on the team in scoring. He finished in the top-five twice along with the top-ten. The golf season is split into two separate seasons, fall and spring. Following the Maverick Invitational, the team will compete in five more tournaments before the fall season is concluded. They will then pick up where they left off in the spring to prepare for the NSIC Championship.

2023 NFL Season Preview: NFC North Edition



HAYDEN LEE • The Reporter

Fun Fact: US Bank Stadium was just recently voted the NFL's best stadium, according to the Athletic. But we knew that already. Many more Super Bowls will be played in this stadium, including the Vikings' first SB win.

By HAYDEN LEE AND MOHAMED WARSAME
Sports Editor and Staff Writer

With the NFL season kicking off in 14 days, we thought it was time to release our predictions for the season.

We will be going at each other in alternating fashion, beginning with Mohamed.

To make this easier to digest, we will only be covering the NFC North so we don't put too much on your plate. The NFC East, South and West are coming, don't worry.

REMINDER: Everything we say in this article is FACTS. You can't argue it, we can only argue with each other.

Minnesota Vikings

Mohamed: 2nd. I expect the Vikings to take a step back this year. When I think about last season's team, the majority of those thoughts have to do with the amount of one-score games they won.

I'm still not sure how they beat the Bills and Colts to this day. Over the course of the history of the NFL, teams that win a ton of one-score games usually regress back to the mean the next season. I don't think the Vikings did anything groundbreaking during the off-season to make me think that won't be the case this upcoming season.

Their biggest acquisition of new DC Brian Flores will be a huge plus and I expect the defense to improve.

Flores will have to be on his A-game most weeks if they want to create pressure for opposing QBs due to their lack of talent in the pass rush.

Hayden: 1st. The Vikings are coming off of a shocking 13-4 season that provided fans with instant classics like the Bills game and the Colts game.

On the other side of the spectrum, there were some like the

Cowboys and Giants playoff game that made you question the validity of their record. While I don't expect them to replicate their record from a season ago, I do expect them to win this division because of the pure talent on the roster. If you want to know more of my own thoughts about the Vikings, I published an entire article exclusively talking about the Vikings in the previous issue of the paper.

Detroit Lions

Mohamed: 1st. Perhaps the most fun NFL storyline from last season will go on to become division champs for the first time in 30 years.

The Lions just barely missed the playoffs last season but had one of the league's most exciting offenses.

They were also excellent in turning red zone opportunities into touchdowns. Earning themselves a red zone touchdown percentage of 66.2%, which was fourth in the league.

I don't expect Jared Goff to be quite as good as he was but I expect breakout star WR Amon-Ra St. Brown to keep improving and their monstrous offensive line to be one of the league's best.

The best thing they did this off-season was keep hold of highly coveted OC Ben Johnson.

The defense was terrible last season and I think the only way is up for that unit.

Hayden: 2nd. The Lions were the darlings of most NFL fans last season, and for good reason. A lovable coach leads a miserable and unfortunate fanbase to relevancy on the back of hard work and player likability, capping the season off by killing the Packers' playoff hopes. And they had Ja-maal Williams.

Here's the thing, the Lions are still a very young team, and let's

not forget that around the midseason mark, people were calling for Dan Campbell to be fired. Sure, they got hot down the stretch, but where is the consistency? To me, the 2023 Lions are VERY comparable to the 2019 Browns. They gather a lot of hype in the off-season because they are a feel-good story, but at this point, with all of the pressure and expectations, I feel like they are just destined to fail.

They will most likely be a play-off team in the NFC, but do not expect anything more than that.

Chicago Bears

Mohamed: 4th. Their season is similar to the Packers for me. It is all about figuring if you have your franchise QB at the end of the season. Justin Fields was drafted into a bad situation.

He had a head coach in Matt Nagy that was on the hot seat and got fired after his rookie year. In year two, he has a defensive-minded head coach with little to work with on the offensive side of the ball and a terrible offensive line. During the year they traded for

WR Chase Claypool. This off-season, they traded for WR D.J. Moore and signed right guard Nate Davis in free-agency. Now the Bears will truly be able to evaluate Fields and find out if they have their long-term guy.

Hayden: 4th. The winners of the off-season to me. The Texans practically handed them a king's ransom by blowing their final game against the Colts. (Thanks, Lovie Smith).

By passing on the underwhelming crop of QB's in the 2023 NFL Draft, they are giving Justin Fields one more season to prove that he can turn his talent into production.

To me, the Bears are winners

NORTH on page 18

2023 NFL Season Preview: NFC East Edition



MARK J TERRIL • The Associated Press

Look at this man's smile. He knows they are either gonna win the Super Bowl or draft his replacement in the offseason and trade him to the Lions.

By HAYDEN LEE AND MOHAMED WARSAME
Sports Editor and Staff Writer

With the NFL season kicking off in 14 days, we thought it was time to release our predictions for the season. We will be going at each other in alternating fashion, beginning with Mohamed. To make this easier to digest, we will only be covering the NFC East so we don't put too much on your plate. The NFC South and West are coming, don't worry.

REMINDER: Everything we say in this article is FACTS. You can't argue it, we can only argue with each other.

Dallas Cowboys

Mohamed: 1st. Ladies and Gentlemen, I present to you the 2023 NFC East Champions. The Cowboys finished second in the division last season with a 12-5 record while Dak Prescott missed six games. The team's strength from last season will get stronger with most of the defense returning, the addition of Stephon Gilmore and most importantly defensive coordinator Dan Quinn returning, after many expected him to depart for a head coaching job.

I also expect the offense to be more balanced and less turnover prone. Yes. The offense has to be less turnover prone. Not Dak. The narrative that began last season when Prescott had his career high in interceptions with 15, is that he is all of a sudden a turnover machine. This is largely misguided and quite frankly an uninformed opinion. While he was not blameless in some of his interceptions, a number of them were also due to misunderstanding between him and his receivers and drops. With Tony Pollard being RB1 and the addition of Brandin Cooks, I expect the offense to compliment their defense very well.

Hayden: 2nd. When it comes to sustained success, the Cowboys are one of the greatest teams of all time. But let's be real, no matter how scary the Cowboys may seem, they can never close the deal. They are a very talented team that can and will be held back from Super Bowl contention by their quarterback and coaching. They would finish first in most divisions, but not this one when the Eagles are what they are.

Philadelphia Eagles

Mohamed: 2nd. The Eagles had a 14-3 record and cruised their way to the Super Bowl last season. While I don't expect them to have a "Super Bowl hangover", I don't think they'll be quite as dominant in the regular season. I believe a large part of their outstanding record last season had to do with the quality of quarterbacks they faced. This year they have a much tougher list of QBs they have to face. I also think the loss of offensive coordinator Shane Steichen to the Colts is going to play a role in the offense taking a slight step back.

Hayden: 1st. Representing the NFC in the Super Bowl last season, the Eagles broke out of their shell and proved their dominance. And what did they do this offseason? Get better. RB Miles Sanders, OC Shane Steichen and DB Chauncey Gardner-Johnson headline the Eagles' losses, but none of their absences should be crippling to their contending status. Being able to snag Jalen Carter at 9 in the draft should not be allowed, by the way. Like, why. It remains to be seen how Jalen Hurts will perform without Steichen, but I have confidence that he will be able to stay on a similar level this year.

Washington Commanders

Mohamed: 4th. This is a no brainer for me. While I think they have some exciting players on both offense and defense, I can't put the Commanders any higher than fourth with Sam Howell as their starter. I believe the hiring of new OC Eric Biniemy is a good one but I don't think he'll work magic with Howell. I also think that this will be Ron Rivera's last year as head coach as they have finally gotten new ownership and usually new owners like getting in new guys to lead their team.

Hayden: 4th. Mohamed and I agree on this one. While the Commanders are an exciting team with a potential surprise at quarterback, they are just too young and too unproven for me to put them above three teams that made the playoffs in 2022. QB Sam Howell, in my opinion,

EAST on page 18

Hockenson now dealing with back stiffness at Vikings practice

By BRIAN HALL
The Associated Press

T.J. Hockenson's second season with the Vikings might require a similar accelerated ramp-up as his first season in Minnesota.

Hockenson, who had 60 catches for 519 yards and three touchdowns in 10 games with the Vikings following his mid-season trade from Detroit, has missed much of Minnesota's training camp while dealing with an ear infection that disrupted his equilibrium.

Recovered from the ear infection, Hockenson was also out of team drills on Wednesday as the Vikings and Arizona Cardinals conducted joint practices.

This time, Minnesota coach Kevin O'Connell said back stiffness is keeping out Hockenson, the big tight end who was second only to All-Pro receiver Justin Jefferson in catches for the Vikings after his arrival in Week 8 last season.

"Whether he could have gone or not, if it was a game week, that's a different story," O'Connell said. "But with a joint practice, I wanted to make sure that we just kept his conditioning going. That's something that he'll work through, and we may possibly have him tomorrow, or be ready to roll as we start our Tampa prep next week."

Hockenson participated in individual and position drills on

Wednesday. But when the two teams came together for full work, Hockenson did conditioning drills on the side. O'Connell said the back stiffness popped up "very recently."

"We're at that time now where we just want to be smart with guys we know we're going to be reliant on, and make sure that their preparation for Sept. 10th is what we want," O'Connell added.

Hockenson embarks on his first full season in Minnesota. He's beginning the final season of the rookie contract he signed after the Lions made him the No. 8 overall selection in the 2019 draft.

Hockenson is due \$9.4 million on the fifth-year option that was picked up by Detroit before it traded him and a pair of late-round picks to the Vikings for second- and third-round draft picks.

Hockenson was asked on Monday if his absence is contract related and told reporters, "that's not my focus."

O'Connell said Wednesday his dialogue with Hockenson has been focused on the tight end's health.

"He has not indicated to me one time that it is about (his contract) and, look, we would love to have him in every drill, just like Brian O'Neill since the start of training camp, but we've got to have a process where we get these guys healthy, feeling really good to go compete, as we head towards the



Bruce Kluckhohn • The Associated Press

Minnesota Vikings tight end T.J. Hockenson, right, signs an autograph for a fan after practice at NFL football training camp Saturday, July 29, 2023.

season," O'Connell said.

O'Neill, the No. 1 right tackle, returned to full practice on Wednesday for the first time since Achilles surgery in January.

O'Connell also said rookie receiver Jordan Addison has fully

cleared concussion testing.

Meanwhile, second-year safety Lewis Cine was out because of a "low-grade, soft-tissue thing," according to O'Connell.

As the teams convened for 11-on-11 drills, Arizona's No. 1 tight

end, Zach Ertz, was also an observer, along with quarterback Kyler Murray.

Ertz was activated off the physically unable to perform list last week following his knee surgery in November.

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Messi converts PK, assists on 2 goals, leading Miami past Cincinnati



JOSHUA A BICKEL • The Associated Press

Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi celebrates after a game-tying goal in the 90th minute from teammate Leonardo Campana.

By LAUREL PFHALER
The Associated Press

Lionel Messi had two assists and converted a penalty kick as Inter Miami rallied from a two-goal deficit and beat MLS-leading Cincinnati 5-4 in penalties in a U.S. Open Cup semifinal on Wednesday night.

Cincinnati jumped to a 2-0 lead before Messi set up a pair of goals by Leonardo Campana, tying the game at 2. Miami moved ahead when Josef Martínez scored three minutes into the first extra period, but Cincinnati tied the game at 3 when Yuya Kubo scored in the 114th minute, forcing penalty kicks.

Messi made Miami's first attempt in the shootout, and both teams were perfect through four rounds.

Herons goalkeeper Drake Callender saved Nick Hagglund's kick in the fifth round, and Benjamin Cremaschi made his PK to

send Miami to another tournament final.

Miami advanced to face the winner of Wednesday's late semifinal between Houston and Salt Lake in the final in Sept. 27.

Messi was held scoreless for the first time since joining Inter Miami in late July.

His first assist of the game was on a free kick in the 68th minute to cut Miami's deficit to 2-1. He delivered a long cross into the box to set up Campana's second goal on a header that sent the game to overtime.

The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner who led Argentina to the World Cup crown last year, had scored 10 goals in his first seven games with Miami, leading the team to the Leagues Cup title.

He is set to make his Major League Soccer debut Saturday at the New York Red Bulls.

Luciano Acosta and Brandon Vazquez scored the first two goals for Cincinnati.

◀**SOCCER** from page 14
depending on the amount of time play was stopped. This is called stoppage time.

Now to some of the rules of the game.

An offside is called when the team that has possession passes the ball to another member on their team when they are behind all the opposition's players on the opponent side of the field.

A penalty kick is awarded to the attacking team when they get fouled by the defending team in the opposition's penalty box. They get to take an uncontested, one-on-one shot against the goalkeeper from six yards out with everyone else from both teams standing outside the penalty box. A team can also be awarded a penalty kick if their opponent gets a handball in their own penalty box. A handball is when a player other than the goalkeeper touches the ball with their hands or arms.

Referees in soccer use a card system to keep things under control. There are two cards: a yellow card and a red card. A yellow card is a caution.

This may come as a result of things like a foul committed that was a bit robust, breaking up a good attacking position from

your opponent by fouling or an accumulation of fouls throughout the game.

A red card is an automatic removal from the match. This may be given as a result of two yellow cards or a reckless foul that is dangerous to the opponent. When a player receives a red card, there is no replacing them.

The team plays with one fewer player on the field for the rest of the match.

Now that you are basically a soccer expert and the regular season is just around the corner, it's time to get hyped for your Mavericks.

Head Coach Brian Bahl recognizes the massive support that the team already gets and hopes everyone gets involved.

"This community has just been phenomenal in regards to the way they support our program. Too many places, women's soccer is an afterthought and that's certainly not the case here. We just are really blessed to have the type of support that we have here," Bahl said.

The Maverick's start their regular season at home Aug. 31 at The Pitch against Oklahoma Baptist.

Brewers rally against Twins' bullpen to win 8-7

By STEVE MCGARGEE
The Associated Press

Willy Adames and the Milwaukee Brewers sweated out an extra-inning victory on one of the hottest days in their home stadium's history. Adames homered, singled home the tying run and then scored the winning run on Brice Turang's two-out infield hit in the 10th inning of the Brewers' 8-7 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday. It was 97 degrees for the first pitch, the third-highest game-time temperature at American Family Field since it opened as Miller Park in 2001.

"It was really hot, but that's just part of the game," Adames said. "I think hot is better than cold, to play baseball at least."

Adames is heating up after an extended cold stretch. He has gone 10 of 22 with three homers and nine RBIs over his last five games to raise his batting average from .201 to .214 and improve his OPS from .661 to .696.

"I think Willy was really pressing there for a while, wanting to contribute to the team," Brewers pitcher Corbin Burnes said. "It's good to see him swing the bat again and get that confidence going."

After rallying from a three-run deficit to force extra innings, the Brewers scored two runs in the bottom of the 10th off Jho-



Jeffrey Phelps • The Associated Press

Milwaukee Brewers' Brice Turang has gatorade dip from his face after he hit a game-winning single against the Minnesota Twins.

an Durán (2-6) to win their fifth straight game. Durán was working a second inning after holding the Brewers scoreless in the ninth.

"We put a lot out there today," Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said. "It's a disappointing game to not come out on top in. We gave up five runs in the last four or five innings of the game with our best relievers going out there, late-inning guys who've been really good for us this year. We just happened to not get it done."

Adames led off the 10th with a single up the middle that drove in automatic runner Carlos Santana. Adames advanced to second when the ball rolled past Twins

center fielder Michael A. Taylor and moved to third on Andruw Monasterio's fly to right.

Turang followed with a chopper to the left side of the infield and beat third baseman Royce Lewis' throw to first for the rookie's first career walk-off hit.

"I knew as soon as he hit it, I was like there's no way (the Twins are) going to get him out with his speed," Adames said.

The AL Central-leading Twins took a 7-6 lead in the top of the 10th when Ryan Jeffers' two-out infield single scored Joey Gallo from third. Jeffers fell down on his way to first but still slid in safely.

◀**POISED** from page 14

again as well, returning for her 24th season with the team. After being hired in 2000, Blue has been a huge reason for the Mavs' success over time. Blue is a versatile coach who has also taken the head

coaching role for the women's cross country team on top of her duties in the fall.

The women have the same schedule as the men, participating in the Augie Twilight, Running of the Cows, Roy Griak Invitation-

al and Bob Waxlax Invite before championships and nationals in late October and November.

With some promising projections and a lot of returning talent, Mavs cross country is in for another year of excitement.

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Maple Leafs sign star center Auston Matthews to four-year, \$53 million extension



CHRIS O'MEARA • The Associated Press

Toronto Maple Leafs center Auston Matthews (34) reacts after scoring against the Tampa Bay Lightning during the third period in Game 4 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup first-round playoff series.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Auston Matthews has put pen to paper on a deal that is set to make him the NHL's highest-paid player.

And the Toronto Maple Leafs — and their fans — can finally exhale.

The star center signed a four-year, \$53 million extension on Wednesday that ties him to the team that selected him first overall at the 2016 NHL draft through the 2027-28 season.

The deal carries an average annual value of \$13.25 million, which will make Matthews the league's highest-paid player beginning in 2024-25, surpassing Colorado star Nathan MacKinnon's \$12.6 AAV.

Matthews has one season left on his current contract — a five-year, \$58.2 million pact signed in February 2019 — that could have walked him into unrestricted free agency next summer.

"I feel fortunate to continue this journey as a Maple Leaf in front of the best fans in hockey," Matthews posted on X, the social media site formerly known as Twitter. "I will do everything I can to help get us to the top of the mountain."

Matthews won the Hart Trophy as NHL MVP in 2021-22 thanks to a league-best 60 goals that also propelled him to a second consecutive Maurice (Rocket) Richard Trophy.

The stats for the 25-year-old from Scottsdale, Ariz., dipped slightly in 2022-23, but he still found the back of the net 40 times as part of an 85-point season over 74 games.

Matthews added five goals and six assists in 11 playoff games, helping Toronto advance in the postseason for the first time since 2004.

The future of the Leafs' best player dominated social media and talk radio after their season ended. Matthews had his full no-movement clause kick in July

1, meaning he had significant control of his future in contract talks.

Another wrinkle was the uncertainty both in Toronto's front office and behind the bench.

The team fired general manager Kyle Dubas — the man responsible for signing Matthews and fellow "Core Four" star forwards Mitch Marner, John Tavares and William Nylander — to put a bow on a bizarre exit, and replaced him with former Calgary Flames GM Brad Treliving.

The future of head coach Sheldon Keefe was left uncertain with one year left on his contract before Treliving confirmed at June's NHL draft the 42-year-old would be back, but without a contract extension.

Toronto's roster construction in the Dubas era came under fire for its top-heavy nature that included close to 50 percent of the club's salary cap hit dedicated to four offensive players that resulted in little playoff success.

fifth-year option before last season. He didn't impress his first three years prior to last season. Brian Daboll did a tremendous job getting Jones to play at a very good level last year, but that was primarily with him running the ball.

I still think he has a lot to prove in the passing part of his game and while big off-season acquisition TE Darren Waller I think has the potential to help, I still don't love their receiving core.

Hayden: 3rd. The Giants piss me off. They should not have beaten the Vikings in the playoffs last year, and their talent on the roster is severely elevated by their coaching and team chemistry. However, that is not to say that they don't have talent. IDL Dexter Lawrence broke out to become one of the league's best, RB Saquon Barkley

is another talent that truly elevated this offense and now TE Darren Waller is coming to town to take them to a new level. Notice how I didn't say to a top-tier level. That would be because of their quarterback, Daniel Jones. "Danny Dimes" does not throw dimes, and his best games have come with great production on the ground.

His role in this offense is very small, and personally, I think that his best year in his career was last year, and his new contract will start to put higher expectations on him, where he will crumble.

After our rankings, it is clear that the Cowboys and Eagles are the top two teams, while the Giants and Commanders will perform the battle of mid all year long. Stay tuned for the rest of the NFL coming soon. Skol.

◀NORTH from page 15

this season no matter what. If they suck, they will likely be contenders for the #1 pick.

The 2024 NFL Draft will feature QBs Caleb Williams and Drake Maye, who are miles better than Bryce Young, CJ Stroud and Anthony Richardson. But if Justin Fields can lead this team to a decent season, they stick with him.

This season is for the Bears to figure it out. They have a lot of question marks, and only time can answer them.

Green Bay Packers

Mohamed: 3rd. For the first time in 15 years, the Packers go into an NFL season without Aaron Rodgers as their starting QB.

The biggest question mark the Packers have is Jordan Love. Is he any good? Prior to last season, my answer was no.

That short cameo he had when Rodgers got injured against the Eagles made me question that a bit. He looked way better than he did at any point of his short career.

I think they have a pretty talented young team and Matt LaFleur is too good of a coach for them to be terrible, so I think they'll be in the hunt for the division for most of the season.

Hayden: 3rd. Wow. Wow, wow,

wow. It finally happened. I remember thinking as a kid, at the peak of my Packers hate, that Aaron Rodgers would terrorize me for the rest of my life.

But now he's gone. Packers fans will tell you that Jordan Love is going to continue their run of Hall of Fame QBs and be the next Bart Starr, but they need a reality check.

Jordan Love is not going to be that, at least this season.

He may be solid, hence why I can't put them at the bottom, but that will not push them to the top end of this division. Also, Jaire Alexander needs to shut his mouth before JJ son's him.

Their defense is a top ten unit, but with so many question marks surrounding the offense, it is hard to see them making a return to the playoffs this year.

They have a decently bright future, but they are too young and too unproven as of now.

The Vikings and Lions are the playoff contenders in this division, but that's where it ends.

Realistically speaking, this division SHOULD not produce a Super Bowl winner, but then again, any given Sunday, any team can win.

This is the dark horse division. Skol.

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VARIETY

Theatre showcases queer love

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

Only a few know some of the hardships that LGBT+ members have had to go through throughout history. Many also don't want or care to know the history as it doesn't apply to them.

Harry Hay, a communist, and Rudi Gernreich, a Viennese refugee and designer, helped found the Mattachine Society in the 1950s. The two fell in love while building the Mattachine Society.

The Mattachine Society originated in 1950 as a covert organization in Los Angeles and became one of the numerous notable groups organizing during the Homophile Movement, a time of LGBT+ activism that saw chapters spring up around the country.

Because of their activism, Jon Marans wrote a play titled "The Temperamentals." "Temperamentals" is a term sometimes used to refer to homosexuals at the time.

MSU is in the works on its rendition of the play, and Eric Parrish is directing. He said he chose to do this play as a way for students to have fun and learn some history they might not have known.

"I think with the kind of conversation that's happening with so much of our transgender friends and family members right now. This story is really powerful in how those first activists when being gay was still illegal," said Parrish. "How they fought that and overcame that and needed to work together as a community in order to do so, and I think we need to hear that again. We really need to draw attention to those who need our advocacy and those who have been advocates in the past."

The preparation for this play be-



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

The Ted Paul Theatre, pictured above, is home to Minnesota State's many main stage productions. It features a stage with complete fly capabilities, hydraulic stage pit, computerized light board and well-equipped adjacent scene and costume shops.

gan in the spring when school was still in session. Parrish and the production staff met during the summer in preparation for this and had auditions Monday.

Freshman Zach McGeary auditioned with a one-minute dramatic monologue. He said the audition process for him was stressful, but one he enjoyed.

"I used Nick Nelson's 'I don't want to break up monologue' from the show, 'Heartstopper.' I had to memorize a lot of my monologues for all of the auditions I did within a day," McGeary said. "I'd say that

I did pretty adequate at it with the fact that I only had a day but I felt if I had more time, I could have probably gotten into more character and had a bit more fun with what I was doing."

Another critical topic throughout history is the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1980s and 1990s. The musical "RENT" addresses this and highlights other struggles many in the LGBT+ community dealt with.

In the story of "RENT," friends in Manhattan's East Village fight to build the life of their aspirations in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Pov-

erty, drug misuse, HIV/AIDS, social conflict and political turmoil, among other things, put physical and emotional strain on the group. Faced with obstacles, they develop personal self-discoveries and discover what truly counts in life.

MSU started "RENT" auditions for RENT last spring to get a wider variety of actors. This was a change from the past. Usually, auditions take place the first day of classes.

"We tried to reach out a little bit more and tried to engage a larger student population than we usually

THEATER on page 20

Jen Johnsen: From dorms to degrees

By LILLY SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

For a freshman hanging posters on their dorm walls, being a successful school alum can feel a world away. However, there are so many Minnesota State alumni to look up to for inspiration.

One such example is fall semester of 2004 Alum Jen Johnsen, who graduated with a degree in theater performance and directing. Her first day on campus, she felt overwhelmed and journaled her feelings.

Soon, though, she settled on campus.

"My first couple weeks there, I was really, really excited and felt like I was on the right path. I was interested in everything. I could do whatever I wanted, go (wherever I wanted), stay up late; I didn't really have rules. I was on my own. It was all overwhelming. I just took one thing at a time."

However, Johnsen also had blank spaces that weren't filled in her plan for the future.

"The hope was to be a working actor. I guess I didn't really have a clear idea of what that was. I knew I liked theater and I wanted to do that, and I needed to go to college. I pursued this passion for the arts."

Today, Johnsen is the Executive Assistant at the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis. Her role entails administrative support of the artistic director and managing director, organizing events, and volunteering.

The Children's Theatre Company is designed to provide a space for youth to, "create extraordinary theater experiences that educate, challenge and inspire young people and their communities," according to the company's mission statement.

Johnsen has been in her position for roughly 10 years and still loves it, despite the fact that it is not what her freshman self had in mind.

"The majority of people that I'm still friends with who [attended MSU] have gone on to have careers outside of theater, but in the same vein. (The theater department is) full of so many transferable skills."

A concept that Johnsen urges MSU students to understand is that change is OK.

"There wasn't a lot of on-the-job training, or job-related training for a future job I didn't know I wanted at the time," Johnsen said, "I was focused on being an actor. For that focus, (the degree) was amazing."

ALUMNA on page 20

First day jitters infect MSU Freshmen

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

The first week of school is stressful for everyone. Before the year begins, thinking about navigating new courses, seeing new faces and simply getting back into the swing of things is a commonly pushed-back task students avoid during summertime. For first-year students, the maze that is Minnesota State's campus has finally snuck up on them, and finding the right path is something they are learning day by day.

Although students travel far and wide to get here, there are many students who do not go too far from the place they call home. Freshman Kevin Avenge packed up and moved to MSU from Rochester and is pursuing a degree in dental hygiene.

"It's better than high school,"

Avenge said. "It's kind of all in our own hands instead of in high school, it's in someone else's hands."

In high schools, teachers are more likely to crack down on students who are not participating or have falling grades than university professors are. This is something Avenge gathered from his first few days here.

"The professors are like, 'We're here to help, but if you don't ask, that's on you,'" Avenge said.

Another significant difference from the transition to college is the sea of unrecognizable faces. Avenge attends a Sociology class with about 160 students, all of whom are strangers to him.

"I've never been around this many people I didn't know," Avenge said.

Avenge is thankful for the free time he has on his hands, where he often spends with new friends.



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

Freshmen at MSU moved into the dorms and off-campus housing Thursday, August 18. There were several events following to welcome students onto campus.

He has found a competitive side by participating in volleyball games in

the sand pits, and he also attended

FRESHMEN on page 20

Judge clears the way for a civil case to proceed against Alec Baldwin



EVAN AGOSTINI • The Associated Press

Actor Alec Baldwin attends the 2019 PEN America Literary Gala at the American Museum of Natural History, May 21, 2019, in New York. On Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, a New Mexico judge rejected a request by Baldwin's attorneys.

By SUSAN MONTOYA
The Associated Press

A New Mexico judge on Wednesday rejected a request by Alec Baldwin's attorneys to dismiss a civil lawsuit by three "Rust" crew members who allege cost-cutting endangered the cast and crew as the actor-producer skipped his own safety training.

Chief District Judge Bryan Biedscheid also declined to delay proceedings despite arguments by Baldwin's legal team that doing so would put their client at risk of self-incrimination since prosecutors have yet to decide whether to refile criminal charges against him over the fatal on-set shooting of a cinematographer.

Attorney Robert Schwartz told the judge there would be nothing to prevent prosecutors from using evidence gleaned from discovery in the civil case against Baldwin in the criminal case, if charges are refiled. As an example, he pointed to any interpretation of Baldwin's production contract and what authority he had over decision making.

Schwartz said the court is putting Baldwin in an "unfortunate position."

"No protective order can pro-

tect him against that. It just can't happen," Schwartz said. "So what's going to happen is Mr. Baldwin is going to assert his 5th Amendment rights and the plaintiffs are not going to get any discovery in the meantime."

The judge disagreed, saying he would be mindful of Baldwin's rights.

Prosecutors have been mum about when a decision will be announced, but in asking for the civil case to be delayed, Schwartz indicated Wednesday that it could come within the next few weeks.

Baldwin, a coproducer of the film, was pointing a gun at cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during a rehearsal on the film's set outside Santa Fe when the gun went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza.

The 2021 shooting resulted in a series of civil lawsuits centered on accusations that the defendants were lax with safety standards. The cases have including wrongful death claims filed by members of Hutchins' family. Baldwin and other defendants have disputed accusations they were lax with safety standards.

The plaintiffs in the case heard Wednesday say Baldwin and

the other producers cut corners, ignored reports of multiple unscripted firearm discharges and rushed to finish the film while being understaffed. They also say they suffered mental anguish and emotional distress by witnessing the shooting.

Baldwin's attorneys argue that none of the plaintiffs were physically injured and should not be allowed to recover any damages. They contend that gun safety was the responsibility of others — not Baldwin — and that his authority as a producer was limited to making suggestions on the script and casting.

A separate settlement to resolve allegations of workplace safety violations was finalized in March by New Mexico workplace safety regulators and Rust Movie Productions. Following its review, the state issued a scathing narrative of safety failures in violation of standard industry protocols, including testimony that production managers took limited or no action to address two misfires on set before the fatal shooting.

Regulators also documented gun-safety complaints from crew members that went unheeded.

◀**FRESHMAN from page 19**
Galactic Bingo Saturday night. Although Avenue did not win with any of his three Bingo cards, he remains optimistic about his college experience.

Another student who has been getting fierce on the volleyball courts is freshman Mason Klabunde, who is studying international relations. Originally from Hutchinson, Klabunde made his way to the McElroy residence hall and found a home away from home within his dorm floor.

"We might have the tightest floor in our dorm," Klabunde said. Although he struggles with

operating D2L Brightspace, the learning management system at MSU, he keeps a positive mindset about college.

"I've really enjoyed getting out there, more so than I thought," Klabunde said. "It's been pretty fun, and I'm not as homesick as I thought I would be."

◀**THEATER from page 19**

would have," said Director, Vladimir Rovinsky. "We have a majority of our theater and dance students audition. By doing this, we captured quite a few people who may be would not have auditioned otherwise. We auditioned them and then after the break, there was this process called callbacks, kind of bringing back people trying them in different combinations and giving them different songs to try."

Faith Peterson, who played Maria in "The Sound of Music" in 2022, auditioned for the ensemble. She said she has loved this musical since she started in musical theater.

"The message that it tries to give is very powerful and inspiring, and I want to be involved with it in any way that I can. So I auditioned in April, and I got a callback for the ensemble and I'm really grateful to be here," said Peterson. "I'm very full force determined to go somewhere with this

and I just love music."

The ensemble is an important part of a musical. It can make or break a show. By executing elaborate dance sections, contributing voices to full-company musical numbers and acting out background parts, the ensemble helps bring the world of musicals and operas to life.

"I think the ensemble is just like such an integral part of rent. Nothing can happen in that show without just like this big chorus part in it. It moves the show along," said Finnola Coughlin, who auditioned for the ensemble.

Students can hear the sounds of the 1980s and 1990s from Sept. 28-30 and Oct. 5-8 in the Ted Paul Theatre.

Students can see the true story of Hay and Gernreich and the Mattachine Society Sept. 20-23 in the Andreas Theatre.

For more information on how to get tickets, go to the theatre arts page on the MSU website.

◀**ALUMNA from page 19**

"Everything you've learned up to this point is important and doesn't have to fit into the peg you wanted it to fit in," she said. "Be open to the other shape of peg. Your experiences brought you this far and all of that experience is transferable to whatever you want."

"A lot of what I do now is deep organization and planning and communication — all that stuff (is)

rooted in the education that I got, because all of those things encompass a theater degree," said Johnsen. "You have to be the collaborator. The skills I learned at MSU carried over into every position I've had leading up to this one."

No matter what year in school, it is important to remember that growth will continue to blossom, and that learning to adapt will be the true key to success.

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Hollywood strikers and other workers shout for solidarity

By ANDREW DALTON
The Associated Press

Kerry Washington and Martin Sheen, a pair of fictional former politicians, turned Hollywood's strikes into a rousing campaign rally Tuesday with speeches celebrating unity across the industry and with labor at large.

"We are here because we know that unions matter," said Washington, who played a political fixer on ABC's "Scandal."

"Not only do we have solidarity within our union, we have solidarity between our unions, because we are workers."

The rally outside Disney Studios in Burbank, California, coming more than a month into a strike by Hollywood actors and more than three months into a strike by screenwriters, was meant to highlight their alliance with the industry's other guilds and the nation's other unions, including the Teamsters and the AFL-CIO.

"The audacity of these studios to say they can't afford to pay their workers after they make billions in profits is utterly ridiculous," Los Angeles County Federation of Labor President Yvonne Wheeler told the crowd.

She added a dig at Disney's CEO, who has become a target of strikers. "But despite their money, they can't buy this kind of solidarity. Tell Bob Iger that."

Sheen, who played the president



JORDAN STRAUSS • The Associated Press
Sean Astin, center, Michelle Hurd, second right, and marchers attend the Day of Solidarity union rally on Tuesday, Aug. 22.

for seven seasons on "The West Wing," was joined by most of the show's main cast members on the stage as he emphasized that the toll being taken as the strikes stretch out.

"Clearly this union has found something worth fighting for, and it is very costly," Sheen said. "If this were not so we would be left to question its value."

Washington also sought to highlight that high-profile guild

members like her were once actors who struggled to find work and make a living, as the vast majority of members still are.

She ran through the issues at the heart of both strikes, including compensation and studios and streaming services using artificial intelligence in place of actors and writers.

"We deserve to be able to be paid a fair wage."

We deserve to have access to

healthcare. We deserve to be free from machines pretending to be us," Washington said. "The dream of being working artist, the dream of making a living doing what we want to do, should not be impossible."

Washington and others carefully avoided saying the names of the shows that made them famous, in observation of strike rules against promotion of studio projects.

The alliance of studios, stream-

ing services and production companies that are the opposition in the strikes says it offered fair contracts to both unions before talks broke off that included unprecedented updates in pay and protections against AI.

Talks have restarted between the studios and writers, who went on strike May 2, though progress has been slow. There have been no negotiations with actors since they went on strike July 14.

The rally included many members and leaders of other Hollywood unions that unlike the striking guilds were able to make deals with the studios, including the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, which represents most Hollywood crew members and struck an 11th hour deal to avoid a strike in 2021. That contract expires next year.

Some thought the Directors Guild of America would be a third Hollywood strike in 2023, but the group promptly reached a contract deal while talks for others sputtered.

Yet its members have also been out of work, with nearly all major Hollywood productions shut down.

One of the DGA's officers, Paris Barclay, who directed episodes of both "Scandal" and "The West Wing," told the crowd Tuesday that makes it essential that workers under contract support their striking colleagues.

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Video shows mother of Kansas newspaper publisher upset amid raid



ERIC MEYER • The Associated Press

This screen grab of security camera footage provided by Eric Meyer shows his mother, Joan Meyer, ordering police officers to get out of her house as they searched it on Aug. 11, 2023, in Marion, Kan. Joan Meyer, who was 98, died the next day.

By JOHN HANNA
The Associated Press

Newly released video shows the 98-year-old mother of a Kansas newspaper publisher confronting police officers as they searched her home in a raid that has drawn national scrutiny, at one point demanding: "Get out of my house!"

Video released by the newspaper Monday shows Joan Meyer shouting at the six officers inside the Marion, Kansas, home she shared with her son, Marion County Record Editor and Publisher Eric Meyer. Standing with the aid of a walker and dressed in a long robe or gown and slippers, she seems visibly upset.

"Get out of my house ... I don't want you in my house!" she said at one point. "Don't touch any of that stuff! This is my house!" she said at another.

The raids of the newspaper and the homes of the Meyers and a City Council member happened on Aug. 11, after a local restaurant owner accused the newspaper of illegally accessing information about her. Joan Meyer died a day later. Her son said he believes that the stress contributed to her death.

A prosecutor said later that there was insufficient evidence to justify the raids, and some of the seized computers and cellphones have been returned. Meanwhile, the initial online search of a state website that the police chief cited to justify the raid was legal, a spokesperson for the agency that maintains the site said Monday.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation continues to examine the newspaper's actions.

Legal experts believe the police raid on the newspaper violated a federal privacy law or a state law shielding journalists from having to identify sources or to turn over unpublished material to law enforcement.

Two state lawmakers, Kansas

House Democratic Leader Vic Miller, and Democratic state Rep. Jason Probst, a former newspaper reporter and editor in Hutchinson, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Marion, said they plan to pursue legislation dealing with search warrants next year but are looking for other ideas as well.

"I don't want this to fade away until we've addressed it," Miller said during a Statehouse news conference.

The raid on the Record put it and its hometown of around 1,900 residents about 150 miles (241 kilometers) southwest of Kansas City 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 spotlight on Police Chief Gideon Cody, who led the raids after the newspaper had asked questions about his background.

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

Cody did not attend Monday's meeting or respond to email and cellphone messages seeking comment. He said in affidavits used to obtain the warrants that he had probable cause to believe that the newspaper and City Council member Ruth Herbel, whose home was also raided, had violated state laws against identity theft or computer crimes.

Both 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 woman's license number and date of birth,

which are required to check the status of 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.

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.

While Herbel said after the meeting that she agrees that Cody should resign, 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.

Meyer said the newspaper plans to file a lawsuit over the raid of its offices and his home.

The publisher has noted that among the items seized were a computer tower and personal cellphone of a reporter who was uninvolved in the dispute with the local restaurant owner — but who had been investigating why Cody left a Kansas City, Missouri, police captain's job in April before becoming Marion police chief.

Video from a security camera overlooking the newsroom showed an officer reading the reporter her rights during the raid. Bernie Rhodes, the newspaper's attorney, said the action meant she wasn't free to leave and could have been jailed.

"People keep asking me, 'Why haven't you already sued?'" Rhodes said. "I don't want to be rash like the police were. I'm doing a thorough investigation."

Woman pleads guilty to fatally shoving Broadway singing coach



CURTIS MEANS • The Associated Press

Lauren Pazienza appears in court Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, in New York. Pazienza, 28, fatally shoved 87-year-old Broadway singing coach Barbara Gustern.

The Associated Press

A woman who killed an 87-year-old Broadway singing coach by shoving her onto a Manhattan sidewalk has avoided a lengthy prison sentence by pleading guilty to manslaughter on Wednesday, and will instead serve eight years behind bars.

Lauren Pazienza, 28, teared up in court as she admitted randomly attacking Barbara Maier Gustern on March 10, 2022. Gustern, whose students included "Blondie" singer Debbie Harry, lay bleeding on a sidewalk as Pazienza walked away, prosecutors said. She died five days later.

"Today's plea holds Pazienza accountable for her deadly actions," Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said in a statement.

Gustern's relatives, some of whom were in court, said they were disappointed with Pazienza's plea deal and agreed-upon prison sentence — a fraction of the maxi-

mum 25 years she would've faced if convicted at trial.

Pazienza's lawyer Arthur Aidala declined to comment.

Pazienza, a former event planner originally from Long Island, has been locked up at the city's notorious Rikers Island jail complex since a judge revoked her bail in May 2022. She is scheduled to be formally sentenced Sept. 29. The time she's already served will be counted toward her sentence.

According to prosecutors, Pazienza attacked Gustern after storming out of a nearby park, where she and her fiancé had been eating meals from a food cart.

Gustern had just left her apartment to catch a student's performance after hosting a rehearsal for a cabaret show, friends told The New York Times.

Pazienza, who had several glasses of wine earlier while celebrating a milestone in her wedding countdown, was upset.

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Case against Amber Heard over pet Yorkshire terriers dropped



GLENN HUNT • The Associated Press

Johnny Depp and his then wife Amber Heard leave The Southport Court in Southport, Queensland, Australia, on April 18, 2016 after Heard pleaded guilty.

By ROD MCGUIRK
The Associated Press

Australian prosecutors dropped a potential criminal case against American actor Amber Heard over allegations that she lied to a court about how her Yorkshire terriers Pistol and Boo came to be smuggled into Australia eight years ago, the government said Wednesday.

Heard and her then-husband Johnny Depp became embroiled in a high-profile biosecurity controversy in 2015 when she brought her pets to Australia's Gold Coast, where Depp was filming the fifth movie in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series.

Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, a biosecurity watchdog, said the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions decided against prosecuting 37-year-old Heard for allegedly feigning ignorance about the nation's strict quarantine regu-

lations.

"Prosecution action will not be taken against ... Heard over allegations related to her sentencing for the illegal import of two dogs," the department said in a statement.

The department had investigated discrepancies between what her lawyer told an Australian court in 2016 — when she admitted smuggling the dogs — and testimony given in a London court in 2020 when Depp, now 60, was suing The Sun newspaper for libel over allegations of domestic violence against his former wife.

Heard had pleaded guilty in 2016 at the Southport Magistrates Court in Australia to providing a false immigration document when the couple brought their dogs into Australia in a chartered jet a year earlier.

Prosecutors dropped more serious charges that Heard illegally imported the dogs.

Apple TV+ series stars Carlos Ghosn

By MARK KENNEDY
The Associated Press

Carlos Ghosn, the former rock star businessman who fell from grace and fled authorities smuggled in a music instrument box, is getting what his dramatic story deserves — a multi-part documentary series.

"Wanted: The Escape of Carlos Ghosn" is the juicy real tale of how the auto executive went from attending red carpets as the head of both Nissan and Renault to fleeing to Lebanon with the help of a former Green Beret.

"The Carlos Ghosn story is unbelievable in the sense that it's a Shakespearean tragedy in which we have an archetypal tragic hero who everybody wants to root for but knows the train crash is coming," said Sean McLain, a consulting producer on the Apple TV+ series and Wall Street Journal reporter.

The four-part series, which starts Friday, takes a wider lens to Ghosn's story, tracing the childhood and rise of the auto executive which Time magazine once put ahead of Bill Gates among the 15 most influential global business executives.

Voices included are Louis Schweitzer, former CEO of Renault; Andy Palmer, former COO of Nissan; Arnaud Montebourg, former French minister of economy; Takashi Yamashita, former Japanese minister of justice; and Hiroto Saikawa, former Nissan CEO.

Most crucially, director James Jones went to Lebanon and sat down with Ghosn and his wife,



HASSAN AMMAR • The Associated Press

Nissan executive Carlos Ghosn speaks during an interview in Beirut, Lebanon on June 23, 2023. Ghosn, the former rock star businessman who fell from grace

Carole, on camera. Jones got the job before he'd secured access to the couple but knew he had to have them participate.

"You need to hear from the people in the room. You can't just have pundits commentating on what happened or kind of rehashing the story second-hand," Jones says. "For me, getting Carlos and Carole Ghosn to talk frankly was a huge thing and I think that the series would have been a struggle to make without that."

Many viewers may tune in because of the brazen way Ghosn left Japan in 2019 after being accused of financial improprieties. He turned to Mike Taylor, a former Green Beret, who hid the executive in a large music instrument box — with breathing holes drilled in — and got him out on a private jet.

"My initial reaction was like,

'Is there enough for four parts?' I know he's an interesting guy who is a brilliant businessman, and the escape is thrilling," said Jones. "But then when I spent the time reading up about it, it did feel rich and the kind of thing that's quite satisfying to really get your teeth into."

The Brazilian-born Ghosn took refuge in Lebanon, his ancestral homeland, which has no extradition treaty with Japan. He denied the financial improprieties charges and said Japan's justice system was unfair. "I did not escape justice. I fled injustice," he said at the time.

The series also investigates Japan's legal system, which critics say amounts to "hostage justice," allowing suspects to be questioned for days without a lawyer present while they are kept in solitary confinement in a small, spartan cell.

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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."



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!"

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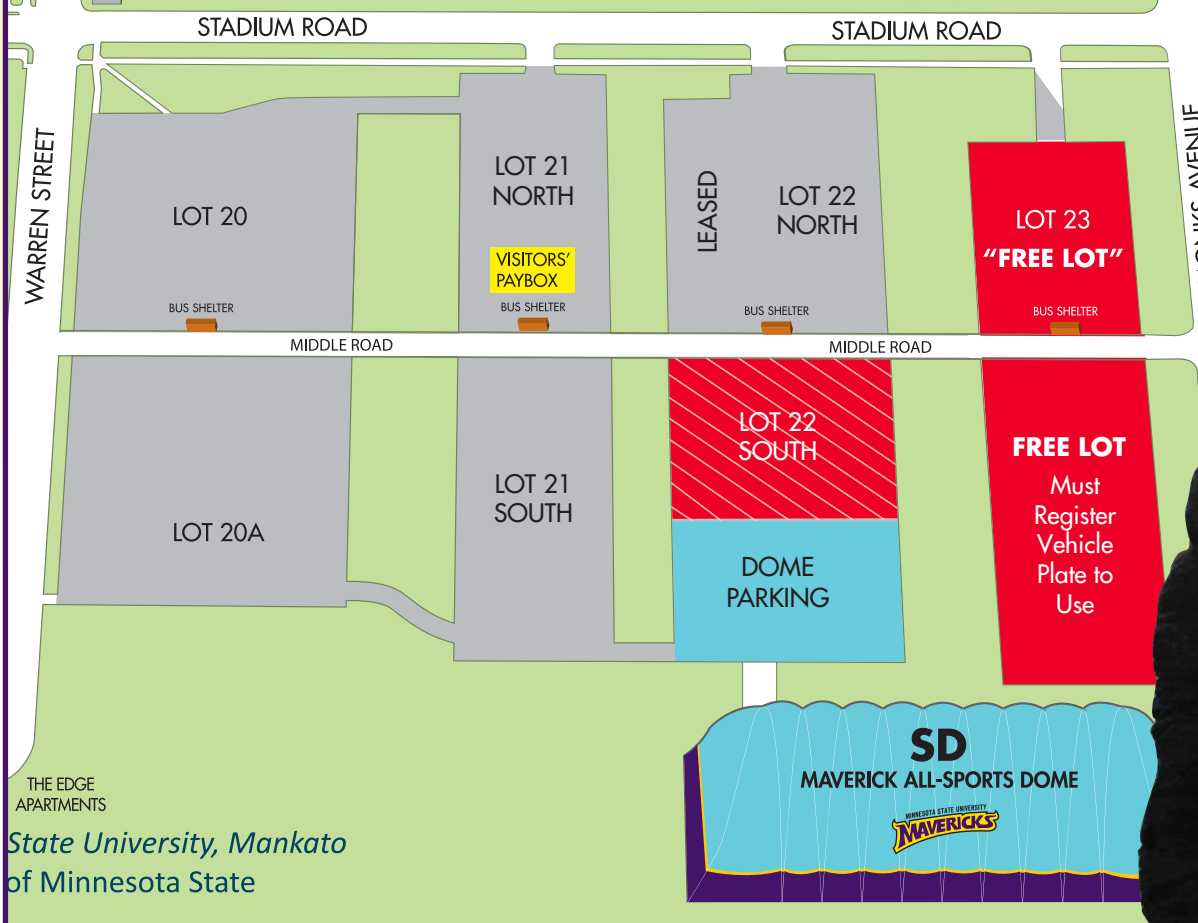
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