

RIVER ROCKING



The Bend of the River Saturday featured 38 Special (clockwise from left), Tim Montana and Elle King at Blakeslee Stadium.

Photos by LILLY ANDERSON and NATHANAEL TILAHUN • The Reporter

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

The Blakeslee Stadium practice fields were packed Saturday afternoon, but not because of a football game.

The Bend of the River Festival brought three musical artists to Mankato for a night of memories and tunes.

Owner and organizer Robyn James said the success of 2022's inaugural concert festival and community feedback made her want to bring it back.

"It's just a really good feeling to know that we're doing something good and it's something that people want to see here in this town,"

James said.

This year's lineup of artists was a combination of rock, blues and country. James said she wanted a blend of young and mature artists to keep everyone entertained.

"We're going to hit everybody from 16 up to 68 and over," James said. "We just wanted some artists that play a variety just to keep things going."

Part of the feedback James received was improving the layout of the event and bringing in more vendors and food trucks from the community to make it more cohesive.

"It feels like you're at one event and not disjointed. When you're eating your food, you can see the

stage and hear the music," James said. "We also have lawn games set up so people can just sit back, chill and really enjoy the afternoon."

Tim Montana took to the stage at 4 p.m. The country-rock star performed his hit song "This Beard Came Here to Party," and his most recent single "Devil You Know."

The lineup continued as gritty-blues singer Elle King came out and performed for the audience. Best known for her song, "Ex's and Oh's," the country-rocker played her hit as well as songs from her most recent album "Come Get Your Wife" which was released earlier this year.

King was the reason freshman Allison Adamec came to the con-

cert.

"The concert sounded really fun and I can't wait to listen to 'Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)'" Adamec said.

As the sun started to set, 38 Special came out to rock-n-roll the crowd. With over 40 years of songs, the band played a mix of their hits, most of which their three 1980s-era platinum statuses. The concert wrapped up around 10 p.m.

Senior TSION Demissie and Junior Mahlet Demissie said they came to have fun and enjoy the food.

"It's our first time here this year, so we are hoping to have a good time and hopefully come back next year," Demissie said.

New Dean in The College of Business

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

Minnesota State's College of Business welcomes a new dean, Seung Bach.

Bach came to MSU from California State University, Bakersfield, where he worked for 20 years.

"I was there as a professor as center director, and as Associate Dean, and eventually getting into the interim dean position," said Bach. "I chose a different track, I was growing up and then changed to the administration position."

It is now Bach's third month working at MSU. Throughout this time he was able to meet with faculty members, community partners and students in his college.

"During August and September, the first event when I met up with our student was just casual after hours, but recently, when I was leaving the building, I encountered a few students heading back to the building after hours. So I said 'Where are you going?' And then they said that they had a student club meeting there. So I volunteered to pop in and to say hello," said Bach.

Bach said he saw potential in MSU and wanted to contribute not only to students but also to staff and faculty members of this college.

"This school is full of potential, and they're well connected to the community. It is a very renowned, reputable school, and still, there is a little room to grow," said Bach. "So I chose that as my next job because I see myself as the instrument and want to use this opportunity."

The main goal for Bach this year is to provide affordable education for everyone. Bach said he was inspired by Destination 2030, announced by President Edward Inch, to work toward this goal and make sure that education is accessible to people with a variety of goals.

"Diversity, equity and the students are not going in a different way. It is all connected," said Bach. "I love to be part of the endeavor in achieving the Destination 2030 which was introduced by President Inch at the convocation. So I picked lifelong education as my main goal for this year. Now, I am looking into our academic

Mahakto Wacipi honors the traditions and history of their ancestors

By AMALIA SHARAF
Staff Writer

Thousands of people attended the 51st annual Mahakto Wacipi in Mankato's Land of Memories Park last weekend.

During the event, many Native American tribes came together to celebrate their culture and honor their ancestors and traditions.

Not only did they sing and dance, but also taught younger generations about the history of the land.

Megan Heutmaker, Minnesota State University's Director of American Indian Affairs, shared that Native American people were exiled from the state after Dakota 38+2 hanging in December of 1862

— an event that remains the largest mass execution in U.S. History.

"It's an annual event in our community to bring together in reconciliation and remember that Dakota people here of Mankato," said Heutmaker. "And so the work of reconciliation is going to welcome our indigenous communities back here into our state and specifically in Mankato."

Minnesota State students provide volunteer help each year. They participate as service learning students and have an opportunity to learn about the culture along with others in the community.

Junior Taylor Janski visited the event as a service learning student.

She learned about the Dakota 38 and said she felt devastated **WACIPI on page 2**



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

Thousands of people attended the annual Mahakto Wacipi in Mankato's Land of Memories Park.

'Curiosity' podcasters want to help build connections on campus



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

Minnesota State's "Curiosity" podcast grew out of David Engen's audio storytelling class with the goal to spark curiosity and to build connections.

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

There's a new podcast on the Minnesota State campus that is intended to spark curiosity and build connections within the campus community. It's called "Curiosity," a project that grew out of David Engen's audio storytelling class.

"Connection I think is the biggest thing we want to be doing. Connecting with other students and even faculty too and anyone who is part of this campus," said Kathryn Petzel.

Connection and community are both themes emphasized by the tight knit group of four student podcasters, who for now are recording in a small office in Traflet hall.

"Community is a big thing and I feel it's super easy to feel isolated and alone in different ways, so I think this is a great way to connect and learn," said Mallory Schafer.

The group has plans to move to

a larger space and wants to expand their membership numbers. The podcast episode where the group explained their purpose included multiple pleas for people to contact Engen to find out how to join.

The subjects tackled on "Curiosity" are fairly eclectic. Past topics include what it means for instructors to come out as LGBTQ in the classroom, the experiences of non-traditional students and the perspectives of members of the Muslim Student Association. One episode, called the gratitude files, had the podcasters asking people on campus what they were grateful for.

"Curiosity" will feature interviews, audio documentaries, personal reflections, and a whole lot more," said Schafer on the trailer for "Curiosity."

The group also has a variety of subjects they plan on tackling.

"I personally am an international student and I was thinking of doing something with international students," said Ryuto

Hashimoto. "So I think it would be a really interesting focus for us or for me at least as a member of a podcast to explore their story experiences and bring their voices out here."

"I am probably going to focus more on personal stories, more one on one interviews," said Jacob Sparrow.

The name Curiosity was chosen for the podcast to encapsulate what the group felt they were doing.

"We battled around with it for a little bit because we were trying to think of a variety show name and from what we had put together this sort of made sense where it encapsulated what we're trying to do where we're exploring new things and we're exploring new things because we're curious about them," said Petzel.

The "Curiosity" podcast is available at Amazon Music, the iTunes store and Apple Podcasts.

Wacipi: 'I expect to learn a lot more'

◀ From page 1
about past events.

"I mean, the 45 minutes we've been here, we've just learned a whole bunch about what the powWow is about and its history," said Jansky. "I feel sad because of the history, which is so dark, but I also think it's good that we're doing this by trying to make up for what happened. Obviously, we can't, but we're trying our best to do something at least."

"Our service learning is required for our class, but we could volunteer for the powWow and it was a great way to get to know another community and get to know another culture. It's just nice to meet new people and be able to help out," said freshman Autumn

Walz.

The area dedicated to the Wacipi has allocated space for vendors and other tents.

One of the tents, the Education Tent, allowed everyone to come in and listen to the Native American speaker, who taught people about the history and culture.

"I expect to learn a lot more than what I learned in school. I grew up in a really, really small town. We didn't focus on Native American history or anything like that at all," said junior Caitlin Krzmarzick. "We were talking over at one station. I had never learned about the Dakota 38, and that's a big part of why powWow is here. So that's something I learned for

sure. I never knew that happened, and I feel that it's incredibly dark."

MSU students visited the event, too. Senior Majd Alharbi was interested in Native American history but had no opportunity to learn about it from people in this community.

"I never got to learn from actual Native American people other than what I've seen online. And I wanted to learn from people that have lived the experience," said Alharbi. "I've learned about the wars they've been through; I've also learned about the spirits, the rituals and their culture. For the cultural dresses, many had bells around their feet. So when they're dancing, the dance moves make the music. So it's just really beautiful to see."



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

Seung Bach is the new dean of the College of Business at Minnesota State Mankato while Brenda Flannery is on sabbatical.

◀ BUSINESS from page 1

programs to see whether they are really equitable, affordable and open to many people, such as a degree seeker or non-degree seeker, and traditional students or adult learners."

The College of Business plans more events during Fall 2023, and Bach said he wants to visit to meet more people.

Big Ideas Challenge is one of the occurrences that Bach invites students to see. He says this year the event will have a new element.

"This year, we're going to try

something different," said Bach. "We invited high school students. They are going through school-level competition, and they will be as school representatives. We will have a high school student pitch competition before the event."

Dean Bach said he loves to see students walking around the campus and is always open to listen and learn about them. He takes opportunities to connect with students and contribute to the prosperity of the College of Business.

Hunter Biden sues IRS over tax disclosures

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
The Associated Press

Hunter Biden sued the Internal Revenue Service on Monday, claiming that two agents publicly alleging tax-probe interference wrongly shared his personal information, a case that comes amid escalating legal and political struggles as the 2024 election looms.

The agents "targeted and sought to embarrass Mr. Biden" with the sharing of confidential

tax information in press interviews and testimony before Congress, the suit said. His lawyers argue that whistleblower protections don't apply, but a lawyer for one agent said any confidential information released came under whistleblower authorization and called the suit a "frivolous smear."

The lawsuit marks the latest legal pushback from Biden as a long-running federal investigation into him unfolds against a sharply political backdrop.

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Hairstyle gets black student suspended in Texas

By CHEYANNE MUMPHREY and JUAN LOZANO
The Associated Press

A Black high school student in Texas has served more than two weeks of in-school suspensions for wearing twisted dreadlocks to school. When he arrived Monday with the same hairstyle, he was suspended again, his mother said.

Darryl George, a junior at Barbers Hill High School in Mont Belvieu, was initially suspended the same week his state outlawed racial discrimination based on hairstyles. School officials said his dreadlocks fell below his eyebrows and ear lobes and violated the district's dress code.

George, 17, has been suspended since Aug. 31 at the Houston-area school.

He was in tears when he was suspended Monday despite his family's arguments that his hair does not violate the dress code, his mother Darresha George said.

"He has to sit on a stool for eight hours in a cubicle," she said. "That's very uncomfortable. Every day he'd come home, he'd say his back hurts because he has to sit on a stool."

The incident recalls debates over hair discrimination in schools and the workplace and is already testing the state's newly enacted CROWN Act, which took effect Sept. 1.

The law, an acronym for "Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair," is intended to prohibit race-based hair discrimination and bars employers and schools from penalizing people because of hair texture or protective hairstyles including Afros, braids, dreadlocks, twists or Bantu knots. Texas is one of 24 states that have enacted a version of the CROWN



MICHAEL WYKE • The Associated Press

Darryl George, left, a 17-year-old junior, and his mother Darresha George, right, talks with reporters before walking across the street to go into Barbers Hill High School after Darryl served a 5-day in-school suspension for not cutting his hair

Act.

A federal version of the CROWN Act passed in the House of Representatives last year, but was not successful in the Senate.

For Black people, hairstyles are more than just a fashion statement. Hair has always played an important role across the Black diaspora, said Candice Matthews, national minister of politics for the New Black Panther Nation. (Her group is not affiliated with another New Black Panther organization widely considered antisemitic.)

"Dreadlocks are perceived as a connection to wisdom," Matthews

said. "This is not a fad, and this is not about getting attention. Hair is our connection to our soul, our heritage and our connection to God."

In George's family, all the men have dreadlocks, going back generations.

To them, the hairstyle has cultural and religious importance, his mother said.

"Our hair is where our strength is, that's our roots," Darresha George said. "He has his ancestors locked into his hair, and he knows that."

Historians say braids and oth-

er hairstyles served as methods of communication across African societies, including to identify tribal affiliation or marriage status, and as clues to safety and freedom for those who were captured and enslaved.

After slavery was abolished, Black American hair became political. Although the Civil Rights Act of 1964 banned discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex and national origin, Black people continued to face professional and social stigma for not adopting grooming habits that fit white, European beauty standards and

norms.

The issue of race-based hair discrimination in the workplace has long existed alongside concerns in public and private schools.

In 2018, a white referee in New Jersey told a Black high school wrestler to cut his dreadlocks or forfeit a match. Viral video of the wrestler having his hair cut with scissors as the crowd watched prompted the referee's suspension and spurred passage of the state's CROWN Act.

Darresha George said her son has been growing his dreadlocks for nearly 10 years and the family never received pushback or complaints until now. When let down, his dreadlocks hang above his shoulders but she said he has not worn his hair down since school started in mid-August. George said she couldn't understand how he violated the dress code when his hair was tied on top of his head.

"I even had a discussion about the CROWN Act with the principal and vice principal," she said. "They said the act does not cover the length of his hair."

Barbers Hill Independent School District prohibits male students from having hair extending below the eyebrows, ear lobes or top of a t-shirt collar, according to the student handbook. Additionally, hair on all students must be clean, well-groomed, geometrical and not an unnatural color or variation. The school does not require uniforms.

The school previously clashed with another Black male student over the dress code. Barbers Hill officials told a student he had to cut his dreadlocks to return to school or participate in graduation in 2020, which garnered national attention.

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Get outside and touch grass

September is an odd time of year. We love when it is warm out and we can all be outside and enjoy the fruits of life that warm weather provides.

But also, we find ourselves wanting the weather to grow colder again, like we don't know what is on the horizon in just a few short months.

So now we bring this important announcement to your attention: Enjoy the warm weather while it lasts.

Mid-September in Minnesota brings indecisiveness from Mother Nature. Here is the forecast for the rest of the week.

Wednesday: Sunny, high of 84, low of 60.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, high of 83, low of 60.

Friday: Partly cloudy, high of 82, low of 60.

Saturday: 30% chance of rain, high of 76, low of 63.

Sunday: Cloudy, high of 75, low of 60.

Some great chances to go out and enjoy the weather while it is still enjoyable.

Something else to consider, if this pertains to you, is there is very little time to get out and soak up the natural sunlight. In about three months, we will all be severely lacking Vitamin D as the winter season forces us indoors.

Whether you use the sun to get that natural tan or to just improve the strength of your mind and bones, the clock is ticking.

Grilling season is almost over as well. If you are one for tasty, naturally cooked hot dogs, hamburgers and steaks, you too are running out of time. Before we all go back to eating pasta and Slim Chickens, let's just get one more Thursday night of grilling and sitting by a bonfire.

Bonfires also are reminiscent of other outdoor activities that will be stripped away from us.

Golfing, hiking, fishing, running, picnics, gardening, whatever it is that you love to do outside will soon be completely over or much harder to enjoy.

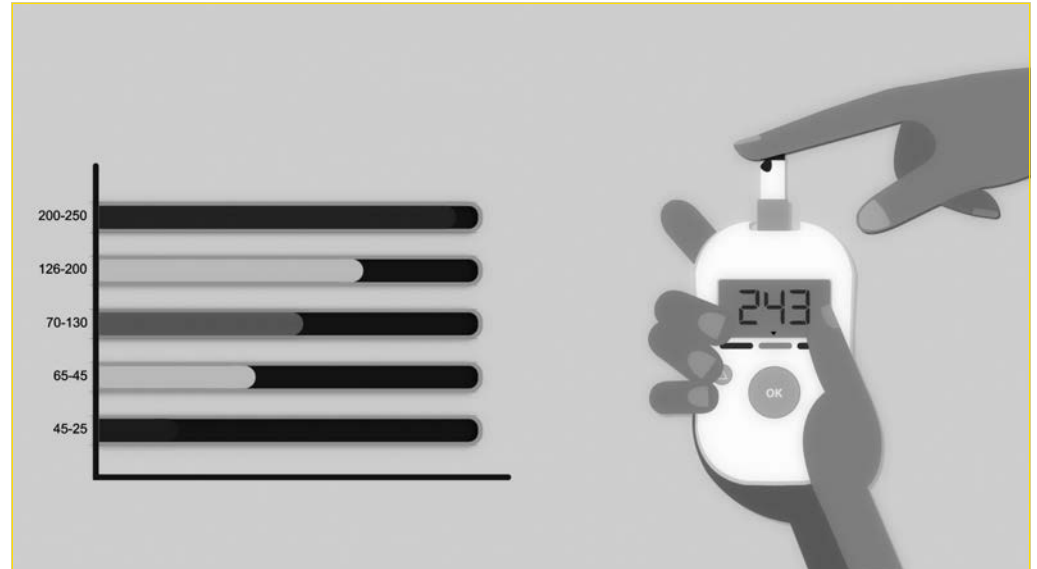
Not to say that the season for fun is almost over, but we all know that winter comes with challenges.

We are now in the turning point of the year known as fall. The holiday season is almost upon us, which means that it is now also time to jump in a pile of leaves, go to an apple orchard, carve pumpkins and hang up our holiday lights before we no longer can bear the subzero temperatures. Just some ideas.

As previously written here, fall is the most underrated season. Enjoy it before we all hide away in our homes and freeze to death.

Perspectives

A Diabetic Talks: Being sick



Courtesy Flickr

This is a graph showing different blood glucose levels that diabetics face. The bottom is the lowest and the top is the normal range for high glucose ranges.

Today I woke up sick. Foggy brain, congested nose, sore throat and I can feel a cough coming. The worst.

The body's immune system is a wonderful thing, it recognizes that you have some sort of infection and acts immediately by sending hormones to combat sickness with the obvious goal of making you healthy as soon as possible. While this is a great thing, I am compromised with an autoimmune disease which can bring on a slew of problems.

Every change in a diabetic's body means there will most likely be another daily learning curve to adapt to and learn from. Today, I did my morning rituals of putting in my daily insulin. I put in my normal amounts that I do everyday but oddly enough, my blood glucose levels went up instead of staying consistent. As frustrating as this is for me, I have to think about what is causing this. Then I remembered: I'm sick.



Luke Jackson
News Director

The increase of hormones flowing through my body to fight off this sickness means my insulin will be less effective meaning I simply need more. This means while giving myself more insulin I have to pay closer attention to what my blood sugar is doing throughout the day along with what I am eating. I also should try and keep good hydration. The goal is for it to not go low or high; a pretty hard thing to do.

This can get really stressful because the consequences of not monitoring my health while I am sick can be pretty severe. The first thing I have to think of is if my BGL lev-

els are not in range, it will be harder to get back to my normal health. I won't go into the details of why it happens but when your blood sugar levels aren't the best it is harder to fend off a sickness. This could result in me being sick for a lot longer than the average person.

Secondly, the biggest concern is diabetic ketoacidosis. DKA is when there isn't enough insulin to allow the blood sugar to have gained any energy from your normal meals. Ketones will produce and they will go and eat away at your fat storages for energy — a very bad thing. This has happened to me twice, both times I ended up in the hospital.

Although this sickness may just be a little head cold and not much to worry about, I have to treat this with a more serious thought process. I am assuming it will go away soon and I will be fine but the stress it causes me on

COLUMN on page 5

Pulse

“What has been the best concert you have been to?”

Compiled by Dylan Long



HAFSA PEERZADA,
SENIOR

“Ed Sheeran.”



MORIUN PEERZADA,
SOPHOMORE

“Ed Sheeran.”



HENRIK SCHWALT,
JUNIOR

“Bibiza.”



PAUL NEIDERMAR,
JUNIOR

“Papa Roach.”



SOPHIE REITER,
JUNIOR

“Ed Sheeran.”



LORE ECHEMIST,
JUNIOR

“Never been to a concert.”

Tens of thousands march to kick off climate summit to end fossil fuels



BRYAN WOOLSTON • The Associated Press

Climate activists march on Madison Avenue while protesting energy policy and the use of fossil fuels, in New York, Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023.

By SETH BORENSTIEN
The Associated Press

Yelling that the future and their lives depend on ending fossil fuels, tens of thousands of protesters on Sunday kicked off a week where leaders will try once again to curb climate change primarily caused by coal, oil and natural gas.

But protesters say it's not going to be enough. And they aimed their wrath directly at U.S. President Joe Biden, urging him to stop approving new oil and gas projects, phase out current ones and declare a climate emergency with larger executive powers.

"We hold the power of the people, the power you need to win this election," said 17-year-old Emma Buretta of Brooklyn of the youth protest group Fridays for Future. "If you want to win in 2024, if you do not want the blood of my generation to be on your hands, end fossil fuels."

The March to End Fossil Fuels featured such politicians as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and actors Susan Sarandon, Ethan Hawke, Edward Norton, Kyrá Sedgwick and Kevin Bacon.

But the real action on Broadway was where protesters crowded the street, pleading for a better but not-so-hot future.

It was the opening salvo to New York's Climate Week, where world leaders in business, politics and the arts gather to try to save the planet, highlighted by a new special United Nations summit Wednesday.

Many of the leaders of countries that cause the most heat-trapping carbon pollution will not

be in attendance. And they won't speak at the summit organized by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a way that only countries that promise new concrete action are invited to speak.

Organizers estimated 75,000 people marched Sunday.

"We have people all across the world in the streets, showing up, demanding a cessation of what is killing us," Ocasio-Cortez told a cheering crowd. "We have to send a message that some of us are going to be living on, on this planet 30, 40, 50 years from now. And we will not take no for an answer."

This protest was far more focused on fossil fuels and the industry than previous marches. Sunday's rally attracted a large chunk, 15%, of first-time protesters and was overwhelmingly female, said American University sociologist Dana Fisher, who studies environmental movements and was surveying march participants.

Of the people Fisher talked to, 86% had experienced extreme heat recently, 21% floods and 18% severe drought, she said. They mostly reported feeling sad and angry.

Earth has just gone through the hottest summer on record.

Among the marchers was 8-year-old Athena Wilson from Boca Raton, Florida. She and her mother Maleah, flew from Florida for Sunday's protest.

"Because we care about our planet," Athena said. "I really want the Earth to feel better."

People in the South, especially where the oil industry is, and the global south, "have not felt heard," said 23-year-old Alexandria Gor-

don, originally from Houston. "It is frustrating."

Protest organizers emphasized how let down they felt that Biden, who many of them supported in 2020, has overseen increased drilling for oil and fossil fuels.

"President Biden, our lives depend on your actions today," said Louisiana environmental activist Sharon Lavigne.

"If you don't stop fossil fuels our blood is on your hands."

Nearly one-third of the world's planned drilling for oil and gas between now and 2050 is by U.S. interests, environmental activists calculate.

Over the past 100 years, the United States has put more heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere than any other country, though China now emits more carbon pollution on an annual basis.

"You need to phase out fossil fuels to survive our planet," said Jean Su, a march organizer and energy justice director for the Center for Biological Diversity.

Marchers and speakers spoke of increasing urgency and fear of the future. The actress known as V, formerly Eve Ensler, premiered the anthem "Panic" from her new climate change oriented musical scheduled for next year.

The chorus goes: "We want you to panic. We want you to act. You stole our future and we want it back."

Signs included "Even Santa Knows Coal is Bad" and "Fossil fuels are killing us" and "I want a fossil free future" and "keep it in the ground."

◀COLUMN from page 4
busy days is not fun. To have to constantly be checking my BGL while at school or work can get tiring. Some days I burnout and just want a break, something

that is not possible.
I just need to remember that everyday is a new day and everyday is a new learning experience. If I pay attention to how my body reacts to this stupid

little cold, maybe it'll help me combat the next more severe sickness I get. If I've learned anything from type 1 diabetes it's that I just have to learn one day at a time.

Trump calls DeSantis abortion ban 'a terrible mistake'



JOSE LUIS MAGANA • The Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump speaks during the Pray Vote Stand Summit, Friday, Sept. 15, 2023, in Washington. Trump repeatedly declined in an interview aired Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023

By SARA BURNETT
The Associated Press

Donald Trump is facing new blowback from anti-abortion activists for refusing to commit to national abortion restrictions and for calling Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' signing of a six-week ban on the procedure a "terrible mistake."

Speaking Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," Trump repeatedly declined to say whether he would support a federal ban on abortion.

He said he could "live with" the procedure being banned by individual states or nationwide through federal action, though he said "from a legal standpoint, I think it's probably better" to be handled at the state level.

Regarding the bill signed by DeSantis, which bans abortions

before many women know they are pregnant, Trump said, "I think what he did is a terrible thing and a terrible mistake."

So far, the former president has dominated the 2024 field while at times spurning the anti-abortion groups that traditionally have huge influence in Republican primaries.

But Trump's direct attack on DeSantis, whom he's long treated as his chief rival, could give the Florida governor new fodder as he tries to regain momentum in his campaign and solidify his second-place standing.

Posting on X, formerly known as Twitter, DeSantis campaign spokesman Bryan Griffin wrote of Trump: "If you want to appease Democrats, here's your guy. If you want to defeat the Democrats in 2024, (DeSantis) is the only choice."

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SPORTS

Mavs 'embrace the struggle' in NSIC losses

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

The regular season officially kicked off for Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference play, and the Mavericks took on their first conference opponents over the weekend.

The Mavs played their first game in their home state Thursday, but not in their home arena. No. 11 Southwest Minnesota State hosted the Mavs in both teams' conference opener, where the Mustangs swept the Mavs, 3-0.

It was a dominant performance from the Mustangs, who won the first set 25-17, the second 25-14, and completed the sweep with another 25-17 win in set three.

Sophie Tietz recorded seven kills, which led the team, and also finished second on the team in blocks with four. Kiya Durant led the team in blocks with six, which also was a match high. Ellie Kline led the team in digs with 16.

Everything you need to know about the Mavs volleyball matchup with SMSU can be found in the kill count. SMSU: 48. MSU: 25.

Saari Kuehl had 12, Karli Arkell had 11 and Emma VanHeel had 9, the main contributors to their advantage. 34 assists from Alisa Bengen was another reason the Mustangs' offense was so efficient. Two aces from both VanHeel and Leah Jones were also critical.

With a performance like that from an opponent, it is tough to



DALTON GRUBB • The Reporter

The NSIC has been a very talented conference recently. Already this year, five teams have been ranked inside the top-twelve. They will take on no. 1 ranked Concordia St. Paul Thursday.

win. However, the Mavs are aware of what needs to be done in the future.

"We need to make changes quicker when our opponent shows their hand," said Mavs coach Corey Phelps in a press release posted to the Maverick Athletics website. "Despite the good things we did tonight, we were not disciplined on

defense and that cost us. We will be better moving forward."

And moving forward, they were better. However, it was not good enough to come away with a win. In their home opener, the Mavs hosted the Winona State Warriors, allowing them to leave with a 3-1 win Saturday afternoon.

The first and fourth sets were

taken by the Warriors in convincing fashion, 25-15 (1) and 25-13 (4). But the middle sets were a competitive battle, where the Mavs took the second set 25-21 before falling 25-21 in the third.

The kill gap was not as big this time, as the Mavs had 48, compared to the Warriors' 58. Toryn Richards led the Mavs in kills with **EMBRACE on page 9►**

Men and Women finish third at Running of the Cows

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

Three schools "ran" the Running of the Cows meet at Bill Huyck Championship Course. Carleton, the host school for this meet, finished first for both races, and Wisconsin La Crosse finished second, with the Mavs sliding into third place for both races as well.

The uniform finish is nothing new for the cross country teams. The men and women are both upper tier teams in their own regard, and as the season progresses, we will surely see more of this.

For the women, they had two runners finish inside the top-five of the 6K in senior Makenna Thurston and junior Emily Cunningham.

Thurston finished second behind Fiona Smith of St. Benedict with a time of 21:42, while Cunningham finished fifth with a 22:09.7 finishing time. Sophomore Madison Matzek (17th, 23:23.5) and junior Makayla Bishop (19th, 23:30.7) also finished inside the top-20.

"I thought we ran well," said head coach Jen Blue in a press release posted to the Maverick Athletics website. "Our top seven got out and executed. We just need to continue to work on closing our spread. Overall, I was pleased with how they raced and the strides that we have made."

The other three in Blue's "top seven" Saturday were sophomore Alexi MacDonald, senior Cassidy O'Meara and freshman Marenn Larsen. MacDonald placed 33rd with a 23:56.4 finish, O'Meara finished 50th at 24:24 with Larsen a half-second behind her to finish 51st.

For the men, they had two runners finish top-15, headlined by senior Tanner Meier finishing third overall in the 8K with a time of 25:13.2. Junior Ray Ure crossed the finish line a little over two minutes later with a 25:38.7 final time, while four other Mavericks finished in the top-50.

"Overall, I thought we did some good things," said head coach Ben Held in a press release posted to the Maverick Athletics website. "We are still early in the season and figuring out how we run the best as a team... As we progress through the season, we will tighten everything up and close up our speed."

The other four Mavs to finish top-50 were junior Adam Bohm (30th, 26:24.4), junior Nikolai Schmanski (33rd, 26:31.3), sophomore Maquanet Collins (37th, 26:48.9), and junior Leif Larsen (42nd, 27:00.4).

The Mavs have now taken **COWS on page 9►**

Maverick football continues undefeated streak

By LUKE JACKSON
News Director

In a game of two tales, the Mavs stayed undefeated while Minot State University continued its winless streak. After the 52-25 road victory, the fifth-ranked Mavericks move to 3-0 while the Beavers — who moved to 3-0 — are still looking for their first victory of the season.

Mankato is now tied for first place in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference while Minot stays tied for last with University of Mary.

Minot State is also still looking for their first win against MSU. Ever since the Beavers joined the NSIC, they have lost all six games to Mankato dating back to 2012.

Saturday's game started off as a shootout for the Mavs. Minot could not find any answers for Mankato's Shen Butler-Lawson as he saw the endzone three times in the first quarter.

Butler-Lawson's first touchdown came from a six-yard quick pass from Hayden Ekern. He then ran the ball in twice. The first was a 24-yard rush while the second was a seven-yard rush.



LILLY ANDERSON • The Reporter

With seven rushing touchdowns through three games, running back Shen Butler-Lawson is now second in the NSIC, behind only Kyle Walljasper of UMD.

In the second, both teams traded touchdowns. Less than two minutes into the second quarter, Minot State's Myles West had a 49-yard rushing touchdown. This drive was only three plays long but stretched across 70 yards.

Mankato didn't answer back until the end of the half. With three minutes remaining, Ekern con-

nected with Isaiah Emaunel for a 25-yard receiving touchdown. This ended the half at 35-13.

Minot only scored twice in the second half as they started the half scoring an eight-yard touchdown. As the clock winded down, they ended the game with a nine-yard rushing touchdown. In between the Beavers scores, Mankato put

up three more touchdowns which gave them the lopsided victory.

"We did enough to win the football game," head coach Todd Hoffner said in a press release on MSU's athletics website. "It wasn't our brightest game of the season but we did enough to put plenty of points on the board."

As a team, the Mavericks finished with 463 yards of total offense. This included 283 passing yards. The Maverick defense gave up 290 yards, 274 of which came on the ground.

Zack MacIntire recorded five tackles while Khai West, Luke Mulder and Zach Krause all recorded a sack. Mackintire, Arturo Torres, Jacob Daulton and Quintin Hale all recovered a fumble.

Individually throughout the past three games, Butler-Lawson has eight touchdowns which not only leads the team but puts him second in the nation in total scoring and overall touchdowns. He's also fourth in the nation for rushing yards per game as he averages 156.

Minnesota State returns back to Blakeslee Stadium Saturday to face off against Concordia-St. Paul at 1 p.m..

Archer sinks the game-winning arrow



DALTON GRUBB • The Reporter

The Minnesota State Mavericks women's soccer team is off to a hot start, currently sitting at 4-1-1. They will take on the University of Mary on the road Friday.

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State women's soccer team took its show on the road Sunday for a matchup against Concordia University St. Paul.

The Mavericks pulled another rabbit out their hat as they grabbed a winning goal in the dying moments of the match.

In the 89th minute, Maddix Archer received a pass from Libby Spangler and buried it to give the Mavs the lead and the eventual win.

It was the freshman's second goal of the season and it tied her for second on the team in goals overall this season with senior Allie Williams.

Head coach Brian Bahl felt his team did not engage with the opposition enough and let them have too much possession.

"We struggled to be us in the first half. We were far too passive and it gave too much of the ball to Concordia," Bahl said.

The Mavs flipped the script in the second half and turned up the

heat on the Golden Bears. This was evident on the box score. The Mavs took 11 shots in the second half, seven of which were on target as opposed to five in the first half.

"In the second half, we were able to improve on our pressure and did a much better job of compacting the field, allowing us to keep our attack engaged in Concordia's defensive half for the majority of that second half. We were finally able to capitalize and find one late to get the win," Bahl said.

The Mavs have a young forward line and that has been an area of the field that has taken some time to get going this season.

Bahl continues to stress that composure and staying together is going to be needed for his squad.

"We talk all the time about keeping our composure, staying together as a group and finding a way to get the job done. This group has really bought into that philosophy. Super proud of them and happy to see them rewarded for a great second half," Bahl said.

Bahl also gave praise to his team's work ethic and commitment.

"We have an incredible group of ladies, every player on our roster has worked so hard since day one this season. That daily commitment to continuing to raise our bar has made us so much tougher and has prepared us very well for game days," Bahl said.

Before they headed out for their two-game road stint that included Sunday's game and a 1-0 victory over rivals Augustana, Bahl spoke about the closeness of his team.

"We're a young team and I think we're finding ways to grow closer and closer. I think we can certainly continue to improve in that area always. I think they've shown that they care about each other and that they're in each other's corner, but I think as we continue to go through the season, that bond will just continue to grow and hopefully we'll continue to see that translate to more success on the field," Bahl said.

Mavs hockey picked to finish sixth in CCHA Poll

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

In the recent Central Collegiate Hockey Association poll, Minnesota State men's hockey has been selected to finish sixth. This poll is made up of the votes of all of the conference coaches in the

CCHA.

The Mavericks received 45 votes, good enough for sixth place out of eight teams. Michigan Tech received 67 votes (with four first place votes) to lead the poll. Following them was Northern Michigan (66 votes, three first place), Bowling Green (55), Bemidji State

(49), and St. Thomas (45 votes, one first place). Finishing seventh and eighth, behind Minnesota State is Ferris State (36) and Lake Superior State (29).

Minnesota State will begin their season hosting St. Cloud State Friday, October 13 at 7:07 p.m.

EMBRACE from page 8

11, while Durant and Tietz added nine of their own.

Brooke Bolwerk assisted on 30 of the Mavs' points, while Ellie Kline led the way defensively with 32 digs.

In a closer match, Winona State's offense was not nearly as good as SMSU's, but Sidney Paulson and Jayda Berg still recorded

14 kills each. Kylie Welch also served up five service aces in the four sets.

Facing two top teams in the same weekend is a tall task, but the Mavs leave the weekend with some things to think about and work on.

"[Winona State] is a really good team, but despite the loss, we still had moments of greatness.

For example, we played very well in the second set," said Phelps. "We feed off our own energy..."

Each point there is increased pressure. We have to learn and work within the pressure and embrace the struggle. Live in the present."

The Mavs hope to bring their energy to life once again Thursday, as they take on No.1 ranked Concordia St. Paul at home.

COWS from page 8

at Les Bolstad Golf Course for the Roy Griak Invitational, hosted by the University of Minnesota.

The men will race at noon, with the women following shortly after, beginning at 12:45 p.m.

The voice of the Bombers



Courtesy of Hayden Lee

The Braham Bombers flexed their muscles again Friday night, defeating East Central, 56-6. They now are 3-0 and take on Barnum this Friday.

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

be a part of the team from a new perspective.

In order to truly remember an experience, I need to write about it. That's how life works, right?

In all seriousness, four days ago, I was able to take part in a lifelong dream of mine: Calling a football game.

I grew up watching guys like Joe Buck, Kevin Harlan, Ian Eagle, Gus Johnson and so many more narrate the sports that I loved to watch. The little kid that once idolized these announcers finally got a taste of what it is like to be the voice of their team.

There are a few reasons I was excited to accept the opportunity to be the voice of the Bombers. Although I could never replace Bob Bendickson, whom I was filling in for, I gave the team and the fans a new voice to hear from above. Being a former football player and student at Braham, it was an honor to come back and

Selfishly speaking, I feel like I know a lot about the game of football and that I was made for a role like this. Being able to do something like this is a gift, and I am grateful to have been put in this position.

Apart from it being my brother's first home game of his senior year, it was Parents Night, so I was able to recognize the families who raise and watch their sons play the game that they love. That also meant that I was able to call the names of my own parents and my brother. I could go on and on about how much that meant to me, but hey, I already did that, at least for my brother. Haha. Go read that story, it's on the website.

But with all the excitement comes nervousness too. I didn't want to suck, I didn't want to mess up and I didn't want to ruin the experience for everyone watching *full story on our website* ▶

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VARIETY

Victoria Chang illustrates diversity and despair

By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

Poetry can be found everywhere; from the sounds of the sky, the colors of the world, and the faces we see.

For poet, writer and editor Victoria Chang, poetry is, “just a way to express what it means to be a human in the time that we’re alive.”

The Good Thunder Reading Series gave Chang the platform to host a workshop, craft talk and reading Thursday at Minnesota State.

“I can’t imagine a world without poetry,” Chang said. “I think it’s the most pure sort of way for people to kind of navigate their own emotional landscape throughout your life.”

Chang’s work draws in diverse audiences of all ages and backgrounds depending on what they resonate with from pieces such as “Dear Memory,” “OBIT,” and “The Trees Witness Everything.”

“I have a lot of older people who like my poems that are grappling with grief and mortality,” Chang said. “I have a lot of younger BI-POC students and younger people that are always coming up to me, telling me how important it is just to see a face like mine that’s writing poems.”

Chang dedicates much of her work to describing various powerful emotions through hardships that many find relatable.

“I think life can be full of diffi-

culties and disorder and you know, all these challenges and I think that a lot of people have that feeling of wanting to express themselves when they have those emotions,” Chang said.

Her success from her writings as an Asian American has been inspiring for members of this community, and they have not failed to ensure Chang finds pride in her contributions to Asian American literature.

“That’s been the most shocking thing to me, is that so many people will tell me how much my work means to them, and oftentimes they’re very young Asian American people,” Chang said.

Despite recognition from numerous awards and prizes, materialism is what matters least to Chang.

“People will show me the art they made, they’ll bring me gifts and videos that they made of their own collaging; those are the things I remember the most over the last few years,” Chang said. “One person told me that she was adopted from China and her mother, whose white, was behind her, and she asked her mother to drive her all the way over to see me read because one of the books I wrote, ‘Dear memory,’ just really spoke to her.”

Similarly to this character, MSU student Emily Zattoni admitted to this feeling after attending Chang’s reading.

“I didn’t know what I was walking into, but a lot of her poems



BRICE NYIRINGABO • The Reporter

Victoria Chang’s forthcoming book of poems, “With My Back to the World” will be published in 2024. Her most recent book of poetry, “The Trees Witness Everything” was named one of the Best Books of 2022 by the New Yorker and The Guardian.

kind of spoke to me,” Zattoni said. “They kind of made me sad, but they spoke to me, which is weird because I usually get so confused reading poems actually, but she did really well with explaining her story.”

Throughout her years as an established writer, what Chang finds to be most admirable is her commitment to the art.

“I think that for me, what I’m most proud of is that I’m still writing and I still love it as much as I

did before,” Chang said. “It’s just such a part of who I am, it’s like drinking water or breathing air.”

Chang’s newest book of poems paired with the artwork of Agnes Martin, “With my Back to the World,” will be published in 2024.

Travel Minnesota bingo brings big prizes for students

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

The Student Events Team put on a Bingo event Thursday for students to learn some facts about the great cities of Minnesota.

There were eight rounds of Bingo, all with a different city associated with it. Before each round, facts were given about a different city and the different prizes for the round. The boards were all online, and students could access them at the event with a link provided at the event. There was music played as well by different Minnesota artists.

This game was Vice President of the SET, Atlas James. It was to get people more insight into Minnesota cities they might not have known.

“I reached out to a couple cities, but these are cities that might be personal to people on the board. I chose Stillwater, Minnesota, because I lived there before coming to college. St. Cloud was chosen because our advisor, Bill Tourville, actually went to school there,” said James. “Four cities donated prizes locally to us from different areas, and each city might have donat-



DALTON GRUBB • The Reporter

Travel MN Bingo presented ten rounds of bingo featuring cool prizes and the amazing drivable destinations in Minnesota.

ed something different. We had a \$200 day trip to Faribault spon-

sored from Faribault themselves. It includes restaurants. You can take

that \$200 and go to restaurants or go to local eateries; it covers a lot.”

Many students filled the Ostrander Auditorium, eager to play Bingo and win some prizes. One student, Adren Schotzko, is from Wisconsin and had never been to Bingo before.

“The facts about Faribault were cool because I have a friend on my floor who lives there, so it’s nice to learn some of the facts about it. It was also interesting that it was Minnesota-themed,” said Schotzko.

Sara Kolp learned some interesting facts that she had never known before or realized. She also said she had fun at the event and would go again.

“I enjoy hearing the music, getting people excited about it. I didn’t realize that the SPAM Museum was in Minnesota. So that was kind of fun,” said Kolp. “And hearing about the different towns, I mean, I haven’t even gotten to a lot of Northern ones. I enjoyed the atmosphere, and it’s fun, and the chance of winning free stuff is pretty great.”

There was a Zoom option for people as well as in person. During COVID-19, Zoom played a big role in how the SET did their events, and they saw the impact of

TRAVEL on page 11►

Russell Brand's tour postponed after sexual assault allegations



CHRIS PIZZELLO • The Associated Press

Comedian Russell Brand performs at in Beverly Hills, Calif, Nov. 3, 2012. Three British news organizations are on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023 reporting that comedian and social influencer Russell Brand has been accused of rape, sexual assault and abuse.

By JILL LAWLESS
The Associated Press

British police said Monday that they had received a sexual assault allegation after media outlets published claims by several women against Russell Brand. Promoters postponed the remaining dates in a string of live gigs by the comedian, who denies the allegations.

A talent agency and a publisher also parted company with Brand over the claims, which have left the U.K. entertainment industry facing questions about whether the comedian's bad behavior went unchallenged because of his fame.

Brand, 48, denies allegations of sexual assault made by four women in a Channel 4 television documentary and The Times and Sunday Times newspapers. The accusers, who have not been named, include one who said she was sexually assaulted during a relationship with him when she was 16. Another woman says Brand raped her in Los Angeles in 2012.

London's Metropolitan Police force said that since the allegations were made public it had received "a report of a sexual assault which was alleged to have taken place in Soho in central London in 2003." That is three years before the earliest of the alleged assaults reported by the media outlets.

The police force said "officers are in contact with the woman and will be providing her with support." It did not identify the alleged perpetrator as Brand, but referred to the newspaper and TV allegations in its statement. Police urged "anyone who believes they may have been a victim of a sexual offence, no matter how long ago it was, to contact us."

In a video statement released Friday in response to the media claims, Brand said that his relation-

ships were "always consensual."

The Times said Monday that more women had contacted the newspaper with allegations against Brand and they would be "rigorously checked."

Max Blain, spokesman for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, said the claims were "very serious and concerning." Conservative legislator Caroline Nokes, who chairs the House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, urged police in both Britain and the United States to investigate the "incredibly shocking" allegations.

"This merits and needs a criminal investigation, because for too long we have seen men -- and the perpetrators of these sorts of crimes are almost invariably men -- not being held to account for their behaviors and their actions," she told BBC radio.

The claims have renewed debate about the "lad culture" that flourished in Britain in the 1990s and early 2000s, and the misogyny that still percolates on the internet.

The allegations reported by the newspapers and Channel 4 cover the period between 2006 and 2013, when Brand was a major star in Britain with a growing U.S. profile.

Known for his unbridled and risqué standup routines, he hosted shows on radio and television, wrote memoirs charting his battles with drugs and alcohol, appeared in several Hollywood movies and was briefly married to pop star Katy Perry between 2010 and 2012.

Brand was suspended by the BBC in 2008 for making lewd prank calls to "Fawlty Towers" actor Andrew Sachs in which he boasted about having sex with Sachs' granddaughter. He quit his radio show in the wake of the incident, which drew thousands of complaints to the publicly funded broadcaster.

The BBC, Channel 4 and the production company behind the "Big Brother" reality series -- spinoffs of which were hosted by Brand -- all say they have launched investigations into Brand's behavior and how complaints were handled.

Brand also has been dropped by talent agency Tavistock Wood, which said it had been "horribly misled" by him. Publisher Bluebird, an imprint of Pan Macmillan, said it had decided to "pause" future publishing with Brand.

Supporters of Brand asked why the allegations were being made years after the alleged incidents. The women said that they only felt ready to tell their stories after being approached by reporters, with some citing Brand's newfound prominence as an online wellness influencer as a factor in their decision to speak.

Victims and the media also have to take account of Britain's claimant-friendly libel laws, which put the burden of proof on those making allegations.

In recent years Brand has largely disappeared from mainstream media but has built up a large following online with videos mixing wellness and conspiracy theories. His YouTube channel, which has more than 6 million subscribers, has featured COVID-19 conspiracy theories, vaccine misinformation and interviews with controversial broadcasters including Tucker Carlson and Joe Rogan.

He also has continued to tour as a comedian, performing to hundreds of people in a London venue on Saturday evening as the Channel 4 documentary was broadcast. He had been due to perform Tuesday in Windsor, west of London, but promoters said the rest of the tour was being postponed.

Kim Petras surprise releases her previously shelved debut album



CHARLES SYKES • The Associated Press

Kim Petras performs on NBC's "Today" show at Rockefeller Plaza on Friday, June 23, 2023, in New York. The pop star has released her new album, "Problematic."

By MARIA SHERMAN
The Associated Press

Kim Petras fans, the wait is over. The Grammy-award winning German popstar has surprise released her previously shelved and partially leaked debut album, "Problematic."

Across 10 tracks inspired by French house music released Monday, Petras' makes a bold reclamation of her artistic autonomy: from the funk-y "Born Again," to the smooth retro-pop of "Dirty Things" and the playfully materialistic "All She Wants," which features "Stars Are Blind" singer Paris Hilton.

"It was shocking when I found out part of the album leaked -- at the time -- that it wasn't ever going to come out, especially as I poured so much of myself into it. I was heartbroken but, at the same time, it was really exciting to see my fans listening to the tracks and loving them," Petras said in a statement to The Associated Press.

"Now that I'm able to put them out, it's just so freeing to have more music that I love out in the world and officially share them in a way

that all my fans can hear them." That opinion is shared by Hilton. "Recording 'All She Wants' at Kim's house was so much fun," she said in a statement. "The song is all about being unapologetically fabulous, a sentiment both Kim and I live by."

The road to "Problematic" has been a difficult one. In 2021, Petras signed with major label Republic Records and announced the album -- then scheduled to be her full-length debut -- but it was eventually scrapped and leaked.

It was a disappointing turn of events for Petras and her fans, who had long awaited her first album. It wasn't until June that she released what would become her actual debut, the flirty, Eurodance-pop "Feed the Beast."

That arrived 15 years after the launch of her career and followed a few history-making events: This year, Petras became the first openly trans artist to win in a major category at the Grammy Awards for her playfully sacrilegious collaboration with Sam Smith, "Unholy," in the best pop duo/group performance category.

◀TRAVEL from page 10
it and wanted to continue it for future events.

"This is one of our events that has an online capability during the

year so that we can have students zoom in through mnsuevents.com. All of the cards were generated completely online, so anyone could play from any point," said James.

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What you need to stream this week

The Associated Press

The return of Netflix's "Sex Education" with Gillian Anderson, Sean Penn's documentary about Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy and a docuseries that charts the rise of the first supermodels are some of the new television, movies, music and games headed to a device near you

Among the offerings worth your time as selected by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists are an album from Doja Cat and a reboot of Robert Rodriguez's "Spy Kids" franchise with a film starring Gina Rodriguez and Zachary Levi.

NEW MOVIES TO STREAM

— In Mexican lucha libre wrestling, *exóticos* traditionally are male fighters dressed in drag who offer a campy contrast to the machismo of the main-event matches. "Cassandra," premiering Friday, Sept. 22 on Amazon Prime Video, stars Gael Garcia Bernal as a pioneering *exótico* named Saúl Armendáriz who rose to become one of the biggest stars in Mexican wrestling. In my review of the film, directed by Roger Ross Williams, I wrote that Armendáriz's transformation of the *exótico* into something more than was prescribed by lucha tradition makes for a stirring metaphor for gay empowerment.

— Robert Rodriguez's "Spy Kids" movies are pluckily still going, more than two decades after the director — with his kids in tow — first launched the admirably goofy, charmingly childlike espionage fantasy. The family film franchise, begun with the 2001 original, had tapered off by the time the lackluster fourth installment, "Spy Kids: All the Time in the World,"



CHARLES SYKES • The Associated Press

Doja Cat performs during the MTV Video Music Awards on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

was released in 2011. But Rodriguez and clan return for a reboot in Netflix's "Spy Kids: Armageddon," debuting Friday, Sept. 22. The film, written by Rodriguez and his 26-year-old son, Racer, stars Gina Rodriguez and Zachary Levi.

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

NEW MUSIC TO STREAM

— Long gone are the days of the viral retro-hit "Say So" — but who could expect the pop experimentalist Doja Cat to stay in one lane? (Anyone who remembers the viral "Moo! (B---- I'm a Cow)" video that made her an internet star would know better.) On "Scarlet," Doja Cat bids adieu to her former self and in the hardest rap verses of

her career, demands listeners' heed. Like on the lead single, "Attention," a criticism of normalizing parasocial relationships, or "Demons," where she spits, "Are you off a key/I would never let you in my VIP/ We are enemies, we are foes/Who are you? And what are those?" while embodying her inner — and outer — incubus.

— And now, to look away from pop's present and into its future! Chappell Roan, the Missouri-raised, LA-based dark pop balladeer first made headlines for her queer theatrical pop hit "Pink Pony Club," and later, the Gen-Z situationship anthem, "Casual," which she worked on with Olivia

Rodrigo's chief collaborator and producer, Dan Nigro. "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess" is Roan's solo debut, an enterprising collection of explicit ballads and bangers. Next year, Roan will open for Rodrigo on the "GUTS" singer's first-ever arena tour. Big things are on the horizon.

— AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

NEW SERIES TO STREAM

— Oscar-winning actor Sean Penn has co-directed a documentary about Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the resilience of the Ukrainian people. Penn says he began the project — called "Superpower" — in 2021, with a lighthearted ap-

proach to the life of Zelenskyy, who was a comedian and actor before he entered politics. The tone and focus of the film shifted when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. "Superpower," which features interviews with Zelenskyy and families affected by the war, debuts Monday on Paramount+.

— Before Gigi Hadid, Kendall Jenner and Winnie Harlow ever stepped onto a catwalk, Naomi Campbell, Cindy Crawford, Linda Evangelista and Christy Turlington defined the word glamour and became household names. A new four-part docu-series called "The Super Models" traces their rise to success. It debuts Wednesday on Apple TV+.

— The critically-acclaimed "Sex Education," one of Netflix's most popular shows, returns for its fourth and final season Thursday. The series stars Asa Butterfield as Otis, an awkward, precocious teen whose mother (played by Gillian Anderson) is a sex therapist. (You can watch how that unique situation affected Otis' high school experience and social standing in earlier episodes.) In season four, Otis heads off to college.

— Alicia Rancilio

NEW VIDEO GAMES TO PLAY

— The mighty Shaolin warrior Liu Kang has created his own universe, and he's decided the best way to keep it peaceful is to invite his old friends over to beat each other up. That's the typically loopy setup for Warner Bros. Games' Mortal Kombat 1 (the follow-up to Mortal Kombat 11 — go figure). Granted, most fans of the franchise aren't here for plausible plotting. They're looking to get reacquainted with their favorite fighters.



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